

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY & PUBLIC SAFETY

Hearing Date: April 8, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Printed on: April 13, 2021 10:59 AM

COMMENTS FOR: HB 1757

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Martin Balk

MYSELF

Quitman, TX

POLICE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE!!!

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Justin Pulliam

self, journalist

Guy, TX

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

I am against HB 1757 and urge you to vote against this bill. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

It would be great to address police accountability and transparency at the state level; however, HB 1757 does not promote these important goals. Instead, it discriminatorily targets specific protected conduct that is loathed by the police lobby. It's morally outrageous that innocent reporters will be accosted so that bad cops can keep their jobs.

It is already legal to film the police in Texas. It is an inalienable right granted by our creator and protected by the United States Constitution. In 2017, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that the people have a 1st Amendment right to video record the police in the case *Turner v. Driver*.

The proposed law does not establish any new right or privilege of the people. But it does empower bad cops to violate the rights of people who film them: they will "order" individuals to "positions" and "proximity" that prohibits news gathering.

I am an independent journalist who reports about local government and police. I document dozens of police scenes each month. Unfortunately, many officers, even in 2021, attempt to block the public from observing (i.e., seeing and hearing what is happening, in detail) the official activities of the police. Police officers from jurisdictions across the state use the following line when attempting to violate the right to film the police: "You can film all you want, but..." What comes after "but" is almost always a directive that blocks me from actually documenting the police activity.

It is very concerning to me that the police strategy of blocking recording (while purporting to allow it) may now become state statute in Texas.

It is very concerning to me that I may have to choose between exercising my rights or going to jail on unconstitutional charges. It is concerning that I may not be able to do my job.

Bystander videos of police activity have created positive change in Texas in recent years. And I can understand why certain political groups might try to block the free flow of information. But the political agenda of labor organizations should not be allowed to obstruct the general public's desire for reform.

Sincerely,

Justin Pulliam

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Hayford Osei

self

Corpus Christi, TX

Hello Honorable Members..

Why do you want to shield the police from public accountability....?

Any govt official who tries to block the public from recording the police, who live on public funds, is plain and simply a corrupt person themselves...

Turner VS Drive already grants the Citizens of Texas the Right to film govt officials, especially police officers, in the performance of their duty.

We cannot depend on the Police Internal Affairs to hold police accountable... Hence the need for we the people to record and gather the evidence ourselves...

The Supreme court has rule that 10 feet is enough...

If a police officer is afraid of camera, then that Police officer needs to resign and go work in the private sector

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MATTHEW RANKIN

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

The clause removing the speech defense if you don't obey every order guts the 1st amendment. True interference is already a crime. Adding a loophole for cops to exploit will result in never being able to record cops from a distance that actually allows useful video and audio.

We already have cases in Texas of journalists being falsely arrested by cops for standing separately on opposite sides of a scene and refusing unlawful orders by those cops that they have to "stand next to each other", "so I can watch you". This horrible legislation would unleash a wave of retaliatory arrests. The fight to stop bad cops from abusing observers and witnesses is already difficult enough without the legislature giving it a green light.

Also, "reasonable" is not defined in this legislation. I can point you to hundreds of videos where a cop thought "reasonable" meant 200 feet from a traffic stop or some other ridiculous condition. This means a journalist will NEVER be able to prevail in a civil lawsuit because officers will simply state their opinion on a reasonable distance is now codified law.

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Regina Kellum, Retired

Self - Retired

New Baden, TX

The People are against this bill as it would further the blocking of police accountability.

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Auburne Gallagher

Self

Leander, TX

I agree that we should be allowed to record police officers while doing their duties and interacting with the public I think it's a form of accountability. It is not creating a criminal offense. It is keeping them accountable to the community which they serve.

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ANDREI LAGERGREN, Mr  
THE HORIZON CITY NEWS SERVICE  
Horizon City, TX

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

My name is Andrei, I live in Horizon City Texas.

I strongly OBJECT to HB 1757 becoming law.

