

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 1667

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:52 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.

Hearing Date: April 11, 2023 8:00 AM

Chris Donofrio
Self / Trans Activist
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1667.
I urge you to pass it out of committee.

This is a progressive bill.
As an activist for transgender rights, I see some good coming from HB 1667.

Currently, our Governor, following a non-binding opinion offered by our Attorney General, is treating the parents of transgender minors as child abusers. A bill to establish this was defeated during the last legislative session. The Attorney General's opinion is erroneously argued as well.

Since gender-affirming care is the safe and proven medical standard, regardless of your views on transgender individuals, the denial of such care has significant consequences. Especially regarding mental health, depression, and suicide. Trust me, as an abused minor I understand this at a level many of you cannot.

In short, denying gender-affirming care to a minor whose parents, doctors, and psychologists agree upon it is child abuse. It is our Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and those supporting the denial of gender-affirming care who are committing this child abuse.

HB 1667, if passed, shall require professionals and others to report child abuse. This especially pleases me since so many politicians throw that term around in a cavalier manner, which offends me as a survivor. Let's see how they react when their very actions give definition to the term.

I applaud Rep. Jetton for his forward-looking bill.
Once passed I'm sure parents and medical professionals will rest a little easier knowing they can hold such people to account for the abuses they inflict upon transgender children.

Please pass HB 1667 out of committee.
It will make it easier to hold child abusers, like those mentioned above, accountable for their sick, cruel actions.

Respectfully,
Chris J. Donofrio