

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1950

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 8:00 AM

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Frank Pomeroy

myself as a concerned citizen

Seguin, TX

As a concerned citizen I find it rather appalling that we would think of defunding those who put their lives on the line everyday to help protect my freedoms. Those who seem to complain about LEO's are those who are breaking the law. Why should we penalize and endanger those who are law abiding citizens to placate the criminals in society or to play politics with hot button issues. I agree that all LEO's should be frugal and think about training funds and such however we should be encouraging and supporting these men and women in uniform not making them scapegoats for a radical agenda from the criminals. I humbly ask the house to please pass this bill so as to penalize any municipalities or county that chooses to put politics before safety by defunding LEO's.

Carolyn Goolsby

self/accountant

Houston, TX

Support for this bill is critical to protect citizens. I fully support this bill as these municipalities have created situations where there are not enough police to help keep citizens safe. These situations are only going to worsen with the thousands of people streaming across the Texas border from Mexico. I am especially concerned with the situation surrounding the immediate area around the UT campus. My son is a student at UT and the situation with dangerous people roaming the streets becomes more concerning by the day. We need this bill in the interest of public safety.

Carla George

SafeHorns/Self

Austin, TX

I SUPPORT the Texas Public Safety Protection act and creating a Safe Zone in the area around the campus at the University of Texas at Austin. In February, my son and two other students were assaulted when leaving the food trucks at 26th & Rio. Fortunately, they were able to jump inside a vehicle as the assailant continued to punch and kick the car while yelling that "all UT students are going to die!" He then assaulted another UT student, this time causing theft and physical injury. Students at UT should feel safe navigating to and from campus, on campus, and in the areas surrounding campus. Please support this bill to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors in these areas.

Jim Goolsby, Attorney/CPA

Self

Houston, TX

We are strongly in support of HB 1950. We have a child living in the west campus area while attending the University of Texas and we are greatly concerned with his safety and that of other students and residents. The defunding decisions by the Austin City Council represent some of the worst public policy in Texas history and have directly caused many of the safety issues now faced in that area. HB 1950 should result in a significant improvement of the safety of the residents of the west campus area. Please

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pass HB 1950. Thank you.

Sandra Ayala  
SafeHorns  
Harlingen, TX

I strongly urge you to support and help pass this bill. It is necessary to ensure the continued safety of your constituents. Crime in Austin is rising and all necessary steps must be taken to lower crime rates.

Jill Reilly  
Safehorns  
Austin, TX

My Longhorn lives in West Campus. Housing for Longhorns is off-campus for all non-Freshmen and even some Freshmen due to the lack of housing options on-campus for all students due to capacity-constraints. I am extremely concerned about my Longhorn's safety due to the escalating crime and continually increasing vagrants who live in this area. There are certain areas of West Campus he avoids due to extremely aggressive homeless people who are increasingly attacking students. Students are a VERY vulnerable population. Students should have a safe zone to live off-campus as they do on-campus. These areas need additional law enforcement and public safety services. Please, please, PLEASE pass this bill!

Ellen Benson  
Parent  
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Don Bechtel  
Self computer technician  
Belton, TX

I agree with these safe zones.

Tiffany Leyendecker  
UT student / family  
Houston, TX

Need safer campus and downtown

Jessica McKenny  
Self; teacher and parent of UT student  
Spring, TX

I support

Laura Giesler  
Safe horns

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Houston, TX

I support this bill to make the area around UT a safer zone for students.

Ellen Ungerman

Self

Dallas, TX

This bill should be passed following with the University of Southern California has done to protect their students and the community

Carl Giesler

Safe horns

Houston, TX

I support this bill to improve the safety around the UT campus.

Shannon Jeter

Self

Spring, TX

I support

Tami Wisofsky

Self (librarian)/Child-UT Student

Ganado, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Cathy Leffingwell

Self

Coppell, TX

I support.

Susan Proctor

Self. Retired.

Temple, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus. I have a student who lives in this area and we have been alarmed by the increase in criminal activity during the past year. Thank you for your consideration and concern for the citizens of the UT area.

Marilyn Tarr

Self

San Antonio, TX

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I support this bill. As a parent of two UT Austin students, I am constantly concerned for their safety as the walk to campus and events. The vagrants sometimes harass students and belligerent. This is an important matter for students and the reputation of the university and the city of Austin.

Heather Morse

Self

Kingwood, TX

Safety concerns are rising. I have a daughter who is a student at the University of Texas and I'm constantly getting incident reports of crime happening very close to campus.