I routinely video record law enforcement in El Paso County Texas, and place those video recordings onto my small YouTube Channel ( THE HORIZON CITY NEWS SERVICE ).

I strongly object to any law that would restrict and/or interfere with my video recording of police, or give law enforcement the arbitrary authority to dictate where I can or can not physically stand, when I video record law enforcement and/or other government employees/officials.

“Officer Safety” is not a law, and is often declared by law enforcement members who want to arbitrarily set a “safe proximity” around themselves, and/or law enforcement vehicles, and/or criminal suspects, and/or detained vehicles.

Texas Penal Code 38.15 does not dictate a “set distance” for video recording law enforcement.

Law enforcement needs to be spontaneously video recorded, and at the closest distance where audio and video can be gathered without interfering with public duties.

Any new Texas law that would attempt to regulate video recording of law enforcement, would instantly create a “chilling effect” upon almost anyone that would consider video recording Texas law enforcement.

V/R

ANDREI K. LAGERGREN

THE HORIZON CITY NEWS SERVICE

EL PASO COUNTY TEXAS

915-781-4330

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Laura Sigler  
Self Education

Spring, TX

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

I am against HB 1757 and request that you vote against this bill. I am testifying on behalf of myself.

I believe that it would be great to address the police accountability and transparency at the state level. HB 1757 does not promote these important goals but rather it discriminatorily targets specific protected conduct that the police lobby loath. I find it not just outrageous, but morally outrageous that innocent reporters will be increasingly accosted so that the bad cops can keep doing their bad behavior and keep their jobs.

It is currently legal to film the police in Texas. It is one of the inalienable rights granted by our Creator and protected by the United States Constitution. The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals confirmed that the people have a 1st Amendment right to video the police in the case of Turner versus Driver in 2017.

This proposed law in no way establishes any new rights or privileges of the people, rather it does give more power to corrupt police to violate the rights of citizens who are filming them. These bad police will order individuals to positions, and proximities that prohibit news gathering and will enable police to hide their bad behavior.

Currently officers are trying to block the public from observing or videoing the official activities of the police. Police officers are using directives such as, "You can video all you want, BUT..." The directive police give after the "but" is almost always a position that blocks the actual documenting of the activities of the police.

It is concerning that the strategy of blocking the recording while seeming to allow it may now become a state statute in Texas.

I am very concerned that the police strategy of blocking the recording by reporters and journalist will make them have to choose between exercising their rights or going to jail on unconstitutional charges. This is concerning to me in that all future reports about situations that involve police will be one sided by police unions.

Citizen videos of police activity has created positive changes in Texas over the years. I understand that certain political groups will always try to block the free flow of information. The political agenda of blocking the gathering of information by labor unions or organizations should not be allowed to obstruct the public's desire for reform.

Sincerely,

Laura Sigler

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Jose Perez

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

First amendment defends a person's right to film. Don't give law enforcement an exception.

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Everett Lara

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

I oppose this bill. This bill would be a travesty towards the goal of transparency. The supreme court has already put in place a 10 foot spacing for police and they always have the ability to put up crime scene tape. Too many law enforcement officers violate people's rights everyday, and if we have no way to hold them accountable or to collect evidence in our defense the only option will be to defend our rights with lethal force. You don't get to legislate away a fundamental need of due process. I am appalled that this motion was even brought forward. Everywhere we go we are on camera's, I walk into a store I'm on camera, I walk down the street I'm probably on a camera or satellite, I speak near my phone I'm being recorded by google. LEO's need to get used to being filmed like everyone else in this country or it needs to be universally illegal to record people without their permission(Good luck with that one and people taking pictures on vacation in public). Leaving the only logical option to be for LEO's to stop being butt hurt about a camera.

Leslie Hicks, Mr.

