

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 1883

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 14, 2023 1:14 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: March 14, 2023 8:00 AM

Mary Traveland
Self
Mesquite, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Renee Llamas
Texas Resident
McKinney, TX

I am not In favor of amending the Texas education code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in Texas schools on Eid al- Adha and Eud al-Fitr. These are not federally recognized US holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Karri Weadon
Self, stay at home mom
Plano, TX

Muslim holidays are not national holidays and should not be treated as such. No assessments should be adjusted and absences should not be excused for these holidays. I do not support this bill in any way and ask that all involved vote against this bill.

Connie Stamps, Ms.
McLennan C
Waco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Richard Bagby

Self

Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

William Droke, Dr.

Individual

FRISCO, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in the Texas Public Schools.

Mary Crocker

Self

Nacogdoches, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Debra Lloyd

self

Allen, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Ruth Thurman

Self

Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Faye Wagner, Mrs

Self retired

Lorena, TX

I am NOT in favor of amending the education code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid Al-Adha and Eid Al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Shirley Maldonado

Self

Plano Plano, TX

I am totally against this bill.

Tanya Erick
Self insurance agent
Hillsboro, TX

I am not in favor of amending the education code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid-al -adha and Eid Al fitr
These are not federally recognized US holidays and nevertheless should not be recognized in Texas public schools

Janette Johnson
Self
Alvarado, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Phyllis Rominski
North Texas Conservatives
Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code of Texas to allow for additional religious holidays from school that are not recognized by the federal government.

William Foster
self
Red Oak, TX

Please vote against this bill. While seemingly innocuous, it is part of the creeping civilizational jihad by the Muslim Brotherhood. This is something Texas should have nothing to do with. Thank you for your time.
Bill Foster

Kay Mirkes
None
Frisco, TX

Please vote against HB 1883.

Jacqueline Ezer
self
Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools. Only federally recognizable U.S. holidays should be in Texas public schools.

Hayden Cohen

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Hayden Cohen and I am an 18-year-old student in the Greater Houston area.

Being a Jewish student in a public high school was mostly not an issue until standardized testing ended up scheduled on Yom Kippur during my freshman year. Many Jewish parents, students, and I contacted the school and complained as we needed to take the test but it was on one of the most sacred holidays for the Jewish people. We were forced to decide between taking the test or observing our faith and unfortunately, we aren't the only ones in this state to face this. We take off school for Good Friday and Christmas almost every year so Christian students never have to grapple with the decision to observe a religious holiday or go to school but I do so I ask that you do the bare minimum to allow me freedom of religion while maintaining my education by passing HB 1883. Thank you

Mary May

Self/Caregiver

Joshua, TX

I am not in favor of having the Education Code amended in order to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr.

Neither of these are federally recognized U.S. holidays and therefore should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Bridget Brewer

Self

Joshua, TX

am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools."

Billie Colbert

Self

Alvarado, TX

Not in favor of having this bill approved and changing state educational holidays

Gary Farr

Self retired

Abilene, TX

Am against the passage of this bill. These holidays are celebrating military victories against non-muslims and Abraham attempting to sacrifice Ishmael.

Sean Sherman

Texas Myself

Mcallen, TX

No

Zachary Lyons

Self- Member of the public

Austin, TX

Thank you for common sense legislation acknowledging the diversity of our state and the impact on instruction that assessment scheduling has. I hope that this moves swiftly with bipartisan support.

Ellen Leyrer, Mrs

Self

Plano, TX

I am opposed to adding these Muslim holidays.

Rudyard Flanders

Self

Richardson, TX

Absolutely not. America is not a Muslim country.

This will serve as a facility for the indoctrination of our children, which will ultimately lead to their goal of sharia war in the state of Texas. This needs to be stopped immediately, and the representative sponsored this should be voted out immediately.

Jean Bergenthal

self

Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools. Also, if you vote on this, I'm going to have to ask a representative to ask for days off for Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Passover, Ascension, Pentacost - do you see what I mean - vote this in and you're soon going to open a can of worms and then soon, there's no school for children because of all the 'holidays'... Thank you for reading my comments. Jean Bergenthal

Jena Masquelier

Self

Frisco, TX

No please no! These are not national holidays. Stop.

Florence Phoon

Self

Lucas, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Angela Mestemacher

Self, self-employed

Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Patricia Cummings

Self

Lorena, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Bri Loftis
Self - CPA
Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Dana Larson Weatherly
Children's Medical Center
Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools. This is a Christian nation, not an Islamic country.

