

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select
For HB 533

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:53 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: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Geroge Clement

self

Austin, TX

Against - there is already things to address this situation. Its just meant to help confiscation

John Bolgiano

Self - Retired

Llano, TX

OPPOSED

This bill would allow the seizure of not only the detainee's firearms but also those of family members or roommates, if they were seen as "found in plain sight and readily accessible to the person." The person of interest is already being detained and seizure of other citizen's property is a step too far.

Randall Reeves

Self

Lubbock, TX

All these bills assume the firearm commits the crime. None do anything to prevent any crime. Gun owners are not the threat

Carolyn Hidges

Myself

Dripping Springs, TX

Against: Completely unnecessary since the "mentally ill person" is detained...the guns don't harm people, people do.

Eric Kunish, Chair

National Alliance on Mental Illness-Central Texas Affiliate

Austin, TX

We support this bill!

Wendy McRoberts

Self

Danbury, TX

I support this type of seizure. The last shooting in Tennessee could have been prevented with this law in place.

Linda McCullough

Self

Lago vista, TX

There should be a limited seizure of firearms that are accessible to someone who has been identified as having a mental health issue that makes them a danger to themselves or others.

Sarah Kienle, Dr

myself

McGregor, TX

Please support this critical bill that would make Texans - like my family, including my first grade son, safer in schools and the community. We need to take away guns from people who should not have them - and this bill would help do that.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death of children, and you have the power to make a real difference and save the lives of children. Use your power for good - support this, and other, common sense gun control measures.

Carol Jacoby, Mrs

Self

San Marcos, TX

Against HB 22, Against HB.106, Against HB 220, Against HB 236 , Against HB 298, Against HB 533, Against HB 1007, Against 1138, Against HB 2274, Against HB 3272, Against HB 3435. Against 4472

George Brian Vachris, P.E.

self retired

Humble, TX

I oppose this bill.

Alison Killian

SELF, SOFTWARE IMPLEMENTATION

Austin, TX

Mental illness is serious and can cause people to harm themselves and other. Putting firearms within reach during emergency situations with people suffering from mental distress is disastrous. Please act to save our children's lives!

James Everard, Sgt. (ret)

Self

Killeen, TX

I oppose this bill. I fully understand the need to help people in the time of need. I also fully understand that almost all of the high profile mass shootings that happen in America are at the hands of people who suffer from mental health issues. I was on Fort Hood for both mass shootings. I live in Killeen, which was home if the mass shooting that made way for Texas to allow concealed carry in the state. I do believe that intervention of certain individuals is important to preventing harm to themselves, and others. Unfortunately, like almost all other laws, it will be abused. This will absolutely take advantage of, and weaponized by those who do not like certain individuals. A simple complaint against someone will be lodged, and without due process, a court will decide if their rights will be stripped from them. This is absolutely unconstitutional and un-America. The law already states that if a person is found to be mentally defective, and an order is granted by a judge after the individual has had due process, that they may have their ability to own firearms removed till found mentally stable to own a firearm again. This bill just looks to use secret courts to strip away citizens rights.

Jonathan Windsor

Self

Celina, TX

I am against this bill.

Maryann Riordan

Self, Retired

Livingston, TX

I support this bill

Breann Bruton

Self

Austin, TX

I fully support this bill and ask the honorable committee to advance measures for gun safety

Lisa Phillips

self

Houston, TX

My husband died by suicide using a handgun that he purchased that very day. Had Texas had red flag laws or a waiting period, we may not have lost him. Suicide by gun is increasing due to the easy access of guns and host of other issues not addressed by our state, including mental health care, Medicaid expansion and other social safety nets. No one should feel that their loved ones are better off without them. This is a critical problem and easy access to firearms makes it so much worse.

Delaina Bishop

SELF/Parent

Austin, TX

I HIGHLY SUPPORT this bill. We need more red tape for gun purchases. Law abiding responsible gun owners support training, licensing, red flag laws and holds, raising the age, adding waiting periods, and banning weapons that make loved ones unrecognizable when murdered!

Elizabeth Wally

Self

Dallas, TX

SUPPORT I can't understand why this isn't already law. The most dangerous time as parents of adults children with mental or addiction issues know way too well is when they are having an episode. If they call the police, their child might be killed, if they do nothing, he (usually) might kill others. This could really help them!