Self

Killeen, TX

With all the issues with law enforcement personnel (as well as politicians and bureaucrats) breaking laws, making up laws, wrecklessly killing people, planting evidence, and violating the people's Constitutionally protected rights all over the State, many of which have been caught by independent journalists recording their illegal/tyrannical actions, this change would give them even more means to be tyrants rather than public servants they're supposed to be. This bill needs to be quashed NOW as it will violate (and allow law enforcement to violate) the people's Amendment I protected rights to freedom of press and speech.

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Lisa Roop

Self

Amarillo, TX

This bill goes against our very own constitution of the USA. Please remember that exercising our first amendment right was not bestowed upon citizens by the government but is our God given right which should always be upheld and protected by the government. This bill will criminalize any and all who wish to view our public servants in the performance of their duties and who do not submit to an officers' feelings of where it is suitable to view them. This bill would also criminalize citizens who video police who perform criminal acts against the citizens in their official capacity and it would also criminalize a citizen wishing to video a police officer perform well in the performance of his or her duty. Videos do not lie and they are an excellent way to document actual events in real time and can be used to save lives both citizen and officers. Thank you for your consideration and returning a no to HB 1757.

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Stephen Hines, Mr

self

Sachse, TX

I opposed this proposed law since it would unconstitutionally ban the right to document police activity and gather information about the official acts of government.

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Jesse Cano

Self, Banking

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I do not support HB 1757 and find the fact that this is being considered revolting. I see this as yet another attempt to erode our constitutional rights, allow law enforcement agencies to continue to avoid accountability & transparency, and most importantly criminalize legal activity. The 5th circuit court of appeals has already ruled that the public are allowed to film the police in the course of their official duties per Turner vs Driver. The only members of law enforcement that have an issue with filming are those that have something to hide. Law enforcement and the political organizations that back them should not be allowed to continue to demonize & attack the educated public and this bill would assist in exactly that. Transparency, accountability, and a higher set of standards is the only true way to bridge the divide between law enforcement and the public. Passing of unconstitutional laws and providing yet another tool for retaliatory actions on the public does nothing to repair the rift between government and the people you are to serve.

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Richard Maldonado

Constitutional Rights

El Paso, TX

As a resident of Texas and upholding US citizen, I oppose this bill. This clearly interferes with our constitutional rights to hold police accountable for their actions. As we have seen over the years police have been held more accountable for their unlawful actions. As we are currently watching the case for Derek Chauvin, recording of this interaction has brought accountability for him and his actions. What if he said to, "Get away and go to the area across the street! Obey this order or you will be arrested and charged criminally!" Would this be right? No! This bill will reinforce bad cop behavior and put lives in danger. Are you willing to put your son, daughter, or other family members at risk from a situation like George Floyd? Put yourself in the shoes of families like George Floyd, none of us are immune to bad policing. Protect our rights, protect the constitution, protect your families.

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Dirk Pearson

self

El Paso, TX

Bad police officers do not want to be filmed, if this bill passes it will encourage more bad behavior of bad police officers to try and cover up their mistakes.

The camera doesn't lie. If you truly support the constitution of the United States you will vote against this bill.

I am against this bill.

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Vadim Goeke, HULK

Texas thin blue line Leo SUPPORT

Boerne, TX

Hi I'm a major police SUPPORTER from Boerne Texas and I've watched a ton of videos from these so called 1st amendment AUDITORS, a majority of these people only use the video to make money and harass local police because they HATE law enforcement. Please pass this bill to ensure the safety of law enforcement. The DOD has already labeled auditors as domestic terrorists cause when people view the videos , they think of law enforcement as the enemy, this has resulted in police officer shootings and suicides. If law enforcement leave the community they protect, how are the citizens supposed to feel safe?

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Joshua Cuellar

self /JC;P

Converse, TX

Krause can be a pretend christian all he likes but the bible he claims to believe in makes it clear Gods people are at war with corrupt governments around the world. In Ephesians somewhere. It's clear which master yall serve and for most of you in government it's not God.

This bill is about ending transparency and making it easier for corrupt Policy Enforcers(Law Enforcers would enforce the law.. meaning the constitution first and foremost not politicians policies)

18 US Code 242 Deprivation of Rights Under the Color of Law. Something everyone should be familiar with. Stuff like this was put into law to preempt any of you criminals in govts attempts to violate our rights under the "color of law" or policies etc.

