

# SUPPORT THE PANDEMIC LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT

## SUPPORT SB 6

### PANDEMIC LIABILITY PROTECTION ACT

Governor Greg Abbott declared liability protection an emergency item, and TBA is proud to have partnered with business leaders across the state on this key legislation.

#### THE PROBLEM

Last year we saw the economy go into hibernation as storefronts closed due to COVID-19. As financial first responders, Texas banks remained open throughout the pandemic from day one. Adopting safe operating procedures and closing lobbies when necessary, communities' access to their financial services went uninterrupted. Frivolous lawsuit threats are already targeting businesses that served patrons during the past year. We believe those who have operated with caution and adhered to local and state guidelines should not be penalized.

Texas banks not only remained open, but bankers worked nonstop to originate an unprecedented amount of Paycheck Protection Program loans. Leading in disbursements in the first round, Texas banks have distributed almost \$54 billion dollars in PPP funding since April 2020.

#### THE SOLUTION

Chairman Kelly Hancock filed SB 6, sponsored by Chairman Jeff Leach, to extend broad protections from COVID liability lawsuits to healthcare providers, COVID-related product manufacturers, businesses, schools and universities, churches, synagogues, and other religious institutions. This legislation will make clear that those businesses complying with operational guidelines set by the state and local governments will not end up in court.

#### THE BENEFITS

Businesses who have followed guidelines and gone above and beyond to protect their customers and employees will be protected from targeted attacks for simply operating during the Covid pandemic. This bill ensures that the measures banks and other businesses took to protect their communities will not be called into question for a payout.

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