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The Network of Texas IAF Organizations is encouraged that Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar is backing away from his proposal to gut Chapter 313 reporting and accountability requirements in the program’s final year of existence. Hegar signaled the change Friday after significant pushback by Chapter 313 critics, including a press conference held by Texas IAF organizations in December, and a barrage of public comments submitted to his office against the proposal, the largest portion coming from Texas IAF leaders.

According to the Houston Chronicle: "About 125 commenters said they were members of interest groups affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation, one of several nonprofit advocacy groups that pushed lawmakers not to renew the program last year. Other commenters simply identified themselves as concerned citizens." "Out of 350 public comments about the proposal, nearly every person — 348 — objected to it, and another expressed concerns about part of it."

The Texas IAF, along with allies, stopped the reauthorization of Chapter 313, the State’s largest corporate tax subsidy program, during the 2021 Legislative Session. Though the current program, which costs taxpayers $1-2Billion per year, is set to expire in December of 2022, Comptroller Hegar proposed this past November to reduce the reporting requirements on jobs, wages, and overall costs to taxpayers.

“Comptroller Hegar has recognized the voices of voters from across the political spectrum, including our organizations, and now says the data we are concerned will continue to be available,” said Bob Fleming, a leader with The Metropolitan Organization, the IAF affiliate in Houston. “However, we remain vigilant because he says the rules will still be revised and made ‘more efficient’. Given the history of this failed and discontinued program, we need even more transparency and accountability, not less.”

*The Network of Texas IAF Organizations are non-partisans; institutionally based community organizations whose purpose is to train leaders to organize families around issues which affect their quality of life. The network includes Communities Organized for Public Service and The Metro Alliance and ICAN in San Antonio; The Border Organization, Valley Interfaith in the Rio Grande Valley; TMO in Houston; EPISO and Border Interfaith in El Paso; Austin Interfaith; ACT in Fort Worth; Dallas Area Interfaith; AMOS - Arlington, The West Texas Organizing Strategy; and Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.