The people are waking up, albeit very slowly, to the lawlessness of our government. Shall not be infringed means shall not be infringed yet yall do anyways. Joseph Gobbels had a quote about big lies yall should read if you insist on playing with fire.

Everything will come to light eventually. The bible Krause pretends to believe in says it will be so. What kinds of actions and secrets do you want hiding in the dark when light is shined your way..

The US government has been at war with it's own people for over a century. Yall disregard the constitution at every turn. From gun control to infringing on peoples first amendment to appease Israel. Now yall want to protect the police from accountability which puts both the people and the thugs enforcing unconstitutional policies in more danger. Everyone with a functioning brain is well behaved when they know they are being watched.

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Rebecca Broughton

Self

Seguin, TX

I am in Favor of HB 1757. Even though this bill might have additional cost it is necessary to hold accountability to those in a trusted job done for the public and it's safety. We also need more additional funding for all Law Enforcement that put their lives in danger to protect the public especially on a day to day basis. Corruption is everywhere and we need to protect those doing a faithful job.

Tampering of any evidence to prove right or wrong is unacceptable. Please pass HB 1757.

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charles wilson

self retired

Gilmer, TX

i do not support this bill in its current form without specified footage required being added to the bill. otherwise police can and will use this law to violate the 1st amendment as established under the 5th circuit case of Turner v Driver. I understand desire to codify the Scotus decision about filming, but it being vague about distance, should behoove us to remove the ambiguity and establish a certain distance of say 20 Ft. for officer safety and to maintain the scene. It is a balancing act to be sure, but it is better to address it in the law instead of having a court do it. i want and demand as a Texas tax payer that all rights, enumerated or not, be protected as established by the Texas Constitution.

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Philip Kraus

Self ... retired

San Antonio, TX

Throw out HB1757. It is illegal to impede upon the constitutional rights of citizens filming police. It is blatantly obvious that this bill is powered by police union lobbyists, and it will result in numerous federal lawsuits that will take time and a lot of money away from what Texas is all about. I value our police, as I am a medically retired police officer. But I value the TRANSPARENCY of government that the constitution and its amendments say are God given RIGHTS. Do not make an illegal law that will further divide Texas.

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James Diffily

Myself - retired

Weatherford, TX

This Bill is an attack on the public's ability to keep LEOs accountable for their actions. I have seen countless videos where the the LEO demands that the videographer stand so far away that nothing can be heard and activities not be clearly seen. The more questionable the activity, the farther away the LEO commands the observer. A "reasonable" distance should set by the statute, not the LEO who wants to hide some sketchy activity. Police abusing their powers is a huge problem in this country and this Bill is a step away from transparency.

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Jeremy Rowdon

Self

Melissa, TX

Mr. Krause,

I will start this by saying that I come from a law enforcement family with a father, sister, grandmother, and brother in law all working in law enforcement in different capacities. I mention this so you know I am NOT a defund the police advocate or anything like that. I have also generally voted Republican or Libertarian my whole life and have never vote for a Democrat so do not think this is based off of left wing ideology. I have also never commented on one of these bills before but felt strongly enough about this that I felt I needed to.

With that said, the sections of this bill related to filming government employees, in this case police officers, is very concerning to me. This is direct attack on a 1st amendment protected activity, freedom of the press. There is no reason for officers to have the authority to force a law abiding citizen to move to a location of there choice when they are engaged in a 1st Amendment protected activity.

Any officer that is doing their job within the confines of the law and abiding by the policies of their department should have no reason to worry about being filmed by the public. If they are worried about such it would make me question why they do not want to be transparent with the public and if there is something to hide in that instance.

There is already a divide in this county between citizens and police officers and the last thing we need is less police transparency to make that divide grow even more than it already has. In fact the more transparency we have and the more showcasing of good police officers could help with healing that divide.