Shelley Goodman

Safe horns

Frisco, TX

I support this bill to support the safety of students and visitors around the UT campus. Our students are chased, spit on, and their safety has been jeopardized. As someone who lives part time in Austin, I've witnessed the downturn of this wonderful city over the past few years. There is no way this should continue.

Laurie Bizzell, Dr.

College student

San Antonio, TX

Please make the UT campus safer!

TuAnh Dang

Self

PEARLAND, TX

I support thus bill for safety of students.

Catherine Wesley

Self/homemaker

Sugar Land, TX

I support this bill to enhance safety for the UT campus

Jennifer Arntzen

self, self employed

Houston, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Heather Jarvis

Self

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Southlake, TX

I support this bill.

Craig Tonn

self

PFLUGERVILLE, TX

support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Rachel Wright

self

The Woodlands, TX

I support this bill to improve the safety of anyone attending or visiting the UT campus and surrounding area. As a parent of 3 students and one Austin resident, this is a great concern.

Veronica Berry, Chief JPO

Self / Chief JPO

Center, TX

I support this bill. I have a college student living in San Jacinto and would rest a lot better knowing there are extra patrols in the area of UT Campus to help insure her safety. She came from a small town of approx 6500 people and is very naive when it comes to the reality that all people are not law abiding citizens and that a lot of the homeless people suffer from some sort of mental illness and do things that they have no control of.

John Thomas

SafeHorns

Houston, TX

As a parent of a student living in West Campus in Austin, Texas, this is a very important for me and my family. We welcome the creation of a Safe Zone that includes the off-campus residences around the University of Texas, in Austin especially now that the local government has pulled funding for local law enforcement and this area has become the mecca for all kinds of criminal activities. The Capital of Texas should be a safe zone for all human beings . The university attracts a diverse population from around the globe and the areas outside of campus isn't safe for anyone to walk around let alone live. I am supportive of HB 1950.

Michelle Gissell

SafeHorns

Manchaca, TX

I'm an 35 year Austin resident, alumni of UT and currently have a 21 yr old daughter attending UT. As a parent I live in fear of the next act of violence, theft or harassment that will happen on West Campus where my daughter lives. West Campus is one of the most unsafe places in Austin. Criminals, thieves and homeless prey on our college students. Our children are scared to walk to a coffee shop or even the garage for the apartment buildings. On March 1st my car was stolen from my daughters parking garage at 26 West Apartments, a student apartment building. APD recovered my car in a dangerous police chase. The driver wrecked and totaled my car and fled on foot. APD found drugs, guns and stolen property in my car (all from students attending UT). These are the types of people that are circling garages and streets watching our UT students, just waiting for the opportunity to steal from them, threaten them and harass them. Someone is going to get killed on West Campus if there is not an effort to protect our children and UT students. This is absolutely ruining their college experience. They live in fear. These kids are tired of

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dodging homeless people harassing them. They are tired of watching their backs every second of the day and night in fear. They are tired of being stolen from everyday and night. Ask any UT student living on West Campus, they will have a story for you of an incident. That's how prevalent these issues are on West Campus. Enough is enough. I've now lost a vehicle and have substantial financial stress due to this incident on West Campus. I also have a child who is fear of every move she makes while trying to attend college and maintain high achievement. We pay endless amounts of money to send our kids to THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS and house them on West Campus. As parents we deserve more, as students they deserve more. It's time for a SAFEZONE!!!! It's time to protect our kids!!!! The fact that there is no effort to protect our kids and student attending UT is an embarrassment. It is sad that I'm now at the point to where I'm anxious for my daughter to wrap up her last year and a half at UT so I can get her away from this dangerous area. The University of Texas is always one of the top Universities in the nation....so why isn't student safety a priority??? Enough is enough! Take action now before someone gets killed!!!!

Cheryl Wheatley

Self

Dallas, TX

Please support making the UT campus safer.

Sandra Howard

Safe Horns

Houston, TX

Safety of students should be a high priority.

Rhonda Alonso

University of Texas at Austin

San Antonio, TX

I support the bill

Jo Anne Armstrong

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Jill Moynihan

Self/Secretary

Houston, TX

UT students deserve to feel safe in and around their campus and home. I support a safe zone around the UT campus.

Lisa Marquardt

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I support added safety measures in the areas around the University. It has become far too unsafe for students in West campus and other areas. More patrols and police presence needed. Thanks.

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Renee Rubin

Self

Plano, TX

I support this bill to help secure the area close to the University of Texas at Austin and UT Students and Austin Citizens.

Aimee Ahiers

Self

The Hills, TX

I support this common sense Bill.

