

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 166

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:03 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Sabrina Gonzalez
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Austin, TX

Chair Buckley & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 166, relating to the appointment of an educational representative for certain students with disabilities. My name is Sabrina Gonzalez Saucedo, and I am speaking on behalf of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), registering on the bill.

TCDD is established by state and federal law and is governed by 27 board members, appointed by the Governor, 60% of whom are individuals with developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Council's purpose in law is to encourage policy change so that people with disabilities have opportunities to be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

The Council has identified Early Childhood and Inclusive Education as one of its 2023 TCDD Public Policy Priorities, and adopted the following language in preparation for the current legislative session:

"Ensure children with disabilities ages 0-22 receive necessary services to promote healthy growth and development to support long-term success and independence. Children with disabilities in Texas deserve access to quality care and education such as inclusive childcare, therapy and case management services, special education services, and transition planning, which meet or exceed federal standards to increase childhood and long-term outcomes."

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), an adult student receiving special education services must have access to a process allowing his or her parent, or if the parent is not available, another appropriate person, to be appointed their educational representative. Texas, however, does not have such a process, and it is not in compliance with IDEA.

HB 166 would create a procedure allowing the appointment of an educational representative for a student with disabilities between the ages of 18 and 21 who lacks a legal guardian and is transitioning out of high school. This would provide these students with disabilities the assistance needed to pursue an education and to advocate for their best interests.

TCDD finds the aims of the bill to be consistent with our mission, guiding principles, and policy priorities. Please feel free to contact us for additional information or if we can be of additional service.

Respectfully submitted,
Sabrina Gonzalez Saucedo
Public Policy Analyst
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

EVE Margolis
self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. All students need appropriate representation

Jobie Hill
Self
Orange, TX
Agree

Pavlina Michaels
school
Houston, TX
good candidate

Susan Burek

Self: I am a Parent and an advocate for people with disabilities

Austin, TX

Thank you for allowing me to testify regarding HB 166. My name is Sue Burek and I live in Austin, Texas. I'm a parent, an advocate for people with disabilities, and a member of several advocacy organizations that serve families with children with disabilities, including Texas Parent to Parent, Protect Texas Fragile Kids, and Loving Hearts for All.

I am testifying IN SUPPORT OF HB 166, which provides for the appointment of an educational representative to provide support in Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) meetings to students with disabilities who are 18 years old or older in order to represent the educational interests of the student. The educational representative can include: the student's parent or legal guardian, the student's spouse, or another appropriate individual who is preferred by the student and is not employed by the school district or the school who has significant knowledge about the student and his/her strengths, opportunities, and post-educational transitional goals. This legislation will improve the ability of students with disabilities to assist them in making appropriate decisions about their educational goals.

Please vote to APPROVE HB 166. Thank you very much for your consideration of my request.

Nydia Reveles

Self, homeschool teacher

El Paso, TX

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 166 that would appoint an educational representative for certain students with disabilities. Students in vulnerable populations deserve advocates who will focus their efforts to meet the specific needs of this vulnerable and underrepresented group.

Maria Nicholas

Eagle Forum

Farmers Branch TX, TX

Please support HB 900

Lisa Flores, Advocacy Specialist

Easterseals Central Texas

Austin, TX

Easterseals Central Texas supports this bill.

Donald Smither

Texas Freedmen Affairs PAC

Houston, TX

I'm in favor because children in the schools need advocates especially against staff who physically assaults them & get away with it like Montgomery County was able to sweep what they did under the rug with a now 8 year old that was physically assaulted by an elementary school counselor at Madely Ranch Elementary School. The state has failed this child because 2 sitting district attorneys declined to prosecute this woman which means they've protected this woman in order for her to do it to someone else's child.

Arleen Stroud, Ms

Self, retired educator

Abilene, TX

I support HB900

Linda Manuel

Self

Soring, TX

Students with disabilities are often overlooked. It is easy to dismiss concerns. An advocate or educational representative who is adequately trained could benefit these students greatly.

Susan Morgan

I support HB900

Llano, TX

I support HB 990

Larry Dawson

Republicans

West6, TX

We need to SUPPORT THIS BILL NOW!!!!!!

TIMOTHY smith

self

Llano, TX

I support HB 900, thank you.

ReDonna Holden

Self

Frisco, TX

I support HB166 wholeheartedly. Educational representation must be mandatory and provided for the disabled. Thank you.

Vanessa Rosado

Self

McKinney, TX

All pornographic and obscene material should be removed from all public schools libraries in Texas

Anita Ortloff, Mrs.

Self

McKinney, TX

"All pornographic and obscene materials should be removed from all public school libraries in Texas."

Tania Vazquez, Ms.

Self/Caregiver/Mother

Weatherford, TX

Protect our children from sexually explicit material.

Tania Vazquez, Ms.

Self, Caregiver/Mother

Weatherford, TX

Please protect our children from sexually explicit material in school.