In closing, I implore you to reconsider and withdraw this bill.

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Mary Fisher

Self

Dallas, TX

This is an unconstitutional ban on free press. Speech and press should not be subject to additional regulations. Especially by police! Corrupt LE routinely bully videographers away from police activity. Vote no on HB1757. HB 1757 is unconstitutional!

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Brann Mooney

Myself as a free TEXAS AMERICAN

Liberty Hill, TX

If we take away the people's right to record police, how can we ever expect to have accountability? We can't, even when police wear body cams, it seems that they get redacted or turned off when they know they're acting unlawfully. Police already are immune to scrutiny and internal accountability is a joke. To ask someone to investigate themselves, is futile, and a waste of time and energy. How can anyone expect non-biased judgement? I agree police have a tough job, but is taking the people's rights away going to make police more safe, no. We need more accountability, not less. Bad police are bad for good police, the bad ones earn hate for everyone on the force, not just themselves.

Thank you for your time.... this my first time to do this, I hope it's understandable.... lol. Always bet on Texas.... because of the Texans!



Darrel Rhyne

Self

Toyahvale, TX

I oppose this bill. I am currently retired and served over a decade as a Texas Peace Officer. People engaged in a constitutional protected activity (ie: filming) should not be subject to additional restrictions. The Sandra Bland Act is just one perfect example of the need to record LE Officers to maintain accountability. The changes created by this bill will allow the unconstitutional ban of the right of the people to record the activities of LE Officers. Bad cops, in order to circumvent accountability and to hide their unlawful actions, routinely move people who are filming them, away from police scenes so that they cannot see, hear or record the activities of the LE Officers. Body cams for LE Officers have been a good addition through recent years, but more times than not the recordings of Officer body cams are considered the exclusive property of whatever agency and are not released to the public. Too many times body cams and LE vehicle cams are routinely not available to victims of police violence and used to hide the unlawful actions perpetrated by LE Officers. We the people are too often left with, we have investigated ourselves and found that we have done no wrong. I encourage you, for Freedom and Liberty, to defeat this bill!

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German Collin

1757

Port arthur, TX

Against HB-1757

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Steve Franklin

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

Vote NO on this bill which will limit Texan's constitution rights to film police in the course of their duties. Texas Police need accountability and this law will only continue to limit oversight by the public and allow bad police officers to violate citizens rights, particularly those citizens of less means.

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George Dietrich

myself a Texas resident

wylie, TX

i oppose this Bill, the people have the right to film public officials during the course of their duty.  
watch any 1st amendment video, cop watch open carry stop,fail to id video  
none of these actions would be known if you make it illegal to film police  
you're opening the state to lawsuits like Turner v Driver  
anyone that votes for this Bill should resign it does nothing to protect we the people just you the non transparent.  
shame on Mr Krause for making up such a bill to protect cops unlawful actions.  
remember the head of the police union said he would get the auditors(we know who you are and we are coming for you)? here's your sign.

---

Danny Schliep

Self

Universal City, TX

This bill does nothing but allow police to hide from accountability. They will use this to push a photographer back to a point where nothing will be recorded and they can violate rights without witness. So often police departments will stonewall or outright deny foia requests for their body camera footage or they conveniently lost footage or files were "corrupted". Anyone who fears transparency in government is doing something wrong. You are our representatives, not our leaders. Be transparent and accountable.

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Harold Facteu

Salutation\*

Magnolia, TX

Implementing this bill is a violation of the US constitution and the Texas state constitution the right to video in public and video public officials In the course of their duties It is the right Of the people and The media to video what is in public from public right of ways violation Of these constitutional rights will result in lawsuits

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Richard Simpson, Good citizen

Self Owner Delivery Co.

Houston, TX

HB1757 Will double or triple the amount of abuse and brutality cases by bad police

officers There is a trial in Minnesota that probably would not be happening if not for a citizen recording Vote against this deep state facist bill This bill is unconstitutional

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Paul Curfman

Myself

Lewisville, TX

Please vote against this bill. If the cops who killed Floyd had this bill they could have just moved all people with cameras out of view of the offending officer and he would not be on trial today. There needs to be accountability on the police. Already Texas has made it near impossible to get body cam footage from public records. There needs to be transparency.

