

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select  
For HB 773

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 7:44 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.

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Lydia Ortega, Dr.

Self, Emeritus Professor of Economics

Plano, TX

The school does not have the mental health professionals to make detention decisions. Shschools need to focus on Education. Medical treatment is up to the parents.

I strongly oppose this overreach and attempt to fracture Parental rights. This bill will disproportionately impact middle income and minority students, who do not have the the Parental advocates that High performing students have or the Parental advocates that special needs students have. I strongly oppose the income/status bias of this bill.

Carrie Baker

Self

Lubbock, TX

Our concern with this bill is that it appears to give the school full discretion as to when and whether a school releases a child to their parent, if there is pending discipline or behavior issues? Withholding a child from release to their parent under any circumstance unless instructed by the court of law, would be a huge violation of parental rights.

Parents have the fundamental God-given, inalienable right to direct the education and upbringing of their children, which has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court and affirmed in a Texas Attorney General opinion and the right of parents to direct their children's moral and religious training has been specified in Texas Family Code 151;

I strongly oppose this bill because it limits the rights of a parent to direct their child's upbringing, which includes education and discipline.

Jamie Haynes

Texans Wake Up

Canyon, TX

HB773 - OPPOSE - This bill appears to give the school full discretion as to when and whether a school releases a child to their parent, if there is pending discipline or behavior issues? Withholding a child from release to their parent under any circumstance unless instructed by the court of law, would be a huge violation of parental rights. **STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL.**

Alan Higginbotham

Self

Reklaw, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 773. Withholding a child from release to their parents for any reason other than a court order is a violation of Parent's Rights and should be considered unlawful detention and treated as such. Our children are not wards of the state.

Sue Silver, Collin Co. Precinct Chair

Self

McKinney, TX

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. This bill appears to give the school full discretion as to when and whether a school releases a child to their parent, if there is pending discipline or behavior issues.

Withholding a child from release to their parent under any circumstance unless instructed by the court of law, would be a huge violation of parental rights.

Carolyn Lux

Self/Retired nurse

Fredericksburg, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Withholding a child from release to their parents under any circumstances unless instructed by a court of law would be a huge violation of parental rights. I strongly oppose this bill.

Don Silver

Self, retired

McKinney, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL. if there are pending discipline or behavior issues, it appears to give a school full discretion as to whether and when a school releases a child to their parent. This is a violation of parental rights. Withholding a child from release to their parent under any circumstance unless instructed by the court of law is improper.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs

Self

Gainesville, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. The child belongs to their family. I can't imagine a school withholding a child from their family. Please do not pass this bill.

Juanita Lux

Retired

Lindale, TX

I am opposed because his bill appears to give the school full discretion as to when and whether a school releases a child to their parent, if there is pending discipline or behavior issues? Withholding a child from release to their parent under any circumstance unless instructed by the court of law, would be a huge violation of parental rights. I strongly oppose this bill.

Linda Litzinger

Texas Parent to Parent - Public Policy Specialist

Austin, TX

Texas Parent to Parent is a statewide non-profit serving 14,000 families of children with disability, mental health or significant healthcare need. We fully support this bill and thank Dr. Allen for filing it. Thank you.

Susan Burek

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

Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB 773, which prohibits certain releases of a student to the student's parent before the end of the instructional day for disciplinary management or behavior management reasons.

This bill addresses the inappropriate practice of certain school districts of requiring parents to pick up their student before the end of the school day in response to disciplinary management techniques, reactions to the student's behavior, or violations of the student code of conduct.

These inappropriate early release practices have been used by certain school districts to avoid dealing with the student's behavior, following their existing IEPs or behavioral intervention plans, or providing academic instruction to the students, which violates the student's rights.

PLEASE APPROVE HB 773.

Thank you very much.

Leigh Calmes

Self

Plano, TX

I fully support this bill and thank Representative Allen for presenting this bill. I have a child with a disability and there were several times when I was called to pick him up from his public school due to behavioral issues. Not only was this disruptive to my job, as a single parent, but caused him to miss important academic class time. I understand that school staff is sometimes stressed and understaffed, but sending a child home because they have become dysregulated due to a disability is not the answer. These children need access to a counselor or trusted adult staff member that can provide them with a break from the triggers that preceded the behavioral issue until the student can become regulated again.

I am also fully aware of other parents who are constantly called to pick up their child, often in the elementary grades, because their child has a disability and becomes dysregulated. This is especially difficult for parents of younger children because they have to take the rest of the day off work or find someone to care for their child. This also teaches a young child with disabilities how easy it is to get out of school for the day and causes them to miss a great deal of academic instruction.