Christel Morris

self

Austin, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Yuping Anselm

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I support Bill 1950 related to the UT campus and Austin safety. The bill is urgently needed!

Mitch Ahiers Jr.

Self

The Hills, TX

I support this Bill to provide more safety to this area.

John Morris

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus

Dina Miles

University of Texas

Lubbock, TX

I support this Bill to create safer are for UT West Campus area

Betsy Rice

Self, environmental consultant

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Spring, TX

I support the safety of my two young adult daughters in west campus in Austin.

Rebecca McCarthy, Dr

Self

Amarillo, TX

I support this

Alissa Mays

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1950 which will improve safety around the UT campus. We need to do more to protect our younger generation. Students working to earn a degree and become contributing members of our society should not have to worry about surviving a violent crime at the university or while getting to and from campus. We have the capability to do better and we must do our part to protect them.

Evette Sherry

Self

Lakeway, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus which includes West campus where most students live.

Michael McKenny

Self/UT PARENT

Spring, TX

Support for the safety of the UT community.

Tina Luttrull, Mrs.

Safehorns

Rowlett, TX

I support this bill which would Improve safety around the UT campus, as well as the downtown entertainment areas for business travelers and tourists. As a parent of three young adults who have made Austin their home fir the last seven years, I have seen an increased need for this type of legislation.

Stephanie Mashhoon

Self/Homemaker and Parent

West Lake Hills, TX

As a parent of a UT student (and an Austin/West Lake Hills resident), I strongly support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Monica Blackmon

Self

Double Oak, TX

I support this bill.

Alicia Hinrichs

Self- physical therapist

Houston, TX

I support this bill that would improve safety around the UT Austin campus.

Deanne Mondebello

UT parent and local resident

Round rock, TX

I support this bill which will improve safety on and around UT campus. Our students safety should be a priority.

Melanie Mullings

self - parent of UT ex-student and current student

El Paso, TX

I support this bill as there continues to be safety and security issues in the area around the UT campus - especially West Campus - where so many students live. Crime in the area has increased in the years between our 2018 grad and current sophomore. Please support any and all options that will address the issues. Thank you!

Paige Najvar

Self

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill for the safety of our UT students.

Janet Rice

Self

Lake Jackson, TX

I care about safety on UT Campus and West Campus as I have 2 grand daughters currently at UT. Let's keep them safe.

Rachel Warren

Self-educator

Baytown, TX

We have got to keep our citizens safe and allot for more patrol in high crime areas. I can't understand why the criminals receive more protection than the masses.

Hilpa Suthar  
Parent to UT  
Austin, TX

"I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus."  
It's a disgrace how unsafe the area has become considering how much taxes the university brings in.

D Scott  
Self Teacher  
Pflugerville, TX

Please provide police officers for the West campus area of UT. Parents should not be worried sick about their children's safety.

Michelle Chen  
Self, RN  
Manvel, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Lisa Almgren  
Self  
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Christine Sheraden  
Self  
Mansfield, TX

As a parent of TWO UT students who have lived and will continue to live in West Campus, we desperately need a safe zone established in West campus to not only ensure safety to all those who live in that community, but also to support the many businesses who have struggled there in the past year during covid. We need to send a strong and firm message to everyone that we care about our west campus community. Parents spend a lot of money for education and housing in this west campus community. Please establish this safe zone to everyone Austin wants to take safety seriously and rebuild this West campus community!

Wenona Wells  
Self  
Spring, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus. As a parent of a UT student, it is a constant worry as to how crime is escalating around the campus because of choices the city of Austin makes.

Alissa Dorries  
Self  
Cypress, TX

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I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus and surrounding areas. My husband and I are both alumni of UT (I spent 6 years at UT getting both my bachelors and masters degrees), our oldest daughter is currently a Junior at UT and our youngest will be a Freshman at UT in the fall.

Austin is a VERY special place to us. However, we thought long and hard about sending our daughter to UT next fall due to the growing concern about safety around the campus/downtown areas and seeing what our oldest daughter has experienced while there the past 3 years. We were very close to choosing to send our youngest to an engineering program at an out-of-state school for this very reason. How unfortunate to have an institution like UT with a very highly-ranked engineering program in our home state, yet seriously consider paying out-of-state tuition to send our daughter to a safer school environment.