---

Todd Shannon

Self

San Antonio, TX

HB 1757 section 4 erodes our 1st amendment rights and removes the accountability of our peace officers. Please vote "no" on HB 1757.

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Tracy Morrow

Radio Broadcaster

Mineola, TX

II do not support this proposed bill. It is a violation of the First AMENDMENT. Why would legislators attempt to pass a bill which would stop media, citizen journalists or anyone from recording a public official during the course of their duties. I will be

happy to testify in person. They can Get a job in the private sector if scrutiny is a problem.

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Pooh Baby

NAACP

Dallas, TX

“On behalf of the black community accountability is necessary on behalf of the people that swear they want to protect and serve us per 14th amendment but if the first amendment is a problem then that means every one that follows is even less important and in turn makes those critical to the infrastructure of America please don’t take the liberties of our children who know no better  
“!!!!

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Marco Sepulveda

self

Arlington, TX

I wanted to reach out to state my opposition to HB1757 which appears to attempt to limit a citizen's 1st amendment right to film the police. Turner vs Driver has already established that recording the police in their official duties is our first amendment right within reasonable parameters and any attempt to limit or restrict this right is not only unconstitutional, but also just plain wrong.

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Bryan Baatz

Self

Watauga, TX

This is a necessary and needed law for the protection and safety of not only law enforcement, but also the public. I've seen on social media literally 100's of videos of individuals with video cameras abusing, harassing and stalking law enforcement officers, walking into traffic stops, crime scenes, investigative stops and even using police scanners to follow law enforcement officers to calls just so they can abuse, harass and stalk law enforcement officers for their social media sites to solicit donations from viewers. Many of these individuals that make such videos for their livelihood on social media are convicted felons, some are even convicted violent felons, one such violent convicted felon that abuses, harasses and stalks law enforcement officers for his social media site has been convicted and served over five years in Texas Prison for auto theft, aggravated sexual assault (rape) possession of a firearm by felon, and is on Texas Sex Offenders Registry for Life. Giving law enforcement officers the necessary legal tool (Law) to protect themselves and the public from such abuse, harassment and stalking, and possible assault, and also that protects the Constitutional Rights of Texans to film law enforcement and public officials should be Passed Immediately..

---

Anthony Moreno

Myself

San Antonio, TX

The fundamental right to observe all public official's should not be hindered. How many officials have been injured by a camera. No auditor/cameraman has turned around and Injured an official

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Brent McCain

Self - Paramedic

Bruceville, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1757. Initially, it was my thought that wow, this is a GREAT bill, BUT, after reading the bill more carefully and slowly dissecting it, I find a HUGE flaw in it. The portion of the bill that, in my mind, completely destroys what it attempts to do, holding law enforcement accountable. In particular, "THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PEACE OFFICER FROM GIVING THE PERSON A REASONABLE AND LAWFUL ORDER OR DIRECTION TO CHANGE THE PERSON'S PROXIMITY OR POSITION RELATIVE TO A PEACE OFFICER WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES". This language completely negates the "good" in this bill. LEO's have shown time and time and time again their hatred for transparency. They will CONTINUE to arrest journalists who refuse their orders to move back. Each LEO will decide for themselves what a "reasonable" distance is for recording and if the journalist refuses to move, they will STILL end up in jail. I believe, and I'm sure many, many, others will as well, that if that section was removed, then it will become a good bill. But until then, it really becomes meaningless.

Thank you for listening.

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David Boethel

Self, water utility operator

Cypress, TX

It is absolutely necessary for the people to be able to monitor police. The police are out of control and should not be given the ability to keep citizens from easily and accurately documenting their actions by requesting them to move "reasonable" distances away. If a citizen not doing anything other than recording the police and not interfering with the police they must be able to do so from wherever they already are. Police must be held accountable for their actions and citizens must be able to perform their duty of monitoring the police, unhindered and without harassment, obstruction and fear of retaliation (being falsely arrested). DO NOT PASS HB 1757!! It is unconstitutional and must be stopped. Stop giving the police more leverage to abuse the public that they are supposed to be protecting.

