

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1709

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE & FAMILY ISSUES

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2021 10:00 AM

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Laura Weaver

self, retired

Spring, TX

Many children who run away from home are leaving because of abuse, neglect or mental illness. They should not be detained or charged with a crime. Please support this bill!

Kate Murphy, Senior Child Welfare Policy Associate

Texans Care for Children

Austin, TX

We support HB 1709 because it decriminalizes the status offense of running away; limits the detention of youth for status offenses, which are better addressed by community-based services; and ensures vulnerable youth are not harmed by the juvenile justice system.