I am on numerous local and national college-related parent groups on Facebook and cannot begin to tell you how many posts I have read where prospective students and parents have gone to Austin to tour the school/city and have left literally horrified by what they saw in the campus area and consequently marked UT off of their list of potential colleges. This includes families from both Texas and all across the country. Just over spring break, my youngest drove to Austin with her future roommate and her mother to tour the campus and their dorm for next year. The mother is from out of state and had never been to UT or Austin before. She left Austin EXTREMELY concerned about her daughter attending school there next year. Between seeing the homeless camping out IN the dorm parking lot (as well as everywhere else around campus), to watching some homeless men have a fight with chains and ropes on the street corner, to having several aggressive men approach them while they were walking along the Drag, she is now considering not allowing her daughter to attend. Don't get me wrong- I am a huge advocate of assisting our homeless population but do feel like campus/west campus, with the dense population of young adults, is not the proper place for them to camp out/reside. There have just been too many dangerous incidences.

As an alumnae of UT and a parent of a student there now, I find it incredibly sad that this is the impression people get when they visit. I find it even more heartbreaking that the reputation of a school of UT's caliber and academics is being heavily tarnished by the safety issue and that the school is losing potential students as a result. I find it sad that I am frequently having to defend my alma mater when the topic comes up with people who have heard all of the negative things about safety. I find it sad when I hear of people sending their kids to TAMU or other schools based on this issue alone. I find it sad that my lifetime of love for both UT and Austin is being affected by this. Truly something must be done and NOW.

Rebecca Trinin

Self - Student

Austin, TX

It is not safe for people- especially girls to walk around West Campus safely and should be patrolled by UTPD

Jessica Murillo

Self - SW Engineering Executive

Round Rock, TX

I support this bill Which will improve safety around the UT Austin campus

Ashley Moore

Self

Southlake, TX

I support and plead for the bill to increase the safety near UT campus. Please!

Dave George

Self

Austin, TX

I support the creation of a safe zone in downtown and in the UT campus surrounding area.

Lizzy Zinn

Self

Dallas, TX

Protecting our flagship University and downtown improves the overall environment and safety of students, professionals and visitors. Its a smart idea.

Alma Jorgenson

UT parent

Frisco, TX

I support this bill which will improve the safety around the UT campus and other areas.

Erin Fahy

UT parent

Houston, TX

My daughter is a student at UT and I'm afraid for her safety.. it is beyond ridiculous that there is not more of a safety presence in West Campus and downtown.

Libertad Leal

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill

MARIA PIMENTEL

Self

Mcallen, TX

I support this bill to protect UT Austin surrounding areas, Capitol & Downtown!!!

Carol Enneking

Self - Director of Learning & Talent Devt

Cypress, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Carla McCoy

“Self “ RN

Leander, TX

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I support this bill to make the areas around University of Texas campus safer!

Latricia Williams

UT Alumni

Houston, TX

I support this bill 1950 to improve security and safety around the UT Austin campus.

Jennifer Easley

Self - homemaker

San Antonio, TX

As the mother of a daughter at UT and a volunteer at the Texas PTA building on 11th St, I implore you to consider this bill to make these areas of Austin safer.

Dena Gattis

Self / Attorney

Oak Point, TX

I support this bill that would improve the safety around the University of Texas campus and our State Capitol.

Ella Easley, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

sarah senterfitt

self

austin, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1950. I am an Austin resident, and my son is a UT-Austin student who lives on West Campus. Most specifically, I favor granting the governor the ability to designate safety zones. Governor Abbott has spoken about a proposed safety zone that would include downtown, the Capitol, and areas around the UT-Austin campus. My son has described numerous encounters where aggressive homeless people ask for money. When the students ignore the request, the individuals seeking money use rude and obscene language and get in the personal space of the students as a way to intimidate them. I have sat in my parked car on West Campus waiting for my son to come down from his dorm. On one evening, a homeless person approached my car and banged on my window repeatedly asking for money. The individual finally gave up. This was scary to me. The situations that I am describing are unacceptable. Citizens should be able to move safely around campus and around our city. The police force is understaffed. Crime continues to be a problem in the area. HB1950 would allow for extended patrol around the campus to improve safety.

Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Gelfand

Ut parent

Austin, TX

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I support this bill. It will improve safety near the UT campus

Andrew Kieschnick

Self

Mckinney, TX

As a parent of a UT student it has been disturbing to watch the increase in crimes occurring around UT and downtown Austin. My son is only a freshman but he already has multiple "harassment stories" ranging from threats to solicitation for sex. As a native Austinite it is frustrating to see downtown overwhelmed with aggressive panhandlers. On a business trip prior to Covid I was harassed by a panhandler for an entire city block. What were previously enjoyable trips back to my hometown now come with concerns about safety. The City of Austin either refuses or is incapable of addressing the problem. An increased presence by law enforcement in these areas of concern would certainly help.

