

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select
For HB 34

Compiled on: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:34 PM

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Hearing Date: April 24, 2023 1:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Delaina Bishop

Self/ Parent of young school age children in public schools
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Jeaneane McNulty

Self - yoga teacher
AUSTIN, TX

As a parent of 2 Texas Public school students, and a PTA officer I am opposed to this bill as written. While I am in favor of ensuring a diversion layer of review for incidents involving violent behavior by students, this bill creates significant additional duties for teachers without providing a mechanism for additional compensation. The fiscal note does not include the value of the nominated/elected teachers' time. Our school employees, particularly teachers, are already overburdened by non-teaching duties and are leaving the public school system in droves as we continue to pile on additional responsibilities unrelated to teaching and learning. Additionally this bill, as written, increases the risk of criminalizing young children for violent outbursts based on the perceptions of adults without addressing the fact that these perceptions are often biased based on race. As written, I cannot support this bill and ask you to oppose it.

Rebecca Nix, Mrs.

Innovative Teachers of Texas
Shepherd, TX

I support this bill.

Emily Likens

Innovative Teachers of Texas
Conroe, TX

HB34 would allow a measure of safety Texas students and teachers deserve. Violence has no place in public education and there are too many other factors currently impacting students to add the threat of harm to their physical safety. Schools have the obligation to protect the children in their care and HB34 helps make that possible.

Katie Tatsch, Mrs

Self

El Lago, TX

As a classroom teacher, I support this bill. I have been cussed at and desks tossed in my classroom. I am no longer 100% safe and neither are my students.

Jolene Sanders

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD)

Austin, TX

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities opposes this bill and urges you to vote no.

Diana Richards

Self and Texas Education 911

Sherman, TX

I am FOR HB34. As a native Houstonian, it breaks my heart to see teachers quitting due to being cursed out, threatened, and physically assaulted in their schools. The current procedures are NOT working, and that means it is adversely affecting teachers and the students who are there to learn.

Chandra Ward, Teacher

Self

Deer Park, TX

If you want to keep our schools safe, you MUST hold violent students accountable for their actions and arrest them. If students are not held accountable, they will continue their violent behavior because they know nothing will happen to them. This puts students and teachers in danger.

Sharon Brumfield

Self

Montgomery, TX

I support this bill

Rachael Ballard

Myself

Austin, TX

I would like my child to know to avoid firearms

Chris Donofrio
Self / In Rep. Toth's District
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 34. But not its intent.
As written, I urge you to let it die in committee.

I strongly believe this bill is needed. Unfortunately, it is poorly written and has some serious omissions.
Fortunately, these can be easily addressed. I give you the following suggestions.

1) HB 34 needs a far more precise definition of "violent criminal conduct," page 1 lines 11-12. What constitutes "assaultive conduct?"

Among high school students, common violent behavior include physical assault, sexual assault, race-based assault, perceived or actual gender identity-based physical and sexual assault, and sexual orientation-based physical and sexual assaults. The Texas Penal Code provides definitions. Please add these and other specific types of assault based on the PC.

2) HB 34 says nothing about parents and legal guardians. They are a critically important part of this program. I suggest language similar to the following. It would be placed after Sec 37.008 (a) and before (1), page 1 lines 12-13. It requires subsequent numbers be revised.

new "(1) Inform the parents or legal guardians of any investigation and results, details of the Classroom Safety Review and Referral Program, and its process workflows.

(1) (A) Parents or legal guardians shall be informed of their administrative and legal rights."

3) Sec 37.008 (c) (1) page 3 line 8, and (f) (1) page 3 line 11: change "or" to "and."

4) Sec 37.008 (h) page 3 line 18: change "person destroys" to "person knowingly destroys."

5) Sec 37.008 (i) page 3 line 22: change "person commits" to "person knowingly commits."

I urge you to add this, or other appropriate language known better by you as legislators than I, to HB 34.

I just can't support HB 34 as currently written.

Respectfully,
Chris J. Donofrio

Jennifer Jefferson
self, director
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it has vague guidance on what constitutes criminal conduct and leads decisions that could have long-term impact on _children's_ records.

Keiawna Pitts
Self
Round Rock, TX

Stop the school to prison pipeline. This is not beneficial for children.