

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2442

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS

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Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

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Jake ahlgrim

self, stay at home father of 40

Cleburne, TX

my name is Jake Ahlgrim. I am currently on probation in Johnson county, Cleburne TX. After 10 months and with successful completion of saf-pf at the Estelle unit in Huntsville tx. Then 2 months at a halfway house i finally made it home to my family, but was placed in an extensive aftercare program at H.O.P.E here in Cleburne in which I comply with all rules and regulations put in place. The program includes random u.a.'s, homework, and a 2 hour zoom meeting every Tuesday along with 3 n.a/a meetings a week. I am a stay at home dad with a single income household in which my wife is the bread winner and provides for our 4 kids and the 2 of us. Money is stretched to the limit each month. My wife works 7a.. to 7p.m, Monday thru Saturday. So with no money for child care and after being gone for 18 months of my childrens life the youngest being 3 years old. We decided that I would stay at home and take care of the house, my children and my aftercare. It has been a joy to rebuild a bond with my children especially my 3 year old. I live in fear everyday that the next office visit I will be taken away from my family again simply because I am unable to pay my fines and fees because being a stay at home dad doesn't result in a paycheck at the end of the week. The stress and anxiety that my wife and I face without the kids knowing that the next time they see me could be behind a glass, with me wearing white with an offender I.D. is an immense strain on both of us.0 The vicious cycle that I am caught in affects the lower class of probationers such as myself because I can't afford to make payments and make sure my family has the necessities of life.