Debbie Lalla

Self and daughter/UT student

Austin, TX

I support this bill. As a long-time Austin resident and also a Longhorn parent, I have seen the increase in crime in this area and it really concerns me.

Jonathan Gelfand

UT Parent

Austin, TX

As a parent of a UT Student, I support this bill. Improvements in safety near the campus are sorely needed

Monica Guzman

Safehorns

Leander, TX

My daughter is a second year student at the University of Texas at Austin. Her safety matters. I fully support the expansion of safety protocols and extended patrol zones around the UT campus.

Sherri Butler

Self

Frisco, TX

I support this bill which will improve the safety around UT campus.

Theresa Bellows

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. Our city desperately needs funding for law enforcement and public safety services. Our family no longer feels safe in our city as we have for the past decades. We no longer support local businesses in fear of our safety. We seek out surrounding cities now that are safer. Things shouldn't be this way.

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Letty Spicer

Self, constituent

Dallas, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus. My son was a student at UT when Haruka was viciously murdered. My daughter is a current freshman living in San Jacinto and her safety & security always weighs heavy on me. Additional police presence and enforcement is critically required on and around campus as soon as possible.

Anne Warrington

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Jennifer Mestan

Self / Virtual Assistant

Frisco, TX

I support this bill as I believe it will greatly improve safety around the UT Austin campus. My child is a freshman this year and I've been shocked by the amount of criminal activity and serious safety concerns on the outskirts of campus. I believe all students have the right to feel safe when walking to and from their off-campus apartments and right now, she and so many others definitely do NOT feel safe in this area.

Verna Cloudy, retired teacher

self -retired teacher

Center, TX

I support this bill because it would provide safety for students enrolled in University of Texas. Students should not have to be concerned about safety on campus as this would hinder their studies. They need to know that everything is being done to provide security for them as this would cause parents to feel comfortable and put their minds at ease to know that everything is being done to provide security for students.

Scott Mestan

Self / Supply Chain Mgr

Frisco, TX

As a parent of a student that will be living off campus starting August 2021, I strongly support this bill. Safety of the residents, students or otherwise, should be paramount. Students have enough on their plates and shouldn't have to worry about safely walking around their neighborhood and going to/from campus. As parents spending a large amount to send our children to school, we should not have to worry about the safety of our children. The return on investment would be huge for the city and the university from a PR perspective and only positive things can come from it. Conversely, failure to act or remain as the status quo will adversely affect the city and the university for years to come. Take all of that aside; it's just the right thing to do and addressing a very prominent issue that is growing out of hand. Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Schievelbein

Self

Austin, TX

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I support the bill which will enhance safety around the UT campus

Emilie Love

Self restaurant owner

Fort Worth, TX

I support creating a safety zone around University of Texas

Catherine Bohne

Self, Holistic Healthcare

Austin, TX

I support this bill and the improvement to Safety around the UT Campus and downtown. I support the funding of new police cadet classes to ensure the safety in these areas.

Cynthia McCampbell

Self-college professor

Richardson, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the University of Texas campus in Austin.

Amy Betzen

Self/Homemaker

Hereford, TX

We have a young daughter who will be attending UT in the fall. Our law enforcement needs adequate funding and support to keep the university's community safe.

GLADYS VEGA

UT parent

HOUSTON, TX

I support this bill which include safety around the UT campus. Students should live in a safe environment.

Stacy Solis

Self

McAllen, TX

I support HB 1950. Please vote to pass this bill.

Rose Moriarty

Mother of a UT student

Houston, TX

How many students have to be harassed and even murdered before the city does something to provide more safety and security

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around the UT campus? How many???! Enough is enough!!

Katherine Thompson  
Keep Longhorns safe  
Austin, TX

It not safe on and around the UT campus

Helen Joe  
SELF ==> PARENT and alumni  
Sugar Land, TX

I support this bill!

Claudia Stewart  
Self, concerned mother for safety of UT students  
Austin, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus.

Carrie Irby  
City of Austin  
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill to improve safety around UT campus.

Carla Ruiz  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill- our young citizens need safety and need to feel safe.

Lisa Dombroski  
Self. HR Manager  
Flower Mound, TX

Agree. This needs to pass for the safety of our students

Dianna Franco  
Self  
Terrell, TX

We need better lighting and extended patrol to increase the safety of our children!

Pamela Francisco

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UT parents

SugarLand, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus

John Dombroski, Mr

Self

Flower Mound, TX

Please vote on this to pass to improve the protection of the area

Rogelio Franco

Self

Terrell, TX

We need better lighting and much more patrolling of the area to provide safety for our children!

