

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 39

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE & FAMILY ISSUES

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Hearing Date: March 8, 2021 10:00 AM

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Mrs R J Mikulec

Grandparents

Inez, TX

Grandparents, often the stabilizing unit in the family, should be considered for visitation rights as well. Stop allowing family units to be torn apart. Justice for children, please.

Katie Amber, Founder/CEO

End Coercive Control USA

Austin, TX

My name is Katie Amber, and I am the Founder/CEO of End Coercive Control USA in Austin/Travis County Texas. We would like to register our support and respectfully encourage to vote House Bill 39 out of the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee. Thank You!

Joycelyn Wooten

Self/Mom

San Antonio, TX

I have a CPS case and I want my kids home! My rights have been violated and I haven't had a 72 hour hearing.

Shameka Thompson

Epicenter

Fort Worth, TX

Asking that you all please pass this bill.

Carla Gill

Self

Conroe, TX

Please take a good look at this. I was incarcerated for 15 flat years. I met a wonderful girl who was sentenced when she was a teenager just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. She has been there over 20 years. She deserves to be looked at. And so do a lot of others. Thank you

Crystal Sheffield, Mrs

Self

Del valle, TX

Printed on: April 8, 2021 1:15 PM

I feel as though CPS has failed us protecting our children and being experienced enough to identify truth from lies. On January 25th 2021 My son Josaiah Marmolejo committed suicide in CPS hands. My son was separated from his 6 other siblings and was having mental illness problems cps failed to help. They only provided more pain and depression, my son was already dealing with the lose of his 16 yr old brothers passing in July 2020. Instead of them helping him they isolated him and didn't see that the best help for him was family and mental health help. They have kept me away from my children and have only gone by false reports and not evidence. I fear for my other children's mentality later in the future, what scares has cps left for them. They all have anxiety, fear, grieving problems. They have inflicted more hurt then they thought they were receiving at their homes with their parents. I begin with 7 kids when cps got involved and now I am down to 5. The system has failed to have the right qualifications for such a huge and serious position. Most of these caseworkers have no experience in mental health in family counseling or being able to identify abuse. If they see us unfit to make the right decisions for our children then they should be held to the highest expectations to make better ones which is not the case in my situation. My children have been away from home for almost a year and have endured suffering they never experienced ever in their life until the day cps came into our lives. They came from a loving home, the whole point is to reunite children with their family if fit that's the whole goal if it's possible but to my experience nothing pleases CPS. They have lost track in the children's benefits.

Gyl Switzer

Texas Gun Sense

Austin, TX

Texas Gun Sense supports HB 39 and thanks Chair Neave for filing the bill. Texas Gun Sense works closely with the Texas Council on Family Violence and other partners to address the deadly combination of family violence and easy access to firearms in Texas.

Shandra MosleyBanks, Minister

God Chosen Vessels

Houston, TX

Praying this bill passes

Erin Merks

Self

Yorktown, TX

I am in support of HB 757

Since my cousin Amber Villarreal passed away one year ago we have not been able to see my cousin's 2 daughters. I have an 11 year old daughter and would have several slumber parties with her cousins throughout the year. Family was so very important to Amber and to our family. It is so hard trying to explain to young children why they are no longer able to see one another. My daughter has tried to deliver Christmas and birthday gifts throughout the year and was denied to give them to the girls. My aunt and a uncle and Amber's sister are unable to deliver gifts. Last time they showed up to see Camille (11) they following week they were issued criminal trespass warnings for the property their grandchildren reside at. There are no criminal charges no investigations and absolutely no harm ever done by these people being denied to see the only living beings from their deceased child. I cannot imagine driving to work daily and passing by the neighborhood of your grandchildren or the school and unable to see or speak to them. The children need these grandparents they saw daily of their lives and lived with them while their mom feel ill. There are holidays the dad never cared to see the kids and Amber still allowed his family to share happy moments with the girls. I hope and pray my family and the girls is able to reunite and feel the love Amber shared for all. I also pray all families going through this pain will soon be surrounded with the loved one and be able to embrace one another. Thank you for your time.

Jasmine Furr

Self /freight team

Houston, TX

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Make changes and review older cases that need another look

Heather Bellino, CEO

Texas Advocacy Project, Inc.

Austin, TX

We would like to register our support. We believe this bill will increase safety in our community by ensuring that survivors seeking protective orders obtain the meaningful protection they require in a timely manner.