

TEXAS WATCH

September 5, 2024

Via electronic mail (c/o Margaux Fox, Committee Clerk)

Committee on State Affairs
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Dear Chairman Hunter, Vice Chair Hernandez, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you recently on matters related to the fair treatment of policyholders along the Gulf Coast and across our state. I write to provide supplemental information to assist with the Committee's deliberations about the high cost of insurance:

1. **Economic impact of the Texas Gulf Coast:** Please see the Texas Comptroller's [2024 Regional Report: Gulf Coast Region](#), which quantifies the tremendous \$642.1 billion in GDP attributable to the region (accounting for fully 26.7% of our state's GDP). The figures I cited concerning tonnage moved through Texas ports comes from the [Bureau of Transportation](#) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; we possess five of the top 20 ports in the country, including number 1 (Houston Port Authority) and number 3 (Corpus Christi).
2. **Widow Penalty:** As stated in our testimony, we believe it is a shameful, anti-family policy when insurance companies penalize grieving policyholders with higher prices when their spouse dies. Texas Watch commends Texas Appleseed's outstanding brief on this issue, which is attached. You may also read more about this harmful insurance practice and its impact on families at [Fox 26 Houston](#) and [KLTV 7 Tyler. Insurance Journal](#) reported this summer about how Rhode Island has recently barred auto insurers from hiking rates on widows and widowers, requiring them to be treated the same as married people for the purposes of rate classification.
3. **Actuary:** Allan I. Schwartz (FCAS, MAAA, ARE, AIC, APA, AU, AIAF, ARM, API, ACS, CRRA), President of AIS Risk Consultants, Inc. (732-780-0330), is a highly reputable actuary who has performed actuarial analysis for those tasked with protecting the rights of policyholders. The [Casualty Actuarial Society \(CAS\)](#) is an excellent source of information about the profession.
4. **Reinsurance:** [Reinsurance News](#) provides an updated list of the largest reinsurer groups in the world. Swiss Re Ltd. and Munich Reinsurance Co. lead the pack.

Please consider us a resource and call on us. Our aim is to always provide the Committee with the best information to assist you in your work. Thank you for your careful study of these insurance issues, which severely impact the family finances of millions of homeowners and motorists across our state.

Respectfully submitted,



Ware V. Wendell
Executive Director

Encl.