Mahvash Becker
Self/Retired
McKinney, TX

"I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools."

Jensen John
Self
McKinney, TX

I oppose this bill as it will become a slippery slope to many more religious holidays that reduce time for proper rigorous education. This enfeebles an already taxed and fraying public education system.

Jennifer White, Dr
Self
Frisco, TX

I am NOT in favor of disallowing assessment instruments on the listed religious holidays. The only holidays that should be considered are holidays that are already federally recognized holidays. With many districts already decreasing instructional days to a 4 day week, further restricting these days puts too much of a scheduling burden on our teachers.

Suanne Stevens
Self
Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools. Please do not allow this bill to move forward.

Michelle Travis
Self
Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Debbie Bowers

Na

Plano, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Robin Robson

self retired

Frisco, TX

This is America, Christian nation, Christian holidays. Diversity is not a strength, it's a weakness. Enough with the woke BS.

Diana Crenshaw

Self

Plano, TX

We do not want any Muslim holidays recognized by Texas or our school systems. This is completely unacceptable and I'm not interested in moving one step closer to making the US honor or respect the tyrannical and abusive Sharia Law

April Pointer

Me

Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Lynn Estes

self

FRISCO, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools

Kathy Burden, Chaplain

Self

Frisco, TX

I am against Muslim holidays

Debra Wolgemuth

Self Employed

Waco, TX

Not in favor of amending the Education Code to align Sharia Law with the Texas legal and education systems.

David St Martin, Mr

self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Treasa Killion

Self

Plano, TX

Eid Al-Fitr & Eid Al-Adha are not United States holidays federally recognized and should not be recognized in our Texas public schools. Amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in the public schools on these days is not something I, nor my family, supports.

Nancee Chambers, Mrs.

Self

Dallas, TX

If you recognize the shariah compliant holidays, then you MUST rename them like you did Christmas and call it Winterbreak!! And they must never be allowed to be spoken of or referred to just like our Christian holidays! The US must never become shariah compliant!

Deb Spencer, Mrs

Self

Boyd, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Nicole Williamson, Rev.

self

Allen, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. These are religious holidays NOT federally recognized holidays and should not be imposed on Texas children.

Caroline Keller, Mrs.

Self

Plano, TX

With school districts perpetuating CRT and creeping into our libraries gender ideologies and pornography as well as drag storytimes, now, we are adding holy days that are not even part of our American tradition while negated long - held holidays.? No!

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr.

These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools."

Let's not add any more deterrents to our already over- burdened school year.

True education is taking a backseat to everyone's "pet" ideologies.

Enough!

Nelia Lynn

Self

Carrollton, TX

Please do not vote in favor of HB 1883. Our schools are already having trouble getting the basic reading, writing, and math. We don't need additional "time off" from studies that are suffering under too little basic learning.

David Lethé
self
plano, TX

I am a GOP precinct chair. I wholeheartedly endorse this bill. My wife teaches special ed, and she is for it. Rescheduling standardized tests for people who stay out for sacred worship is costly. Best just to schedule around them. Also students who may be fasting or staying up late for religious reasons should not be penalized for their CONSTITUTIONAL right to worship (or not worship) as they see fit.

Brandon Burden, Mr.
North Texas Conservatives
Melissa, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Mary Coleman, Mrs.
self
Waco, TX

I am AGAINST amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Karen Obrien
Self. Senior Communications Manager
Frisco, TX

I am not in favor of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Betty Estes
Self
Dallas, TX

These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Caroline Powell, Mrs
Texas Conservative Party
Cleburne, TX

My name is Caroline Powell. I am the head chairwoman of the Texas Conservative Party. I oppose this measure. I have spoken with many of the conservative constituents in Texas. We are (Not in Favor) of amending the Education Code to disallow assessment instruments from being administered in public schools on Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. These are not federally-recognized U.S. holidays and should not be recognized in Texas public schools.

Greig Altieri
Self
Celina, TX

Islam is not a religion it's a ideology of domination and hate so I'm against the celebration of any Islamic holidays and Sharia law. This must not be adopted.

Debra Altieri
FISD
Celina, TX
Do NOT SUPPORT

Cameron Samuels
Students Engaged in Advancing Texas (SEAT)
Katy, TX

As a student who has missed class for observing religious holidays, including the holiest days of my Jewish faith, I was typically overwhelmed with making up missed classwork and assessments. This often increased my stress and led me to focus more on busy work than on my faith. As Texas schools do not commonly base their school calendars on these holidays, even in majority-minority districts, HB 1883 will support students like me of diverse faiths.

