

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 4571

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: April 6, 2021 8:00 AM

Susan Murphree

Disability Rights Texas

Austin, TX

Disability Rights Texas (DRTx) is Texas' designated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency. We provide a wide range of services for people with disabilities, from training and education to legal services, to ensure that rights are upheld and individuals are not discriminated against on the basis of their disability. I am Susan Murphree, Sr. Policy Specialist, with expertise on disability related health and human services.

DRTx appreciates the efforts to create a statewide intellectual and developmental disability coordinating council. DRTx served on a workgroup to create an IDD Strategic Plan that resulted in a "foundational" plan and a second IDD Strategic Plan developed in 2020 that has yet to be posted publicly. We are eager to see HHSC release and post the 2020 plan. Having an IDD Statewide Coordinating Council modeled after the Statewide Behavior Health Coordinating Council would help provide a more clear picture and strategic future direction for IDD services in Texas.

DRTx appreciates Representative Rose for proposing this important initiative.

Thank you for consideration of these comments. For more information, please contact Susan Murphree at smurphree@disabilityrightstx.org or 512 913 4501 (cell).

Michelle Lunday

self - stay at home parent.

Trophy Club, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to state my SUPPORT for HB4571 to establish a statewide intellectual and developmental disabilities coordinating council. If passed, the bill will create a new Statewide Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council that provides input and reports on the IDD Strategic Plan. The plan address gaps across the IDD system to support high-quality, cost-effective services to Texans with IDD, in the most integrated setting appropriate to the individual. As a parent of a child with an IDD, we need to address these gaps so that Texans that have IDD get the services they need.