

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 140

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 4:56 PM

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Hearing Date: March 7, 2023 8:00 AM

Bill Litzinger

self

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. Thank you.

William Colwell

Self/Retired civil service

Greenville, TX

The blind & deaf are woefully unrepresented in most instances & this should be addressed more equitably. IMHO

Cyral Miller

Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans

Austin, TX

Individuals who are DeafBlind can actively engage in daily life, and maintain meaningful work and community lives, when provided with support to access their environments and connect to communication partners. The Alliance of and for Visually Impaired Texans (AVIT) is a non-profit, statewide coalition of over two dozen member organizations committed to speak on behalf of Texas' children and adults with visual impairments. AVIT is registered as a 501(c)(3) organization. We work to educate the public with respect to this population's special concerns, and promote inter-organizational cooperation, support, and communication on issues impacting them. AVIT members have unanimously voted to support this initiative to support funding to ensure that individuals who are DeafBlind can lead productive lives with appropriate supports.

Linda Litzinger

Texas Parent to Parent - Public Policy Specialist

Austin, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB140. I am representing Texas Parent to Parent, who is a statewide non-profit serving families who experience any type of disability. We are for HB140 because people who are deaf-blind require interveners (They provide audio and visual interpretation, simultaneously). We recommend that Texas begin to support this very small population by providing co-navigation and thus improving access to their world. Please pass this out of committee. Thank you.

Vivecca Hartman, President

The Deafblind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (“DBMAT”)

Houston, TX

We support this Bill as its purpose is to support individuals who are deafblind yet not able to qualify for the DBMD Medicaid Waiver. All deafblind individuals are in need of supports and we greatly appreciate the State of Texas for seeing and hearing the need!

Mara LaViola

Texans for Special Education Reform

Austin, TX

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 140 relating to the provision of certain co-navigation services to individuals who are deaf-blind. Texans for Special Education Reform supports this bill as co-navigator (or intervenor) services are essential for individuals with DeafBlindness to have access and meaningful participation in their communities. All individuals deserve the ability to freely and meaningful interact in their lives to the fullest extent possible and this services is an essential component for these individuals to do so. Thank you, Mara LaViola on behalf of Texans for Special Education Reform