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Alfred Lugo

self ironworker

Port Lavaca, TX

It is already legal to film the police, Turner v. Driver confirms this. This new law will empower police to call it "interfering" if you don't film from exactly how they tell you to. Currently, speech (which includes filming and reporting), is a defense to prosecution of the interfering statute. The changes will encourage government to relocate people filming the police to a location where you cannot hear and see police. Bad cops routinely bully videographers away from police scenes. This law would unconstitutionally ban the right to document police activity and gather information about the official acts of government.

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Brad Willingham

Self

Woodson, TX

Vote NO for HB1757,  
very restrictive for accountability issues  
Civil rights violations  
Allows Leo's the chance to break the law  
Reduced or eliminated accountability

Susan Murph  
We the People "self"  
Willis, TX

I don't support this bill 1757 . This is a First Amendment right. Is the money from the police union too much not to turn down? The police don't want We the People to see what is actually going on in traffic stops. What is reasonable distance for filming 500 feet?

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Guadalupe Acuna  
Self  
Lytle, TX

As an American & Tejano I'm against HB 1757

First & foremost I would like to thank you for hearing me out & reading this. I'm not the greatest at this, but I believe my voice should be heard like any other Texas resident.

Some of my talking points are going to be very similar to things you've probably already read or heard.

- 1.) We the people need to be able to document the police with out restrictions to keep our police accountable. This law would unconstitutionally ban the right to document police activity and gather information about the official acts of government.
- 2.) It is already legal to film the police, Turner v. Driver confirms this. This new law will empower police to call it "interfering" if you don't film exactly how they tell you to.  
If the courts have already deemed it legal why do Texas law makers want to restrict the rights of the people?
- 3.) We need to be able to hear & see whats going on for the good of the people. Currently, speech (which includes filming and reporting), is a defense to prosecution of the interfering statute. The changes will encourage government to relocate people filming the police to a location where you cannot see and hear the police. (What do the police have to hide?)
- 4.) Bad & corrupt cops routinely bully videographers away from police scenes to keep their bad acts secret.
- 5.) Being able to record the police is a precious tool to keep those with power accountable.

Thank you & God Bless.

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Bobby Booker  
Self  
Port aransas, TX

I would like to vote no or hope you vote no due too if you vote yes then you would be arresting news, even the off duty police who might take video for work as security guard and or people who need documentation for the hearing impaired. No police officer should be afraid or scared they are filmed cause it would show there good work but if the officer is bad or made a mistake

then if no video then he keeps being that way cause he knows oh I take your camera and lock you up and no body is the wiser. Cops have or might need the public video to say other wise that there body cam if they turn it on or have one might miss something or keep a good cop out of trouble due too false allegation against them say sexual misconduct or assault on inmate. So yes this day and age you are filmed 15,000 times a day just by security camera so what's one more so let's show the public that you filming actually can help not hurt unless the cop 1. Is doing wrong or made a mistake 2. Allegation are said and no video is there but if officer knows public filming them that shows hes innocent 3.shows transparency

So say no and let people film cause it can only help not hurt unless its the person fault or officer and the police have relied on public filming one too many times too now say its illegal and makes the public feel like its another way for police or public to hide transparency so let people film.... Also if you vote yes then you will be going against the constitution and no matter what people and news shouldn't be in fear or think something or someone is trying too hide behind a law settle saying we are changing with times and know every one can and will film if they so choose and welcome every side too show the public that laws are for the public not against them and voting no says we need people to see all sides not one that is controlled by one side so we want people too feel like laws are for the people not against them or our fore fathers so please say no and let truth and good people shine and not hide any bad or not show people we all make mistakes and real change is here not going backwards...

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