

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select  
For HB 1905

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:26 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 27, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Brooke Freeland

My self

Austin, TX

Please support

Cheryl Scramuzza

Ferst Readers

Dallas, TX

I participate with the TXFLC and as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Ferst Readers. I am personally and professionally invested in the passage of this bill for the safety of Texas children, please pass this bill and ensure that these provisions are put into effect for the benefit of children, their families, and their care. This bill benefits our society and communities as a whole.

Jill Goodrich

Opportunity School

Amarillo, TX

I'm the Executive Director of Opportunity School which provides child care for low income families in Amarillo. I want to offer comments in support of this bill. This is an excellent way to share state resources for other community organizations that are also serving children, especially child care centers. We serve over 200 children in 3 separate locations and it's difficult to find the resources to help us review our facilities and processes in order to keep children safe. If child care centers would have the option of working with school districts to share the learning and resources available in the public school districts, that would help many local programs in the community access this type of expertise. Please support this bill.

Melissa Garza

Self

San Antonio, TX

I see fit that planning is necessary for all teachers, care takers to become visual and aware of all important matters and training with tourniquets and knowing how to save lives and a heroic civilian!

Cathy McHorse  
United Way for Greater Austin  
Austin, TX

The Austin/Travis County Success By 6 Coalition supports this proposed legislation - HB 1905. It reflects the spirit of efforts to make the most efficient use of resources supporting children in communities through collaboration between school districts, regional service centers and partners in the community.

Mandi Kimball  
CHILDREN AT RISK  
Houston, TX

Texas House Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety

HB 1905 (Talarico) Written Testimony

Mandi Kimball, Vice President and Director of Government Affairs

March 27, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Thompson, Vice Chair Hull and Committee Members,

My name is Mandi Kimball. I'm the Vice President of Children at Risk and I am testifying in support of HB 1905.

CHILDREN AT RISK facilitates the Texas Family Leadership Council (TXFLC). This Council is made up of child and family serving organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, United Ways, Food Banks, child care providers, health care providers etc. from around Texas. The intent of this group is to come together to share notes, learn from each other, and to also have a united voice on issues and recommendations that impact children and families.

After the Robb Elementary Shooting, the TXFLC discussed how organizations can support efforts in Uvalde. One issue that came up from this conversation was the concern for the safety of children in out-of-school (OST) programs as well as their teachers and staff. For example, A CEO needed to find money and safety training that could be offered to them, and MANY other organizations expressed the same concern around challenges they were facing to ensure their staff and children are safe.

Texas, TEA and the Texas School Safety Center have invested a lot of money in evidence-based practices and training to make teachers and children safe in school. Policies and procedures have been made available and implemented so staff and children know what to do if there is an active shooter.

We need to ask about and better protect OST programs that have children before and after school as well as the child care providers that are caring for siblings.

HB 1905 maximizes taxpayer dollars and evidence-based practices and allows child serving organizations an opportunity to better protect children, teachers and staff.

This bill utilizes existing dollars and does not ask for more money, it simply allows ISD's to open the door to the community for training IF there are available funds.

We appreciate the feedback from the school community on this legislation. The Committee Sub makes ISD participation completely voluntary and contingent upon approval by school safety staff at school districts.

Children at Risk and the Texas Family Leadership Council ask the Youth Health and Safety Committee to pass HB 1905 out of committee.

Sincerely,

Mandi Kimball

Vice President and Director of Government Affairs

Elva Mendoza

Self; Public Health Social Worker

Austin, TX

I support HB 1905. I agree with the bill author that it shouldn't be necessary; but it is. Legislators should be moving mountains to bring a culture of responsibility back to gun ownership and to close deadly loopholes that allow dangerous individuals to easily access firearms. Sadly, many in the legislature would rather side with the gun lobby than with Texas children. So here we are. Please, at the very least, pass HB 1905.