

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS
OPPOSING THE RESTRICTION ON THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS
FOR HIRING OF LOBBYISTS AND PAYING DUES TO
ORGANIZATIONS THAT HIRE LOBBYISTS**

WHEREAS, local elected officials, educational institutions, and business leaders have pooled their knowledge, skills, and resources to attract and provide economic opportunity that benefits all Texans; and

WHEREAS, as the governor has often said during the pandemic, Texas is not a “one size fits all” state, and the unique attributes of each locality and region inform sound public policy that sustains job growth, enhances educational opportunity, and provides a better quality of life for local communities; and

WHEREAS, some state elected officials have proposed legislation like SB 234 and HB 749 which would eliminate the right to hire professional lobbyists, stifling the ability of local government and school leaders to be represented and heard when lawmakers in Austin debate public policies that impact local communities; and

WHEREAS, local businesses and community leaders are often unable to spend endless days and nights at the Capitol when the Legislature meets because they have important daily obligations to their constituents and taxpayers back home; and

WHEREAS, if enacted, this legislation would set a dangerous precedent by allowing every other stakeholder in the legislative process to hire professional lobbyists while denying the same right to local elected officials and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, experienced professional lobbyists are able to monitor policy proposals for local government leaders and make sure that our voices are heard in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, professional lobbyists can help produce better public policy outcomes for local community interests, leveling the playing field for community priorities, including job creation and unique quality of life; and

WHEREAS, accountability for the expenditure of local public funds for such efforts is properly provided by local taxpayers and voters at the ballot box, not by legislation designed to restrict and silence the voices of local elected and community leaders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Pflugerville opposes any legislative attempt to limit or prohibit the authority of city, county, river authority, public hospital board, community college, emergency service district, special district, economic development coalition, or school district officials to use public funds to communicate with legislators and state agencies, including any restrictions that would prohibit the use of public funds to pay membership dues to organizations that hire lobbyists.

Passed and Approved this 23rd day of February, 2021.

Victor Gonzales, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen Thompson
City Secretary