Jacqueline St. Hilaire D'Alessandro
Self
Plano, TX

The US is a Christian nation and recognizes those holidays. We do not need to add additional days to the school schedule.

Barbara Isaacs, Mrs
Myself
Fairview, TX

The United States was built on Christian values. We can not allow Muslim worshipping to be embedded in our schools. No special holidays should be provided to Muslims. This is our United States, they shouldn't come here expecting to change America into the country they left. The Muslims and other religious institutions need to adapt to what has made America great, and not try to change our country. By allowing special holidays for various religious groups, Jewish holidays, Muslim holidays, Hindi holidays, LGBTQ holidays, and many others.. it becomes a distraction and confusion for our children and cuts into their classroom time. Other Religions can be taught at home. AMERICA is a Christian nation.

Pamela Brennan
Self
Dallas, TX

The inclusion of Eid al- Fitr & Eid al- Badr are a part of the creeping civilizational jihad waged by those whose belief s ystem is at direct odds with American foundational principles.

As a citizen, living in the state of Texas, I respectfully ask you to NOT pass this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Karl Schafer-Junger
self
Frisco, TX

This bill establishes the practice of honoring two muslim religious events within our schools. This is absurd and tyranny of the minority. Already, and Plano ISD is but one example, there are Muslim prayer rooms for students to conform to the praying five times a day muslim edict. This bill is absurd on the face of it. Let's teach our kids STEM and leave religion to the individual. It's not school business. TY Karl

Sarah Syed, Lobbyist

Woori Juntos

Houston, TX

Members of the Public Education Committee:

Chair

Buckley

Rep. Buckley,

Brad

Vice Chair

Allen

Rep. Allen,

Alma

Allison

Rep. Allison,

Steve

Cunningham

Rep. Cunningham,

Charles

Dutton, Jr.

Rep. Dutton, Jr.,

Harold V.

Harris

Rep. Harris,

Cody

Harrison

Rep. Harrison,

Brian

Hefner

Rep. Hefner,

Cole

Hinojosa

Rep. Hinojosa,

Gina

King

Rep. King,

Ken

Longoria

Rep. Longoria,

Oscar

Schaefer

Rep. Schaefer,

Matt

Talarico

Rep. Talarico,

James

My name is Sarah Syed, and I am a community organizer with Woori Juntos. We are a community-based im/migrant rights' organization dedicated to advancing the full vitality, agency, and participation of Asians and im/migrants in Texas. I am in support of House Bill 1883 by Representative Bhojani relating to the administration of assessment instruments on religious holy days.

Since Kindergarten, I have historically wore my traditional dress right after Eid prayers and ended up going back to my Texas public school to ensure I did not receive an unexcused absence and typically would take an exam or attended classroom instruction. This continued even through my college experiences. Religious freedom is a bipartisan issue. It is important to learn about religions and cultures other than the traditional Christian calendar. Eid is one of the most significant religious observances for over 3 million American Muslims, including thousands of Texans who celebrate it with great joy and reverence.

Eid is a time when Muslims experience spiritual renewal and communal solidarity, where families and friends gather to share the blessings of the season. Eid is also an opportunity to express gratitude to God for his mercy and to reaffirm our commitment to serving humanity.

By recognizing Eid as an official holiday, Texas would join several other states and cities across the country that have already taken this important step. It would signal that Texas values diversity, inclusion, and respect for all faiths, and that it recognizes the contributions and sacrifices of its Muslim citizens. It would also enable Muslim workers and students to celebrate their holiday without fear of reprisal or discrimination.

I urge you to support House Bill 1883 and to demonstrate your commitment to the principles of religious freedom, equality, and fairness.

Thank you.

Angela McCord, Mrs

Self/stay at home

Plano, TX

Please do not pass this! Our country was founded on Judeo/Christian values, and not on Islam. This is the pathway to Sharia Law, which we don't need or want in Tx.

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; Texas Family Defense Committee; self/Direct sales

CISCO, TX

We oppose HB 1883 because we feel it is unnecessary to add these restraints. Accommodations are already in place for religious persons.

While a variety of religions are referenced, we believe this is an attempt to entrench Sharia in our system of government. Please be aware that Sharia contains elements that are antithetical to our Constitutional republic.