

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select  
For HB 1617

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 7:35 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 4, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Harold Waters, Mr.  
myself  
Houston, TX

Please oppose this bill.

Jon Zachary, Mr.  
Self Computer Programmer  
Katy, TX

I and my family are against this bill as it will violate individuals right to due process, as well violates the individuals 5th amendment rights against self-incrimination. There also is no text supporting, provision of return of property / assets at the termination of the order as well no exclusionary text to define permissible firearms.

Phillip Laird  
self  
New Braunfels, TX

Together, this bill including HB 3938 expand notice requirements for persons being charged with certain misdemeanor offenses and who are subject to protective orders, some of which are issued without due process, that they are prohibited from possessing firearms and requiring any firearms in their possession to be surrendered within 10 days. The notice provisions do not include language that alerts defendants to their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and no methods of permissible firearms disposition, or provisions for return if a disqualifying condition is removed, are outlined in the bills. This bill is unconstitutional and without due regard to Due Process!

Richard Wood  
Self - paramedic  
Conroe, TX

I do not support his bill.

Charles Wharton  
Self, Residential Property Appraiser  
Richmond, TX

Against, as this infringes on rights of law-abiding citizens.

George Flach  
self/retired  
Weatherford, TX

Oppose.

Robert Simonds  
Self - retired  
Sugar Land, TX

I am opposed to this bill

ray worsham  
self  
Elgin, TX

Poorly written and unnecessary this bill is an affront to the constitution of the state. Oppose this bill.

George Schuler III  
Self and Family  
Sugar Land, TX

I am AGAINST bills HB 1617 and HB 3938

James Floyd  
Self Retired  
Tyler, TX  
AGAINST

Brian Roop  
Self  
Grapevine, TX  
Against

Dennis Hays  
Self  
Plano, TX  
Absolutely Oppose

G. Gillenwaters  
Single Action Shooting Society  
Manchaca, TX

In SUPPORT of HB 2705, HB 2960, HB 3137, HB 4327, & HB 4827

In OPPOSITION to HB 1617 & HB 3938.

Kent Lawson  
KentsKovers  
Gilmer, TX

I am firmly AGAINST this bill. This is a "gun Grab"

James O'Rear, Mr.  
Self  
McKinney, TX  
AGAINST

Penny O'Rear, Mrs.  
Self  
McKinney, TX  
AGAINST

Oscar Fellows  
self/retired engineering mgr  
Georgetown, TX

I am against restrictive legislation that can be implemented without due process or violates an individuals protections under the Bill of Rights in the US Constitution. Red flag laws and confiscation of personal property may sometimes be warranted, but only under the strictest requirements on the State that expert examination and hearings have established that the individual is a clear and present danger to self and others. This bill does not meet those standards.

Mitchell Moore  
Self- Licensed Counselor  
Lockhart, TX

I am in opposition of this bill. Any and all restrictions of the ability of a US Citizen and a citizen of the Great State of Texas to possess a firearm before due process occurs may result in the inability defend themselves if necessary. Surrendering a person property (firearm) is unacceptable. The notice provisions do not include language that alerts defendants to their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and no methods of permissible firearms disposition, or provisions for return if a disqualifying condition is removed, are outlined in the bills.

Tracy Hays, Dr.  
Self  
Plano, TX  
Against

Garry Rife  
Self  
Arlington, TX

This another attempt by the left to deny law abiding citizens their 2nd amendment rights and to wrongfully burden misdemeanor offenses with Felony punishment. The cowardly authors, sponsors, and supporters of this garbage need to focus on punishing Felons rather than turn misdemeanors into felonies. Focus on making our schools safer, like armed guards at all schools within the state of Texas, instead.

Ted Woods  
self  
Katy, TX  
Against.

Wesley Neal  
Myself  
Georgetown, TX  
I don't support this

Tammy Sikes  
Self/retired  
Friendswood, TX

I do not support this bill. It has the potential to violate due process rights.

David Wittman  
Self; consultant  
Horseshoe Bay, TX

I encourage you to vote against HB 1617 as it does not provide adequate provision to prevent abuse and the removal of our second amendment right to bear arms. Our forefathers granted us this right to protect not only against intruders, but against a tyrannical government who wishes to take away our freedoms. Only today, it is being done under the guise of "what is good for the people" in order to turn us into a socialist state. Guns don't kill people, people kill people. We must address the mental health issues and not deprive law-abiding citizens to protect themselves from evil. I encourage you to turn all efforts toward addressing the mental health issue which is ravaging our society beginning with reviewing the so-called anti-depressant drugs which are connected to so much of this destructive behavior.

David Berleth  
self/retired  
Houston, TX

I disagree with this bill as it is for persons being charged with certain misdemeanor offenses and subject to protective orders, some are issued without due process.

