

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1277

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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cindy klempner

Self

Austin, TX

SUPPORT

Linda Mikolajek, Ms.

NAMI Central Texas

Austin, TX

My name is Linda Mikolajek and I am a NAM Central Texas member and I am a member of their advocacy committee. I have a 38 year old son who is currently suffering from a SMI- Serious Mental Illness. He has been homeless since early 2019 due to his declining mental health. In Aug of 2019, he left ASH after 3 weeks in jail and 4.5 months in the hospital. Months later he was arrested for criminal trespassing and ended back in ASH DUE TO NO SUPPORT OR CONTINUUM OF CARE. I am urgently asking you to support HB 1277. It is hard to heal from any illness when you are living out of your car or on the streets without support to keep you on the road to recovery. Please support this HB 1277 and do all you can to see it get passed.

Judy Briscoe, Citizen

Summerwood Homeowners Association

Austin, TX

Support

Marilyn Hartman

Member and Advocate, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Central Texas

Austin, TX

I support this bill. This state needs far more transitional housing than it has, particularly for people with mental illness exiting psychiatric hospitals or incarceration who would be homeless. One very positive aspect of this bill is the use of dedicated money from TDHCA's Ending Homelessness Fund, which is outside the state treasury, thus not affecting GR. Please pass this bill.

Eric Kunish, Advocacy Chair NAMI

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAM) Central Texas Affiliate

Austin, TX

I am for this bill and hope this pilot program will help house more people.

Karen Ranus, Executive Director

NAMI Central Texas

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Austin, TX

NAMI Central Texas is in support of this bill.