

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education
For HB 400

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:43 PM

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: April 3, 2023 10:00 AM

Jim Steele
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I do not support this bill as drafted. The term(s) "innovation" / "innovative" should be defined with specific evaluation criteria. The limit of \$1m received as a grant, gift, donation, . . . should have a maximum life time cap (e.g. such as no more than \$5m may be donated/contributed by any organization, public or private, or an individual party, over a 5 year period). This is a suggested measure to inhibit potential undue influence by any party whose self interest(s), such as profit, worldview, etc., do not align with, or supersede, the best interests of the school/university and the physicians/students who will be guided such influence.

Susan Burek
Self: I am a Parent and a parent advocate for people with disabilities
Austin, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 400, which would create two grant programs to support residency training programs in psychiatric specialty fields and recruitment, training, and retention in behavioral health fields.

The goal of the Psychiatric Specialty Innovation Grant Program is to increase the number of physicians in Texas who specialize in pediatric or adult psychiatric care.

The goal of the Behavioral Health Innovation Grant Program is to increase the number of mental health professionals or professionals in related fields by providing a salary increase or stipend to faculty members who provide instruction to additional students in a degree or certificate program that graduates those professionals.

Since there is a serious shortage of psychiatrists and behavioral health professionals in Texas who can provide essential pediatric and adult services to , this bill attempts to correct that situation.

PLEASE APPROVE THIS BILL.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Eric Kunish, Chair
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Central Texas Affilate
Austin, TX

I support this bill!

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly support HB 400.

I urge you to pass it out of committee.

This bill addresses a critical need.

I applaud the focus on rural areas.

There is already a significant shortage of professionals in Texas. Will the funding need to be increased to help deal with increasing the number of professionals needed?

Respectfully,

Chris J. Donofrio

Jan Friese, CEO

Texas Counseling Association (TCA)

Austin, TX

The Texas Counseling Association representing more than 7500 professional counselors in an array of work settings across Texas. HB 400 will help to address the extreme mental health workforce shortages in Texas by helping to promote more individuals to enter the workforce and incentivize counselor educators to remain in the field and provide education and supervision to counseling students and LPC Associates.