Cindy Samuelson

self

Dallas, TX

Writing in strong support--it's past time to take action--there's no easy solution but the TX-lege needs to whittle away at the problem of gun violence in our state NOW. This is a good step.

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self

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Elva Mendoza

Self; public health social worker

Austin, TX

HB 533: Support. It makes perfect sense that guns would be removed from a person who is being detained in a mental health emergency. I support this bill.

Norma Hackler

SELF

Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. It makes sense for due process to be enacted in order to seize a firearm from a dangerous unstable individual.

Julie Marinucci

self - Tax Accountant

Houston, TX

I support this bill. It is commonsense.

Al Lindsey, M.D.

Moms Demand Action, Texas Gun Sense

Austin, TX

This is a so-called "red flag law," and it allows law enforcement personnel to confiscate firearms from anyone certified by a judge or mental health authority to be a danger to her/him self or others. As a retired Family Doctor, this is especially important to me in its ability to prevent suicides.

Sean Kienle

Inflammatix

Mc Gregor, TX

I am in favor of this bill

Kristin Escamilla

self

Austin, TX

This is a safeguard to keep people safe when they are at their most vulnerable. This will not only protect others but the owner as well.

Drury Stevenson

self - law professor

Kingwood, TX

I urge the Texas legislature to pass HB 533, joining 10 or 20 other states that have adopted such legislation in recent years. These "red flag laws" have been supported by Congressional action last year, and in other states have helped prevent mass shootings and suicides. There is no question that we need to keep guns out of the hands of those who have severe mental illness! We need to reduce gun deaths in Texas and this law will help do that. Please pass this bill!

bill kelberlau, CAPT USN Ret

T4T

georgetown, TX

this is ridiculous wording; a person being detained may be in the vicinity where valid people are openly carrying, you can't just seize any gun will-nilly that can be in sight

Elizabeth Steele

clinical social worker

HOUSTON, TX

Please support this bill to insure firearm safety in the event of people being detained with mental illness.

Kathy Ponce

self

Maypearl, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

This is excessive and imposes unnecessary burdens on the citizens of this state. Please do not vote for this bill.

Jo Foley

self/none

Henderson, TX

I am Against HB 533. There is too much wiggle room to take away rights of people who are around but not doing anything illegal.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

trevor smith, mr
self - retired
johnson city, TX

please adhere to the second amendement of the constitution and stop trying to subvert said constitution. You were elected to uphold the laws of Texas and support the constitution of th United States - not to impose your personal left wing anti-conservative views on the Texas citizens.

Debbie Carrico
SELF AMERICAN
League City, TX

NO. IT CAN BE SAID ANYONE IS MENTALLY UNSTABLE

Mark Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 533.

I strongly oppose HB 533 because it will restrict Second Amendment rights and due process. Mental illness is a highly subjective diagnosis and is not necessarily an indicator of violent crime.

Therefore I respectfully ask the committee members to vote against HB 533.

Thank you.

Teresa ODonnell
Self
Houston, TX

People who are having an emergency detention for possible mental illness should not have firearms. These should be seized until a determination of mental stability is made.

John Flood II
Self
El Paso, TX

...Who May Have a Mental Illness... Who determines that?. So the government can just make a determination based on no real evidence without having a medical professional. Who declares an apprehension for emergency detention and based on what evidence? A phone call from an irate neighbor, a fallout from a friend, an ex-spouse? This seems very arbitrary. Why just firearms? What about knives, swords, baseball bats, tools in the garage?

Ian Kress

Myself. Engineer.

Nassau Bay, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would require the seizing of not only the firearms possessed by a person subject to an emergency detention, but any firearm that “or found in plain sight and readily accessible to the person.” This bill would allow the seizure of other people’s firearms as well, such as family members. This bill is not needed – the person in question is already be detailed, and firearms that they themselves possess can by seized. There is no reason to take other people’s guns

Kelley Rumps

self/retired

The Woodlands, TX

I oppose this bill.

Karen miller

Retired

AUSTIN, TX

A good bill for community safety!

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Amanda LEsperance

Self

Cooper, TX

OPPOSE

James Carlisle

Self

Alvin, TX

This proposal undermines due process. Red Flag by any name does not and has been proven to not meet constitutional standards in the state Of New York. Does Texas not have a health standard that outlines; unless a clinical diagnosis is given there be no grounds to order an individual to be stricken of their constitutional right...? Rights are not to be stricken without cause. We are innocent until proven guilty.