

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  
For HB 272

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 12:14 PM

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Hearing Date: March 8, 2023 8:00 AM

Cassandra Hulsey

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am FOR HB 272 and I appreciate Representative Johnson for filing this bill. The term ARD is redundant and may be confusing for parents and students. As a school psychologist, I am required to provide informed consent to parents when a child is referred for special education testing. As part of informed consent, I provide the parents with a Parent's Guide to the ARD Process, as well as an explanation about the contents of the guide. I explain to parents that an ARD meeting will be scheduled in order for the ARD committee, which includes them, to create and determine the most appropriate individualized education program (IEP) for their child. Instead of using both terms, ARD and IEP, we have the opportunity to cut down on additional terminology in order to streamline the entire process. Using IEP will also cut down on confusion regarding the pronunciation of ARD. Some school staff members refer to ARD as one word pronounced "ARD," while others spell it out as "A.R.D." This can be confusing to native English speakers, and it is also confusing to people whose native language is not English. I request that the committee pass this bill.

Emily Hall

Self/Licensed Specialist in School Psychology

Belton, TX

I am FOR HB 272 and I appreciate Representative Johnson for filing this bill. The current terminology of ARD, which stands for Admission, Review, and Dismissal does not accurately reflect the purpose of the meeting; however, the term IEP, which stands for Individualized Education Program, indicates the team is gathered to consider an individualized program for that child. Additionally, the language IEP team suggests a more collaborative environment between all involved parties. Parents do not always feel welcomed at ARD committee meetings, and they may not feel they are part of the committee. The word committee disenfranchises parents and students. The word team is more commonly used in everyday language, and is accessible for a wider range of people. The term ARD is redundant and may be confusing for parents and students. As a school psychologist, I am required to provide informed consent to parents when a child is referred for special education testing. As part of informed consent, I provide the parents with a Parent's Guide to the ARD Process, as well as an explanation about the contents of the guide. I explain to parents that an ARD meeting will be scheduled in order for the ARD committee, which includes them, to create and determine the most appropriate individualized education program (IEP) for their child. Instead of using both terms, ARD and IEP, we have the opportunity to cut down on additional terminology in order to streamline the entire process. Using IEP will also cut down on confusion regarding the pronunciation of ARD. Some school staff members refer to ARD as one word pronounced "ARD," while others spell it out as "A.R.D." This can be confusing to native English speakers, and it is also confusing to people whose native language is not English. I request that the committee pass this bill.

Melissa Wagoner  
Self- ARD Manager  
Belton, TX

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Brinetta Rose  
LSSP  
Belton, TX

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Rebecca White

Parent of a student in special education in Belton ISD

Temple, TX

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