

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs
For HB 800

Compiled on: Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:16 AM

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Hearing Date: April 12, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Allison Craig
self, college professor
Fort Worth, TX

This bill sets up a slippery slope that would criminalize communities of color throughout the state, creating a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, or contract workers around, and increasing harsh penalties (and prison overcrowding issues) for misdemeanors that are best handled through existing penalties.

Stacey Caster
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Fort Worth, TX

HB65 creates a slew of criminal enhancements for things like trespassing, smuggling, burglary, car theft, criminal mischief, property damage, graffiti, evading arrest, fleeing a peace officer, etc. that would enhance current misdemeanors to second or third-degree felonies. These are meant to be border bills but would unintentionally criminalize communities of color throughout the state, and create a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, or contract workers around. The enhancement for evading arrest for criminal mischief/property damage is particularly troubling and is a key example of where policy likely aimed at border ranches is going to end up in kids doing graffiti getting charged with third-degree felonies.

Cindy Fountain, Ms
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Cleburne, TX

I oppose this bill. Similar to HB 65, this is posed as a border bill but would criminalize communities of color throughout the state, and create a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, or contract workers around. Thank you.

Hal Cosentino
self, full-time student
Austin, TX

I am against HB 800. Please do NOT create this slew of criminal enhancements that would enhance current misdemeanors to second or third degree felonies. This bill will be used to criminalize communities of color throughout the state, and create a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, contract workers around.

Malena Pennycook

self

Austin, TX

HB65/HB800: I am AGAINST HB65/HB800. We should NOT create this slew of criminal enhancements that would enhance current misdemeanors to second or third degree felonies. These will be used to criminalize communities of color throughout the state, and create a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, contract workers around.

Linda Hanratty

self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 800. According to the fiscal note, increasing the penalty for an existing offense may result in additional demands upon state correctional resources due to a possible increase in the number of individuals confined and in the length of stay for individuals sentenced to a term of confinement. The state is already unable to transfer many convicted felons to state prison due to overcrowding. This bill will only exacerbate the situation forcing counties to foot the bill for extra inmates.

Theresa Zelasko

Self

Austin, TX

I urge the Committee to vote AGAINST HB 800.
Thank you.

Melissa Rowell, Honorable

Self

Houston, TX

I am for this bill.

Steven Rainer

Self / Retired

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Wayne Jankowski

American Citizens for new Government

Waxahachie, TX

t's time to build a wall and beef up our security. Our borders patrol agents are overworked and understaffed. Millions of illegal immigrants are breaking the law every day crossing into our border illegally. They rushed the border. Meanwhile, cartel members are sneaking across the bad characters, we do not even know who these people are, where they came from or their backgrounds. Why are there thousands of Chinese nationalist young boys and men coming into this country from China? The last I checked China is a communist country and you can't just travel and leave the country without government approval. Where are they getting the funds to travel to South America to make their way up through our southern border and into America? Why are they coming to America? I am sure it is not in our country's best interest
We need to focus on taking care of our own people protecting our country. That is the job of the federal government to protect American citizens and our country. You have all failed America and you need to do something about this. Quit selling out to China and selling our own land to foreign countries what is wrong with you people? Do the right thing and secure our borders .

G Brent Edminster

Self

Maypearl, TX

Please pass this Bill and protect the American Citizens without the continual financial burden we taxpayers have to continue to fund.

Debra Carter

Bastrop County Conservatives

Cedar Creek, TX

Our children and women of this state depend on you to make sure this bill passes. Thank you for all you do for our precious State of Texas!

Janna Canard

Texas UU Justice Ministry

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB800. It creates a slew of criminal enhancements for things like trespassing, smuggling, burglary, car theft, criminal mischief, property damage, graffiti, evading arrest, fleeing a peace officer, etc. that would enhance current misdemeanors to second or third-degree felonies. These are posed as border bills but would criminalize communities of color throughout the state, and create a situation where anyone could be stopped or arrested for smuggling for driving their parents, friends, or contract workers around. The enhancement for evading arrest for criminal mischief/property damage is particularly troubling and is a key example of where policy likely aimed at border ranches is going to end up in kids doing graffiti getting charged with third-degree felonies. I urge you to do the right thing and vote against this legislation.

Kim Roland

Self / Retired / Ranching

Lockhart, TX

I SUPPORT this bill and thank Rep. Guillen for his commitment to the restoration of law, order and human rights in Texas.

Stephanie Taylor

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is bad for public safety. This bill does nothing to protect Texans. Instead, it will take much needed resources away from other areas of public safety.