

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2298

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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Hearing Date: April 13, 2021 8:00 AM

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Kathy Turner

National Imperial Glass Collectors' Society

McGregor, TX

I strongly support this bill, as parents need to be able clearly understand their rights during the trauma of an investigation. Please report this bill favorably out of committee, and work diligently to get it to the full House for deliberation.

Joe Palmer

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

Chair James Frank

Representatives Gina Hinojosa, Stephanie Klick, Theresa Meza, Victoria Neave, Candy Noble, Toni Rose, Matt Shaheen, and Lacey Hull

Thank you for your consideration of the following statement in favor of HB2298, authored by State Representative Cason.

Based on an experience involving a CPS investigation on my property, I strongly encourage members to vote this bill out of committee. This experience moved me to begin some basic study of CPS as an agency, focusing on the processes involved in the investigation of cases. Through this, I found out about other instances, similar to the one to which I was a party, and could not help but see a prevailing theme of parents who were outmatched in terms of knowledge of the laws, primarily the laws that serve to benefit parents when engaging with CPS in the same sense that other laws are in place to benefit individuals who may have been accused of having done something in other scenarios. Had these parents I discovered been made aware of these rights in the very beginning of their interactions with CPS, they would have been empowered by the laws in place to protect them when underaccusation. In some cases, parents do not realize what they are ceding by allowing entry into their home, answering questions, and/or by signing a safety agreement.

Please consider the many cases of abuse and neglect that have been discovered involving children in the custody of CPS or subsequent foster homes. It may not be prevalent enough to call it major crisis to some, but it should serve to temper the urgency being spoken with by those against this bill. Certainly, families wishing to assert their rights when confronted with this agency cannot be viewed as evasive, in light of the well known cases of abuse in CPS custody that parents don't want their children to be subjected to.

Parental control must be restored, and I believe this bill do a great deal to advance this.

Thank you again for considering my statement, and I ask for your favorable consideration of this bill.

Members of the committee and their staff are welcome to contact me regarding my experience.

My gratitude,

Joe Palmer

Fort Worth, Texas

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Rana Tyson, RN

Self and Registered nurse

Rowlett, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB2298. Having been a victim of false allegations of child abuse in 2010, it would have been very helpful to have a law such as this in place informing me and my husband of our rights regarding being able to decline the 23+ x-rays and CT scan radiation exposure to our premature infant twins. We should have been better informed regarding our right to legal representation prior to an investigation by medical professionals. Innocent families need to be protected. In our case, we trusted that our children were receiving the medical care they needed because they needed medical care- but instead, it was simply a part of the CARE team's investigation. Our children were removed from us for 5 months. They later were determined to have a medical diagnosis that explained their fractures. Our family went through hell on earth and are forever scarred by the nightmare we endured. Even now, nearly 11 years later, we suffer from PTSD, anxiety, anger, distrust of the child welfare and medical community and are still trying to recover financially after a bankruptcy. It took us 7 years to resolve our innocence. Please put this legislation in place to help prevent other families from having to endure this tragedy.

Thank you!