May 25, 2021

The Honorable Brooks Landgraf
Chair
House Committee on Environmental Regulation
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78701

Letter Sent Via Email to: brooks.landgraf@house.texas.gov

RE: House Bill 351

Dear Chair Landgraf and Committee Members:

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is a global technical society advancing human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. The Society and its more than 50,000 members, including about 3,000 in Texas, focuses on building systems, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, refrigeration and sustainability. Through research, standards writing, publishing, certification and continuing education, ASHRAE shapes tomorrow’s built environment today.

We are writing to you regarding House Bill 351, “Relating to air filtration efficiency standards at certain educational and child care facilities.” We appreciate the bill’s focus on the importance of indoor air quality, including through ventilation and filtration, and recommend the bill incorporate by reference ASHRAE Standard 62.1-2019, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality, to provide a solid technical footing for the provision of acceptable indoor air quality and minimize adverse health effects.

In addition, in the face of this pandemic, ASHRAE has developed guidance to mitigate airborne pathogen transmission, including the coronavirus, for several building types and operational conditions, including for school facilities and for reopening schools and universities. Incorporating or referring to this technical guidance in the legislation will support targeted investments to reduce viral risks and improve the health and productivity of students and teachers.

In summary, we hope your committee will consider improving the bill by incorporating these solid technical standards and guidance. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff email GovAffairs@ashrae.org. Thank you for your
consideration of this important matter and for working to ensure the health and well-being of building occupants.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Gulledge III, P.E., FASHRAE, HBDP, LEED AP
2020-21 ASHRAE President

cc: The Honorable James Talarico
    The Honorable Alex Dominguez
    Members of the Texas House Committee on Environmental Regulation