Morgan Mestan

Self / UT Student

Austin, TX

As a UT Austin student, I support this bill as I feel it would greatly improve safety around our campus.

Jen Wood

Self

Austin, TX

I support HB 1950.

Francine Todes

Self

Houston, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around The University of Texas campus. This area has been neglected by law enforcement for far too long and as a result has created a dangerous environment for the students attending college at UT. I had one child who graduated from the university in 2019 and currently have a freshman on campus this year. Incidentally, I graduated from UT in 1990. There has been a big decline in safety around this area. It is close enough to campus that it deserves protection. We need these students to feel protected. Please help and pass this bill. Thank you.

Christy Slack

UT

Friendswood, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety on the UT campus.

Jill Clay

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Safehorns

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support a Safezone. I am a Texas resident and have students attending UT Austin. The things they have witnessed or friends have experienced two blocks from campus are quite scary. For example, a knife fight between drug addicts outside my son's apartment during daylight. Thank you for supporting this Bill.

Amy Bless

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill that would increase safety around the UT campus!

Anthony Bless

Self

San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Dolores Wheless

Self CPA

Dallas, TX

I support this bill because it would increase safety for the UT west campus area which is in great need.

Kim Lacey

self

Kemp, TX

I support this bill! Long overdue. With the young adult population around campus, and the increasing number of homeless and transients, additional law enforcement is needed.

Kristy Turner

Safehorns (UT students)

San Antonio, TX

Absolutely we need more funding for law enforcement and public safety, especially in west campus where so many of our UT college students reside. Safely navigating Guadalupe and nearby streets is a dangerous task, one our students should not be having to deal with. No college student should be afraid to step outside of their apartment, whether to walk to campus or to shop-- or just to get a breath of fresh air!! Please pass HB 1950!!

Belinda Reyna

Self

Austin, TX

Please increase law enforcement presence & patrol zones & improve the lighting issues in & around UT Austin west campus.

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Crime in the area is out of control.

Anna Stewart

Self

Amarillo, TX

For

Ledith Blair

SafeHorns; self, parent of Students (high school and UT)

Dallas, TX

I support this bill as it would improve safety around the University of Texas campus and add protection for community overall and my children in particular.

Stacy McCardell

Self/church administrator

Lewisville, TX

I support this bill to expand and improve safety around the UT campus

Stephanie Carpenter

Self

Texarkana, TX

I support this bill which would improve safety around the UT campus

Tucker George, Mr

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill

Tanya Pal

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I fully support establishing a SAFEZONE for areas around UT Austin, which will improve safety for all students, staff, and visitors to and near the campus.

Sarika g

Self

Sugarland, TX

I fully support establishing a SAFEZONE for areas around UT Austin, which will improve safety for all students, staff, and visitors to and near the campus.

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Guia Leonardo

Self

Lampasas, TX

I support this bill.

Amy Doyle

Self/Registered Nurse

Frisco, TX

Please protect us

Padmaja Reddy

Self/yoga teacher

Sugar land, TX

I fully support establishing a SAFEZONE for areas around UT Austin, which will improve safety for all students, staff, and visitors to and near the campus.

Ed Heimlich, Exec Director

INFORMED CITIZENS

Austin, TX

I am a Republican. These bills are directed at depriving the people of Texas of their Right to local Self Government. This is contrary to everything the Republican Party has stood for since Reagan was President. It is contrary to the will of the people who are members of the Republican Party of Texas. This is known to any who paid attention at last years convention and any who have read our Party Platform. You will find absolutely NO support for the Governors call for the protection of the special interest of the Police Unions and their statewide associations that derive their funds from taxpayers to lobby for the special interest of these Socialist enterprises. To the contrary; Our platform item 23 demands Government Accountability. And I quote; "We call upon the Texas Legislature to eliminate all special collective bargaining statutes for public employees and to hold all public servants accountable to taxpayers through existing civil statutes. We oppose any distribution of taxpayer dollars to unions." See also platform item 124. And I quote:

"The Texas Legislature should ban collective bargaining with police unions." But here we see Officials elected under our brand name promoting the opposite !!!

Our Party is opposed to Socialism. Maybe you do not know but Socialism exists when the government owns and exercises a monopoly in providing a product or service to the public. Policing is a Socialist enterprise. It does not need to be. Much of what police departments do could be privatized. Even patrol and arrest functions performed by licensed police officers can be performed by the same licensed professionals operating under the supervision and management of a private firm that has contracted with a neighborhood or even a large city to provide the service now provided by a Socialized enterprise. The result would be better training, cost saving innovation, cost saving management of the human resources, resulting in lower taxes for the citizens.

