



309 East 11th St., Suite 2 • Austin, Texas 78701 • 512.477.1155 • [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org)

To the members of the House Committee on State Affairs.  
*Via hand delivery.*

March 20, 2019

**Re: HB 1297 (Davis), supporting testimony by Public Citizen**

Dear Chairman Phelan and members of the committee:

Public Citizen appreciates the opportunity to testify for HB 1297. This bill would bar individuals who have been fired or resigned due to malfeasance from serving as the executive or on the executive staff of a state agency. Because we demand the highest ethical standards from our agency leaders, Public Citizen supports HB 1297.

“Malfeasance” is unlawful or illegal conduct by a public official. The bill limits the bar on state agency service to individuals who were actually found to have engaged in malfeasance while serving as the executive or on the executive staff of a state agency. Such individuals have demonstrated that they are unfit to serve because they have not abided by the ethical standards we place on our state agency executives. It is common sense and good government to bar such individuals from serving as executives or on executive staff in the future.

Because HB 2917 promotes good government by barring individuals who have engaged in malfeasance from serving as executives or on executive staff of state agencies, we are supportive.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, if you wish to discuss our position further, I can be reached by email at [ashelley@citizen.org](mailto:ashelley@citizen.org) or by phone at 512-477-1155.

Respectfully,

Adrian Shelley, Texas Office Director  
Public Citizen

CC: Rep. Ana Hernandez, Rep. Joe Deshotel, Rep. R. D. "Bobby" Guerra, Rep. Sam Harless, Rep. Justin Holland, Rep. Todd Hunter, Rep. Phil King, Rep. Tan Parker, Rep. Richard Peña Raymond, Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, Rep. John T. Smithee, Rep. Drew Springer