

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2211

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: March 24, 2021 8:00 AM

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Linda Hanover, Retired teacher

Self - retired teacher

Montgomery, TX

I think the most inhumane situation that occurred during this unbelievable pandemic was the way our families had to be hospitalized and died while their loved ones sat in the hospital parking lots! Thanks, Will for addressing this serious issue!

Dennis Borel

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Austin, TX

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities is FOR HB2211.

In the course of the pandemic, we have heard from several members of frustrations from being denied visitation of loved ones in hospitals. Of particular concern is when the hospitalized person is an individual with a disability such as an intellectual disability, autism or other disability where communication is impaired. Being isolated for the patient can lead to unnecessary anxiety and stress and this impedes recovery. In other instances, family members and/or friends may be able to assist by being better able to communicate the wishes of the patient.

It appears the protections in the bill would protect visitors, staff and patients from extra risk.

Brent McCain

self paramedic

Bruceville, TX

My position on this bill is FOR HB 2211. As someone who has been in the healthcare field for more than three decades I have seen, first hand, the devastation, the pain, the frustration of family members who have been unable to be with their loved ones while in the hospital (E.D. and/or hospital room) due to the hospital's "rules" prohibiting any visitors at all. If the healthcare provider can don PPE to mitigate the risk of contracting communicable disease, the family member should also be able to don PPE. I also believe in the importance of the healthcare provider to be able to collect ALL pertinent medical history. What if the patient has an altered mental status and is unable to communicate accurate medical history information to the health care provider? I will close with the following. I strongly believe that by not allowing family members to be able to visit can have an extremely negative impact on some patients mentally and emotionally.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written comment.

Brent McCain