

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2362

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 8:00 AM

George Proctor

Self

ARTHUR CITY, TX

Any municipality and our said County but we're supposed to pull funding away from law enforcement must have their funding pulled immediately and at the same time I believe they should not be able to come from the people within said County and are said municipality strip all funding and all tax money immediately the same thing with community colleges and state colleges thank you sincerely George Proctor

TERRY TODD, MS.

SELF- PRECINCT CHAIR 109.

OVILLA, TX

DEFUNDING LAW ENFORCEMENT IS DANGEROUS AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND SHOULD NOT BE DONE.

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.

Jennifer Touchton

self - Sr. Business Analyst

Austin, TX

The state should not make sweeping regulations like this about local funding decisions. Any locality should be allowed to allocate its funding as it sees fit for its own residents. Passing a law like this will prevent Texas from making progress for years to come.

Audrey Ference

self, instructional writer

Austin, TX

APD is not solving the problems of our city, and throwing more money at the police is only going to cause more suffering, more

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shootings, and more police violence. The way forward is imagining non-carceral solutions for the issues that face our community. Defunding the police and investing in our communities must be allowed.

Anna Stewart

self

AUSTIN, TX

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2362 and HB 1900, both of which try to punish cities that make local choices to allocate less funding to law enforcement in any particular budget year.

Lyra Seaborn

self (student)

Austin, TX

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB 2362. Cities that make local choices to allocate less funding to law enforcement in any particular budget year should not be punished. For example, the decrease in the police budget that the Austin city council implemented last summer came after a wave of local BIPOC-led organizing that sought to make the city safer for all residents. Cities and towns should not be harmed for listening to and honoring the demands of their most marginalized constituents. I urge you to vote against this bill.

Sarah Bentley

self

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB 2362, which aims try to punish cities that make local choices to allocate less funding to law enforcement in any particular budget year.

Betsy Rice

Self, environmental consultant

Spring, TX

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

Amelia Long

Self, nonprofit employee

Austin, TX

I am a Texan against HB 2362. Municipalities and counties should be freely allowed to defund police, without penalty. We've built a monster with today's police. We need to defund racist, militarized police forces and rebuild a new law enforcement that truly serves and protects the people. Defunding police is a good thing even though it may sound scary to folks who don't understand it.

Kendall Kibby-Deck

Self, hairdresser

Austin, TX

I am against this bill.

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Lynn Panepinto
self, social worker
Austin, TX

I submit this comment against HB 2362 because cities that allocate less funding to law enforcement should not be penalized. Cities should be able to make their own choices about public safety. Please vote against HB 2362.

Frank Netscher
Self - Public Employee
AUSTIN, TX

You are guaranteeing that a police officer will never get a raise again, and cities will never hire new officers, because cities won't want to set aside the budget for it indefinitely.

Nathan Lesch
self
Austin, TX

Please vote against HB 2362. Republicans pride themselves on limited government but we see in this bill the state government involving themselves inappropriately in local municipal governments. Reimaging public safety is required in this country and very much so in this state. Reimaging public safety means less police and diverting funds towards solutions that acutally make our cities safer.

Michelle Edwards
Self, Assistant professor of sociology at Texas State University
Austin, TX

I would like to submit my comment against HB 2362, which tries to punish cities making local choices to help their own community. I think this type of state-level overreach is absurd!

Carol Goodwin
self / retired
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 2362. I do not think the state should dictate municipality and county budgets that create a more equitable distribution between community services and law enforcement agencies. This morning I attended a rally in front of our state capitol to support legislation aimed at preventing police violence. If you had attended you would have been incredibly moved by story after story from families in Austin and San Antonio who lost brothers and sons to unjustifiable police shootings. To address this dire problem in my city, I advocated for the Austin City Council to reallocate Austin Police Department funding to community, social and mental health services, to restructuring response systems to send the most appropriate professionals to address police calls, and to appointing a public safety committee to address racial biases in the police department. I commend the Austin City Council for taking steps to revise the city budget to reflect these requests from communities of color and their white supporters, such as myself. It is state overreach to interfere with these decisions, which are based on the needs, requests, and personal experiences of local citizens.

Tara Sinicropi
Self
Austin, TX

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Give local communities the autonomy to make the best decisions for their citizens. Do not punish cities for allocating less funding to law enforcement in any particular budget year. Vote NO to HB 2362.

Beth Muffett

self/mother

Austin, TX

Im against this. This is Texas. WE deal with things locally and there is no need to punish punish cities that make local choices to allocate less funding to law enforcement in any particular budget year.

Mayuri Raja

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. This should most certainly fall within a municipality's control. Cities and counties will know the needs of their local residents better than the state, especially in a state as large and diverse as Texas, and so only they will know how much of a budget their police department and other law enforcement agencies need. This is a transparent attempt at preventing cities from making choices that are perceived to be "liberal" or "radical."

Julia Von Alexander

Self, Policy Analyst

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 2362. Cities and counties govern closest to the people and are the closest to a true democracy in the US. Cities and counties must be able to determine their own budgets without being threatened by the state. Let local government do its job and honor our democracy. Thank you

Amite Dominick, Dr.

Texas Prison Air Conditioning Advocates

Rockport, TX

I am AGANIST this bill.

Maureen Riebel

Texan and USA citizen

Boerne, TX

I do not feel it right to defund the police - for they are our main form of protection. I do not want to go back in time to the "Wild West" where I must protect myself. They follow an orderly system - and that must be maintained

Barbara Wiederaenders

self/retired

Austin, TX

I support HB 2362. Locally elected officials should have final say over the budgets of their constituents. Modifying police budgets should lead to a transformation of policing such that citizens who are not criminal or violent should have their issues

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resolved in the best interest of the offender and the public without police involvement

Natalie Houchins

Self, Content Designer

Austin, TX

For people to espouse small government and self-government and state's rights and local rights, y'all are certainly concerned with how we do things. It is Austin's prerogative to manage its own law enforcement and public safety. APD is Austin specific and Austin can do what it feels is right.

Louis Katona

self

Houston, TX

Any municipality or county that defunds law enforcement should be defunded of any any funds that support that agency and law enforcement budget should be put under the Department of public safety.