

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Transportation
For HB 1277

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 1:30 PM

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Bernice Messina-Gates, Mrs.

self, retired

Fate, TX

I support HB1277. Removing a section of code requiring pedestrians to walk on the left side of a road or on a shoulder if no sidewalks. This reduces regulation, promotes freedom, and gets rid of a way to ticket pedestrians. Please vote yes on HB1277 and stop micro-managing Texans.

CJ Grisham, Dr.

Self

Temple, TX

On March 16, 2013, I was hiking with my son through cattle country in rural Temple, Texas, to help him earn his Eagle Scout needed hiking merit badge. Halfway thru a ten mile hike, I was approached by a police officer because someone had called that I was (legally) carrying a rifle. The officer attempted to disarm me without warning, cause, or explanation; he simply grabbed a combat veterans lawfully carried firearm, which surprised me. When I refused to voluntarily surrender my firearm since i had committed no crime nor been accused of one, I was arrested for "resisting arrest." The video went viral nationally.

At a suppression hearing for the false arrest, the arresting officer mentioned (for the first time since it was included nowhere in his report nor verbally to me on the day of my arrest) that I was "walking on the wrong side of the road" and therefore he had every authority to stop and detain me as well as disarm me. The road I was on was a small, unmarked farm road that barely fit two vehicles passing each other. There was virtually no traffic to worry about on either side of the road. The road was surrounded by pastures at the time, pastures where my family kept cattle.

Rather than drop the false charge, prosecutors simply changed it to "interference" using TC 552.006 as the basis for the stop, which was never the case. I was stopped because a non-emergency call was made by a passerby that I had a gun and she thought it was "odd." The officer never mentioned anything about walking down the wrong side of the road despite me making more than a dozen demands to know what crime I was suspected of or why i was stopped. The only response from the officer was, "I need to find out if you can legally have this gun." TC 552.006 was used by malicious prosecutors as "reasonable suspicion that a crime was being committed" - even though the officer was unaware of it at the time - in order to save the officer from a civil suit and punish me for not surrendering my rights voluntarily.

The government should not be dictating to citizens which side of the road a person should walk down. Sometimes, it isn't safe to walk down the "correct", or left, side of the road, as was the case where i happened to be that fateful day minding my own business enjoying a Saturday afternoon hike with my 15-year old son. But the law doesn't contemplate whether it's safer or more beneficial to walk down the "wrong" side of the road. I did an open records request to find out how often someone was charged with a violation of the statute in the previous ten years and was told only once, and that it was a secondary offense for a public intoxication arrest.

Section 552.006 of the Transportation Code is nanny state law that only exists to serve as a pretext to violate civil rights or find some other reasons to harass citizens. Please support this bill and report it favorably to the full house. Thank you.

Sylvia Coulson

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill and freedom!

Molly Cook

Stop TxDOT I-45

Houston, TX

Stop TxDOT I-45 supports this bill!\. We are a grassroots transportation advocacy organizations from Houston, and we want to applaud Rep Cain and all of the authors/sponsors and thank them for their work on this important issue. Pedestrians are to be protected at all costs. We celebrate active transportation. Thank y'all!

Terry Putnam

self/retired

Georgetown, TX

I support this bill.

Wima.J. Putnam
American Citizen
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill. It reduces regulation and gets rid of a way to ticket pedestrians.

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self
Fredericksburg, TX

We are FOR this bill. Thank You!

Angela Smith
Fredericksburg Tea Party, Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

I strongly support this bill - seems like it just gets rid of an arcane rule that is no longer needed.