

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select
For HB 473

Compiled on: Monday, March 13, 2023 6:15 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: March 13, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Roger Adelman
Self - Technical Program Manager
League City, TX

Special thanks to Representative Hull for filing HB473. Parents deserve to be informed and participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment. Anything short of that is unacceptable.

J A
CCHR
Forney, TX

By filing HB473, Representative Hull is acting humane and responsible for the absolute separation of child and state that must remain in place as a bastion of American scholastics. Parents should never be late to the scene of a subjective assessment. Never. Thank you, Representative Hull, for acting with vision and courage for the nation's future generations.

Richard Park
self
Cedar Creek, TX

We very much appreciate Representative Hull for filing HB473. Parents these days deserve to be informed and be allowed to participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment.

Holly Nealy
Self
Palestine, TX

This bill is short sighted and shows that the person writing the bill does not understand the threat assessment process in public schools. The bill does not take into account if the school cannot reach the parent. I support a parent being notified and involved however, a threat assessment builds on what a school does every day when there is a student issue. Staff interview the students and teachers involved and parents are called. A true threat assessment should absolutely have parental involvement to get a fuller picture of what is going on with the student. If Hull really wanted to support Threat assessment they should target the 6 month follow requirement that most schools do not do and provide funding for mental health staff to provide case management and follow the student for 6 months to assure they are getting the services needed to support the student and reduce future aggression or mental health crisis. I do support parents being notified within 1 hour of the incident and requiring parent involvement in the process. To say that no assessment can be done until a parent says so threatens the safety of all staff and students on the campus, especially when parents cannot be reached or have blocked the schools calls (which happens frequently). A threat assessment should also be used to support a student, not just punish them. While it is easy to say that school shooters are “crazy, mean, or terrorist” ignores research that shows most school shooting are suicides. The student going into the school has no intention of coming out alive. A complete threat assessment monitors these students to assure they are getting the interventions needed and if not alerting the school that this student continues to be a risk to the safety of the campus.

Pamela Culley
self
Frisco, TX

Thank you, Representative Hull, for filing HB473.

I urge this committee to pass this much needed bill.

Last school year, my child was being bullied in a school sponsored chat group regarding his race.

One child in the chat group made reference to my child being a school shooter because he is a white male and how (according to the chat thread) all school shooters are white males like him.

I have no knowledge of whether anything was done to the students involved in racially bullying my son and calling him such an awful thing.

I do know that staff saw the text messages in this thread and then my son was pulled in and questioned by two social workers and the principal for quite some time. It was as if the mere suggestion that he was a "school shooter" due only to his race and gender, meant that he should be questioned.

To this day I do not know whether he was subjected to a threat assessment.

When the school reached out to me before pickup time, all that they told me was that my child had seen some inappropriate language on a school chat and that they had a chat with him to make sure he knew that if he ever saw a chat with inappropriate messages that he would need to alert a teacher. No mention of what actually had taken place. I found out the truth from my child and all the screenshots he had taken of the messages sent to him and his description of what took place when he was pulled from class for an over 2-hour interrogation.

I should have been informed from the very beginning before any interrogation on my child. I should have been able to be present to support my middle-school aged son.

My son's situation may sound relatively minor. But I can tell you that as a mother, it is deeply concerning when something like this happens to your child.

So, I urge you to support to help other families be more informed and better able to protect their children.

Sincerely,

Pamela Culley

Zui Pan, Dr.
self, Professor of Graduate Nursing
FORT WORTH, TX

Thanks to Representative Hull for filing HB473. Parents deserve to be informed and should participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment.

Frank Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

I support and urge the passage of this Bill.

Shawn McCullough, Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

My child was brutally assaulted at Canyon Ridge Middle School in Leander isd, on Feb 24, 2023 after months of bullying. The school will not acknowledge bullying has occurred, although they do acknowledge the brutality of the attack. They refuse to apply current TEC and TASB guidelines.

We have requested information regarding how to contact our school's Safe and Supportive School Team. The school has said we need to submit a public records request. This information should be made available in a clear way on the school or district website. It is not.

In addition the school should be required in an instance of bullying to provide criteria for establishing an imbalance of power in regards to the school's bullying decision to parents. This should be concrete and not vague and subjective. David's law in its current state allows school's to circumvent a bullying ruling by stating an imbalance of power could not be found. Even when multiple instances in my son's assault of an imbalance of power were provided. The school did not address the evidence given, just dismissed it and stated none was found. The school should be required to notify parents of the Safe and Supportive school team. And it should be required by both schools and the Safe and Supportive School team to provide parents with the criteria used in their ruling. They should be required to give a concrete explanation as to what constitutes an imbalance of power and what does not in a clear and concise way. In addition, the parents should have the right to know the appropriate consequences depending on the type of offense committed. I was told by my school's administration that they were unable to act on TEC and TASB policies Sec. 37.006. REMOVAL FOR CERTAIN CONDUCT. And CHAPTER 22. ASSAULTIVE OFFENSES, Sec. 22.01. ASSAULT without legal action on my behalf as a parent. When I asked the school to provide me with written documentation of that I was told they had none, but were just relaying what was being told to them from a district higher up. Please put in place clear and concrete documentation of what the schools actions should be in cases of documented violence and assault as described in penal code CHAPTER 22. ASSAULTIVE OFFENSES, Sec. 22.01. ASSAULT for parents so that they can adequately advocate for the safety of their bullied or assaulted child.

