

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2055

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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Hearing Date: March 23, 2021 8:00 AM

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Tina Freeman

self/retired District Clerk

Lockhart, TX

I support this bill in that it will add section 261.3081 SEVERITY CODES to the family code. I am currently a grandparent seeing how 2 of my grandchildren have been negatively impacted by CPS involvement. I'm also a former employee of the court system in my county, (From the trial phase of CPS, Misd., Felony, and Juvenile in the DA's office to the back end of most of those as the District Clerk). so I have seen the CPS system at work, and honestly believed in "them/it" UNTIL NOW. I worked in the DA's office from 1996 - 2006, then served as the District Clerk from 2007 until I retired a year or so ago, and I saw how much the system had changed through the years. It went from mostly physical abuse or sexual abuse (and indecency with a child) to sitting in voir dire on a CPS jury trial as the clerk a couple of years ago. The attorney for CPS was laying out her case during voir dire, and I remember asking myself how "we" got to jury trial over drug paraphenalia in someone's trunk. I'm not in favor of ANY sort of drug use, but when do we ask ourselves if we are doing more harm than good by removing children from the ones who love them the most?? There needs to be a change in how ALLEGATIONS are addressed. I know my daughter was denied being able to be alone with the children because someone called in "they are doing drugs". (It happened to be a family member of my son in law, who didn't even see the interaction that was "believed" to be a drug transaction. (actually it was the passing of KEYS). If an allegation is CHILD abuse (vs. say a woman suffering from domestic violence), it should be handled differently. LOW, moderate, severe, as Rep. Klick is attempting to do with this bill. I do have a problem with "emotional" abuse being included under moderate. severe, versus low. For this reason: CPS has TOTALLY ignored any EMOTIONAL abuse since they decided to leave my grandchildren in the home of their paternal grandparents (where dad has been staying pretty much the entire time). It would take too much time to list everything here, from alienation from mom and this side of the family, forcing the kids "to choose", to name calling...I've been shocked by what has transpired. Because of my experience, the fact that CPS has ANY input AT ALL regarding EMOTIONAL abuse and what defines it, is actually mind-boggling. Honestly, THAT needs to be "fixed" as well.

Amy Molandes

Self, Stay home Mommy

LUFKIN, TX

Court & Registries sometimes do not match each other. Perjury by omission to get the judges to do what CPS wants. Procedures to the process are not always being followed per their own policies and procedures without any consequence. CPS is allowed to say and do whatever they want with out being made to show proof, families are being denied their right to fair process, families denied their rights to show the court proof allegations are completely false until trial. Protect the children & their families wrongly accused. Please support this bill.