The propaganda emanating from Police Union members and racists among our population promoted the absurd conspiracy theory that Black Lives Matter was a plot by Marxists. They tried to revive the Red Scare of the cold war to instill fear in the public. It is absurd. Black Lives Matter is a phrase that says what it means and means what it says.

You have to understand that from the perspective of our fellow citizens of color unlawful acts committed under the cover of a position of public trust appear to be racially motivated. And we know there can be an unconscious, if not overt, racial bias at play. But a more common denominator among the victims of police crimes is their social economic status. The police pick on the poor. The poor cannot fight back. Our wealthy citizens pay the tax that funds the unnecessary prosecution and excessive incarceration. After reading the RPT platform I can say the Republican Party is opposed to this bill.

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Gabriela Rivera

Self

Austin, TX

We urgently need more security around UT AUSTIN CAMPUS

Magdalene Vereb

Self / University of Texas Student, leasing an apartment in West Campus

Cypress, TX

Thank you committee members for your time in reading my personal experience while living in West Campus and my support of HB1950.

I am a sophomore at UT and am so proud to be a Longhorn. Hard work, frustrations, tears, late nights, philanthropy and extracurricular activities in middle & high school in preparation for college paid off BIG when I read my offer letter from UT. I had received many offers and scholarships from around my state but AUSTIN is where I wanted to be.

As a native Texan, I grew up visiting Austin with my family. The ideology of "Keep Austin Weird", music festivals and story-telling street art, was always so appealing aside from all of Austin's history and natural beauty.

As a freshman I lived in West Campus at The Callaway House, my experience was all that I knew it would be, MINUS the aggressive panhandling from a few aggressive homeless males living under trees and doorways on my way to and from school and local shopping. Over time, we just tried to look past or ignore their requests by walking faster, running or finding a different way to go. And then COVID. As you know March was a hard stop to everything that was normal. I moved out of Callaway in April and was back home until the fall.

I had committed to a new lease in West Campus prior to Covid. I was looking forward to getting back even if classes were not in person. This new schedule allowed me to obtain employment on Guadalupe for some extra funds and a bit of social time. My place of work was within walking distance but the area was noticeably different. Many more folks sleeping in the area and hanging in the artist market harassing passersby. Where I was previously approached by panhandlers once or twice a week, it was everyday now and I really had to be aware of my surroundings.

On October 1, 2020 an aggressive panhandler followed me into my place of work and demanded money. When I told him he could not be there, he yelled "Why don't you come suck my big, fat, d---, I know you'd like it". I stood there in complete shock and total fear along with my female coworkers. Thankfully our manager quickly came from the back and escorted him out. I'm 19 & 5'2". When? When should a 19 year old female, away from home -- trying to live my best COVID COLLEGE life, be told by a visibly mentally handicapped, covered in filth, toothless MAN to suck his penis?

We phoned APD and the police officer that showed up 3 hours later asked me "exactly what do you want me to do about it?" and he left. If APD has been defunded by city council, then WE as students living in bordering campus neighborhoods should be able to live in a SAFE ZONE as described in HB1950. Dodging aggressive panhandlers carrying chains & hunting knives, sexual harassment, living in FEAR should NOT be the NORM for anyone much less young adults pursuing an education.

PLEASE HEAR ME. PLEASE HELP US CREATE A SAFE ZONE.

Thank you for your time.

Maggie Vereb

Jason Carr

Self - Real Estate Developer

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Austin, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Deanna Vereb

Safehorns / University of Texas Parent

Cypress, TX

Thank you committee members for your time today in review of HB1950. We reside in Houston, Texas with a sophomore at UT Austin and a Senior at Texas State in San Marcos.

As a native Texan, I have spent many years as a child, teen and now adult loving my state. We have shared the history of our great state with our children and are proud they have all attended Texas universities as our oldest is a UH graduate. Times have certainly changed and while change is good, learning new ways of taking care of our less fortunate community members is important, we must also keep fighting for the good of our police men and women who serve and protect all communities. We must support the organizations that keep our communities and children safe.

What Austin's Mayor and City Council have done by defunding police officers in Austin has created a severely dangerous zone for the downtown area and bordering neighborhoods of the college campuses in Austin. Our young adults are easy targets for harassment and aggressive panhandling. We have had to create a mindset for our 19yr old that we hope has prepared her for a possible attack by an aggressive vagrant. She has directly been verbally assaulted by a vagrant who followed her into her work place on Guadalupe, telling her "suck my big, fat D---" with APD telling her there was nothing they could do. Just outside her place of residence, she and friends witnessed a homeless man beat an aggressive vagrant who hit him with heavy fence chains. A vagrant camping in the artist market aggressively panhandles students daily, with visible hunting knives on his belt.

