



Houston Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce

April 14, 2017

The Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives:

I write today on behalf of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in support of House Bill 43, the pension reform proposal put forward by the City of Houston. Passage of this bill is critical to Houston continuing to be a dynamic city and region for Houston businesses.

*Chairman*  
Douglas Hidalgo

*Chair-Elect*  
Juanita Romans

*Immediate Past Chair*  
Armando Perez

*Parliamentarian*  
Tony Canales

*Treasurer*  
Alex Obregon

*Directors*  
Deavra Daughtry  
David Feldman  
Joel Garza  
Francisco González  
Dr. Yamile Jackson  
David Loving  
Ron Mayorga  
David Milich  
Mark Montgomery  
Hector Pineda  
Ivan Rodriguez Zerrate  
John Tipton  
David Titus

*President & CEO*  
Dr. Laura G. Murillo

The Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is the leading advocate for Hispanic business and civic interests in the Greater Houston area. Our members have benefitted tremendously from the region's economic strength. The robust state of the city's economy provides an environment prime for new businesses to flourish. Many of our members are entrepreneurs whose success - past, present and future - is inextricably connected to the City's success.

Without meaningful and carefully crafted reform to our City's pension systems, however, that economy is in deep risk. Moody's informed the City this month, in no uncertain terms, that the failure of the Houston pension solution will result in a downgrade in the City's credit rating. Other credit rating agencies are sure to follow.

With poor credit, it will be extremely difficult and much more expensive for Houston to make necessary investments in infrastructure. Without those investments, and with the significant damage to public safety and quality of life caused by layoffs the failure of House Bill 43's passage will inevitably cause, growth will be stifled and the economy will suffer. Houstonians will see less opportunity.

The City of Houston has brought the Texas Legislature an agreement, born locally of compromise and shared sacrifice that will solve Houston's pension issues. We are proud to support that agreement and ask now that you, our state leaders, pass House Bill 43 into law.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura G. Murillo  
President & CEO  
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

cc: Douglas Hidalgo, Chairman

*The Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to the HHCC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. However, a portion of your payment to the HHCC may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Please consult your own tax advisor with respect to your eligibility to take such deductions.*