David Austin  
William District 33  
Arlington, TX

IT Is Democrat parties that are bring these items which is against our 2A Rights from others states that wants to change our Texas State laws to fit there ways which it is not right as well it is Joe Biden which is not my President is allowed illegal immigrants coming across our borders with drugs criminal records and kids that are doing illegal acts upon our State that is being forced upon the citizens of this country that is acting these criminal acts. I feel that we should keep the law it is and put more focus on the illegal immigration and helping the kids from abuse house bullying in schools and the LGBT which is the act of unconditional rights of God and should be banned from schools and in our states also stop paying illegal immigration to college from our taxes and help the individual adults of Americans first and Militarys servicemen and women to go back which enreturned help the kids to better. I have go to the border as a Texas Military service to protect our state because of the Democrat parties that are in our state and from others states that are at faults. You trying to change our states 2A Constitution Laws you better be looking for another's job or I will talk you job and follow the Constitution laws that our four fathers have put into law

John T Baker, Dr

John T Baker

Dallas, TX

I am against & apposed to this bill HB 1617

Richard Carroll

Self and Family - Retired

Carrollton, TX

I oppose this bill. It is too vague and would not in some instances incorporate due process. there are no stipulations as to when/how property can be rightfully returned.

Paul Savage

Self; Life/Leadership Coach

Baytown, TX

Vote against this bill until it addresses a major crime and not so ambiguous and unclear. There is probably already one on the books.

David Nelson

Self, Instructor

Weatherford, TX

Please oppose any law that diminishes due process.

David Fairley

Self, gas marketing

Magnolia, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Please do not allow this bill to move forward.

Dona Crumpler

self - Respiratory Therapist

Hewitt, TX

I oppose HB 1617!

Charles Stigall

Self, retired

Sealy, TX

This bill and HB 3938 should not be supported, these are just more efforts to prohibit firearm ownership.

Adrienne Pohrte

self - retired

Krum, TX

My spouse Thomas and I ARE FIRMLY AGAINST THIS BILL.

Wallace Dunn, President  
Texas Handgun Association, Inc.  
Odessa, TX

I am opposed to any law that imposes additional INFRINGEMENTS upon LAW-ABIDING Texans to exercise their God-given rights to self-defense. The US Constitution and the Texas Constitution are very clear in guaranteeing these rights. Criminals WILL NOT obey the current laws, what makes you think they will obey any new laws? Due process as defined in the Constitution must be followed. Probable cause, with a search warrant signed by a Judge, and then execution of the search warrant. Remember, in the USA you are INNOCENT until proven guilty.

Richard Nance, Maj. EN. (Ret)  
Myself, US Army Engineer Retired  
Dallas, TX

It is imperative that provisions to return weapons taken be returned in the same condition as taken if the reasons for removal are proven to be inaccurate or false AND some type of action is taken for false accusations that may have precipitated the initial action. If for some reason the weapon is not returned or returned in a condition poorer than when taken, the taking authority MUST replace in kind or fund the replacement value.

arthur j belanger jr  
self  
liberty, TX

please vote NO , thank you .

Jason Chambers  
self: high school math teacher  
Arlington, TX

Opposed: Curtailment of rights should never be without due process. Such curtailment should also remind citizens of their rights, and all reasonable conditions and results of the curtailment should be specifically addressed, especially in regard to property, duration, and resolution.

Richard Clampitt  
self  
dallas, TX

Please vote NO on this Bill.

CJ Grisham, Dr.  
Open Carry Texas and Self  
Temple, TX

We support this bill. Unfortunately, there are far too many unprincipled prosecutors who take advantage of those who cannot afford attorneys or represent themselves. In order to secure a "victory," prosecutors will scare defendants into accepting a plea deal by presenting ghastly visions of the defendant's future if she doesn't take it. A defendant is more likely to take a plea deal simply to stay out of jail even when they are innocent because they can't afford a proper defense and far too many public defenders are plea attorneys rather than fighting for their clients. Defendants take these pleas without understanding that their rights are in jeopardy if they do so. HB 1617 goes a long way in address this miscarriage of justice and give defendants and opportunity to make an informed decision.

William Land  
Self  
Clifton, TX  
I oppose this bill

Kenneth Gibson

SELF

Sidney, TX

I OPPOSE HB1617. THIS BILL WOULD BE AN EGREGIOUS INFRINGEMENT ON DUE PROCESS AND THE RIGHT OF INDIVIDUALS TO OWN FIREARMS UNDER THE SECOND AMMENDMENT. IT IS A BLATANT EXAMPLE OF AN ATTEMPT AT TYRANNICAL CONTROL.

Donald Totusek

Self, Attorney

Richardson, TX

II am opposed to this bill. Any procedure which requires surrender of firearms must identify permissible methods of disposition and provide a procedure for regaining possession when the person is no longer disqualified from possession.

Carolyn Lux

Self/Retired RN

Fredericksburg., TX

I am against this bill. Please vote no.