

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Corrections
For HB 1577

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 3:25 PM

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Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Melissa Prentice
Bay Area Turning Point
Houston, TX

Hello. My name is Melissa Prentice, and I am speaking on behalf of Bay Area Turning Point, Inc. Our organization works with individuals experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault, to also include human trafficking, child abuse, and strangulation survivors. The population we serve consists of constituents in the districts of Representative Alma Allen, Representative Valoree Swanson, and Representative Steve Toth on the Corrections Committee hearing this bill. We would like to register our support and respectfully encourage the Representatives to vote HB 1577 out of the House Committee on Corrections. This bill is vital to the safety of the individuals we serve. Strangulation, which is covered in this bill and can be found under Texas Penal Code Sec. 22.01(b)(2)(b), is one of the top risk factors for domestic violence-related homicide. Strangulation is one of many assaultive offenses covered in this bill. This bill could save the lives of adults and children experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault, as well as those suffering from human trafficking.