Criminals can freely roam the student residential area in District 9, free to trespass, harass, chase, spit on, cuss, even assault students, parents and visitors to the area. WHEN did this become ok? When is part of your college students supply kit supposed to include self defense classes, mace and a stun gun? When we go to bed at night, I check my on my girls to be sure they are being safe as my biggest fear is that middle of the night phone call that my student has been attacked, raped or killed. As we near the anniversary of the death of Haruka Weiser, the UT Student raped and killed at the hands of a vagrant, I am reminded that my girl is living in one of the fastest growing unsafe areas in Texas.

With the city leaders enabling and supporting this criminal behavior and no word from UT Leaders in support of their students safety living off campus, we need to the ability to create a SAFEZONE to include public safety services as presented in this bill.

I would encourage you all to take a walk down Guadalupe, as well as Rio Grande Street from MLK to W 28th and imagine your sons and daughters, grandchildren having to prepare their day walking to campus with mace in hand and a mindset to fight for their lives should they need to.

Thank you again for your time today, my hope is to see this bill pass.

Deanna Vereb

Jene Flood

UT safehorns

Dallas, TX

Please make Austin and UT safe again!

Robin Bartee

self

Austin, TX

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My daughter will be living in West Campus the next 4 years while she is at UT. She will not be safe if the homeless are able live near the area. Some of them are mentally unstable or drunk, are carrying knives legally, and following college girls as they pass by. Our city needs to do a better job protecting these students. It is important to have the public safety funding in place to enforce homeless camping if it should be reinstated as well as have a presence in the area to discourage erratic behavior.

Caven Carpenter

Self

Texarkana, TX

I support HB 1950 for the safety of UT students!!

Susan Chapman

Self

Dallas, TX

As a Texas resident, I am appalled that the City of Austin defunded its police department. It is shocking to me as a state resident that our beautiful capital city, which is one of the largest cities in the US, could have such poor leadership that they would defund the Austin police department, putting its citizens and visitors in danger. I lived in Austin for 4 years while I was a student at the University of Texas and my son is currently a student at UT Austin.

I absolutely support HB 1950 providing certain municipalities that have defunded their law enforcement agencies (Austin) with law enforcement and public safety services. I hope this bill will pass and provide the law enforcement personnel needed to keep residents, students at UT and visitors like myself with the safety needed in a large city that has a significant amount of crime.

When my son was a freshman at UT, I was terrified when a series of bombs went off in Austin, killing and injuring innocent people. In a matter of days, the Austin police department, working with the FBI, located and stopped a terrorist bomber. I will be forever grateful for the excellent job by APD and the UTPD during that terrifying time. I have seen nothing by APD where they deserved to be defunded or where people need to be put in greater danger by defunding them.

I would like to feel safe when I visit Austin. I will feel safer visiting Austin and the UT campus if HB 1950 is enacted. I appreciate that this bill has been proposed and that there are people in our state government who want to keep Texas residents safe. Thank you

Kari Rector

Self

Richardson, TX

I. Support

Wei Luty

SafeHorn

League City, TX

Our UT students do get proper protection from APD or campus police nearby the UT campus. They have been harassed often by some homeless people. Please do something!

Madie Kulkarni

Parent of a UT Student

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Sugar Land, TX

I fully support establishing a SAFEZONE for areas around UT Austin, which will improve safety for all students, staff, and visitors to and near the campus.

Anupam Bhatnagar

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I fully support establishing a SAFEZONE for areas around UT Austin, which will improve safety for all students, staff, and visitors to and near the campus.

Hunaira Rizvi

Self/ Parent/ Self Employed

Richmond, TX

University of Texas, Austin and other campuses need more security around the clock esp. when schools are busy in sessions.

Karen Munoz

self; law student

San Antonio, TX

This bill is unnecessary and nothing more than Rep. Slawson attempting to win political points with her base. Such a ridiculous piece of legislation. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Dharma Shanmugam

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Need this in UT

Jennie Moore

self/homemaker

Santa Fe, TX

Politics should NEVER have a say in the funding of our Police departments. Never. I don't care what political party a person belongs to, no political party has the right to say that we don't deserve Police protection. Period. If your "political" beliefs require you to distrust the Police, don't call them, don't depend on them. That gives you no right to decide for the rest of us. We need our Police departments and we need them FULLY funded. They provide a necessary, needed service for the citizens they protect. Vilifying them for political gain is a travesty and should never be tolerated!!