The U.S. Green Building Council

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The U.S. Green Building Council Texas is a community-benefit nonprofit (501c3) committed to ensuring a better built environment for current and future generations of Texans. Our mission is to transform the way buildings, homes and communities are designed, built, maintained, and operated in Texas through outreach, education, advocacy and partnerships, enabling an environmentally and socially responsible, healthy, and prosperous environment that improves the quality of life in Texas.

We are writing to communicate our support for House Bill 351, authored by Rep. James Talarico. The bill will require public schools and childcare facilities to meet minimum air filtration efficiency and outdoor air ventilation standards in accordance with the National Air Filtration Association, ASHRAE 62.1-2019 Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality, and / or more recently adopted best practices that the HB 351 commission determines best protects public health.

This bill creates public accountability. Every facility will test individual HVAC systems at least annually and create a plan for addressing underperforming systems. Test results will be posted for public access on school and childcare websites. Biannual reports will be sent to TCEQ for distribution to the Governor and Legislators.

We are supporting HB 351 because Indoor Air Quality is perhaps the most important criteria for our children’s health. Better indoor air quality leads to an increase in learning retention and productivity. HB 351 will bring billions of dollars in positive impact to our communities annually. We have an opportunity to positively impact the health and learning potential of our young Texans so that they might fully participate in our best future.

Additionally, you can learn how COVID-19 federal relief funding can be used to repair and improve school buildings by visiting here, [Covid Relief Funding](https://www.usgbc.org/articles/guidance-schools-using-covid-19-relief-funds), as well as what [Five Guiding Principles](https://www.usgbc.org/resources/five-guiding-principles) the federal government can provide to school districts.

Sincerely,

David Matiella

USGBC Texas Advocacy Chair