Thank you,

Shawn McCullough

Debbie Aitken

None

Katy, TX

First, I would like to thank representative Hull for sponsoring this bill. As a parent, I would never imagine that someone could just scoop up my child, assess him and put a label on him without my involvement as a parent. I ask that everyone support this bill as it is so important to me as a parent to protect our rights and not just handing our children over to the state!

Norman Moore

Home

Austin, TX

Thank you Representative Hull for this bill, parents should be informed and present for a threat assessment of their child or ward.

Edward Camacho, Dr.

self

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to ask that the committee please support HB473. Effective parenting can only be done with information concerning their children which is why it is essential that parents immediately be informed of any threat assessment and participate in any process. Thank you.

Thank you to Representative Hull for filing HB473. Parents deserve to be informed and participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment.

That's why I'm asking this committee to support this bill.

George Neikirk

Self

Buda, TX

As a parent, I would always want to be informed on anything involving my child.

Monica Ayres

self

Austin, TX

Thank you representative Hull for filing this bill. It is a fundamental parental right to direct the care, custody and control of their child. In the event of a threat assessment it is a parent's right and duty to be involved.

Pam Spiller

Self

Driftwood, TX

Dear Representative Hull. I want you to know how much I appreciate your creating this bill. I feel like this is a huge step towards putting parents back in the driver's seat when it comes to the education and well being of their children. Thank you for caring and protecting our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely, Pam Spiller

Monique Davison, Mrs.

Self, Executive

Richardson, TX

I thank Representative Hull for filing HB 473. I agree and believe that parents should always be informed and involved with any and every decision having to do with their child or children, especially regarding threat assessment.

Therefore I'm asking this committee to support this bill please.

Lorie Black-Imken

Self - Realtor

Buda, TX

Thank you to Representative Hull for filing HB473. Parents deserve to be informed and participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment. I request that the committee support this bill.

David McGill

self

CARROLLTON, TX

I can't believe a bill like this is necessary, but am very thankful to Representative Hull for filing HB473. In ANY situation involving a child at school, the parents should absolutely be involved!

Thanks!

David Potter, mr

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill and its intents.

Kimberly June Camacho

Self-self employed

San Antonio, TX

I am writing to ask that the committee please support HB473. Effective parenting can only be done with information concerning their children which is why it is essential that parents immediately be informed of any threat assessment and participate in any process. Thank you.

Sarah Peterson

Self

Austin, TX

Thank you to Representative Hull for filing HB473. I believe parents deserve to be coordinated with and able to participate in any matter concerning their child, especially something as important as threat assessment.

Lelia Culpepper, Mrs.

self; teacher

Houston, TX

I would like to thank Representative Hull for sponsoring this very needed bill. As a teacher for many years, I feel that parents need to be very aware of what goes on in the schools today and not assume that all is well. This will help very much. Thank you!
Lelia Culpepper

Ray Spiller

Self

Coppell, TX

Thank you Representative Hull for filing this bill!

This goes a long way towards making sure parents stay informed about what is impacting their children in school. Something with as large of an impact as this certainly warrants parental involvement.

It is my hope that the committee will help this move forward.

Ben Reed

Church of Scientology Dallas

Irving, TX

I am SO GLAD that parents' rights to be the guardians of their own children is being preserved!

Thank you to Representative Hull for proposing this bill.

Mike Imken

Self - Self Employed

Austin, TX

As a parent I am in strong support of the legislation HB 473 introduced by Representative Hull. Parents want to and should be involved in any decisions affecting their children particularly something as important as a threat assessment. I am asking the committee to support this bill so that it can be enacted into law. Thank you.

SEBASTIEN POUPARD

Self

Katy, TX

Parents have the right to remain informed on matters relating to their children's mental health, such treat assessment. These assessments should NOT take place without the consent of the parents.

Karen Kelley

self

Celina, TX

Parents have a natural right to be informed by the educational system if their children are being accused of being a threat and further to be advised of any assessments as to the validity of such.

Please look at this situation as though it were your own children being examined or accused

Thanks Karen Kelley

Edward Davison

Self

Richardson, TX

I am asking for the committee to support HB473. Parents deserve the right to be a part of and knowledgeable of all matters concerning their children, especially something as important as a threat assessment.

Larry Buhman, Dr

Self

Houston, TX

Thank you to Representative Hull for filing HB473. I completely agree with this idea in these troubling times for parents. Please keep up the good work.

JoAnn Campisi

Self

Dallas, TX

I want to personally thank you Representative Hull for this bill. Our children are most important and this bill must pass. I support all parents being informed of any concerns or counseling or questioning

Clint Anthony

self/contractor

Buda, TX

Representative Hull, thank you for filing HB 473. I strongly believe that parents need to be informed on any matter regarding their child. Especially in something like a threat assessment they need to be informed immediately.

Hildegard Jessup

Myself

Dallas, TX

I would like to submit my thanks to representative Hull for filing this important bill. I think that it is vital for parents to be informed of any assessments of children that occur in the school. As someone who runs a school myself, I have seen countless instances where parents could step in and defuse a situation with their child. Consequently such situations no longer required the school to address something that the parents had already handled. I think that it is vital to make sure that parents are involved in all processes that involve their children from the earliest moment that any situation arises.