

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select
For HB 1927

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 7:44 PM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Lydia Ortega, dDr.

Self Emeritus Professor of Economics

Plano, TX

PARENTS AND LEGAL COUNSEL AS NEEDED SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GUARANTEE THE CHILD'S RIGHTS.
EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT FOR IMMEDIATE MEDICAL SUPPORT FROM THEIR PARENTS.
I STRONGLY SUPPORT A BILL THAT SUPPORTS PARENTS INTERVENTION IN THE MENTAL HEALTH DETENTION
OF THEIR CHILD.
THE SCHOOL DOES NOT HAVE MEDICAL RECORDS OR OTHER ESSENTIAL INFORMATION SPANING A PERIOD
OF TIME. ANY DECISIOIN BASED ON EPISODIC EVENTS
COULD INJURE THE CHILD AND RESULT IN SCHOOL LIABILITY.

Chris Donofrio

Self / Parent

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly support HB 1927.

I urge you to pass it out of committee.

I cannot believe that "peace officers" and our current system is so free to act in such a manner. And that the law gives no means to respond.

The text of this bill that doesn't include its proposed additions was an eye-opening experience for me. Especially as a parent.

The final text provides parents with rights and actions I already thought existed. If even as nothing more than common sense approaches. Now they will have the force of law.

Respectfully,

Chris J. Donofrio

Carrie Baker
Self
Lubbock, TX

Protecting children in intense circumstances takes a collaborative approach. Parents know their children. Parents know their child's history, and often know how to calm them. HB1927 ensures that parents have the opportunity help calm the immediate crisis, hopefully avoiding the trauma of institutionalization. By calming and helping their children, the hope is that the child no longer meets the criteria for detention and can be cared for in a more nurturing way. Help parents protect their children. Please support HB1927.

Jamie Haynes
Texans Wake Up
Canyon, TX

HB1927 - STRONGLY SUPPORT - I support this important bill that allows parents to intervene in the mental health detention of their child.

Alan Higginbotham
Self
Reklaw, TX

I strongly urge you to support HB 1927. You need to protect parent's rights to intervene in mental health detention of their child by school officials. Our children do not belong to the State.

Sue Silver, Collin Co. Precinct Chair
Self
McKinney, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1927. Currently schools are not required to notify or allow parents to intervene regarding the mental health detention of their child. Unfortunately, this is happening in Texas. Please allow parents to intervene in the mental health detention of their child.

Carolyn Lux
Self / Retired nurse
Fredericksburg, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. I strongly support this bill. Currently schools are not required to notify or allow parents to intervene regarding the mental health detention of their child. This will correct this problem. Parents need to remain number one with respect to decisions regarding their children.

Don Silver
self, retired
McKinney, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. Currently, schools are not required to notify or allow parents to intervene regarding the mental health detention of their child. Unbelievably, this is happening in Texas. This bill allows parents to intervene in the mental health detention of their child.

Linda Logan
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
Austin, TX

Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public testimony on HB 1927. My name is Linda Logan, and I am the Senior Public Policy Analyst at the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), registering on the bill.

TCDD is established by state and federal law and is governed by 27 board members, appointed by the Governor, 60% of whom are individuals with developmental disabilities or family members of individuals with disabilities. The Council's purpose in law is to encourage policy change so that people with disabilities have opportunities to be fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

HB 1927 would provide parents with greater opportunity to step in and take action when their child is apprehended for placement in emergency detention due to a mental health episode. It would protect a child from being detained and transported without the parent being informed, and ensure that law enforcement provides notice to the parent in a timely manner. Upon receiving notice, the parent would have the ability to take custody of their child to voluntarily seek treatment or services from a provider of the parent's choice, better ensuring that treatment is received from an appropriate entity that is already familiar with the child's history and needs.

The bill would provide a benefit to law enforcement by allowing them to transfer responsibility for the child to the parent and school. Additionally, it would prevent unnecessary stigma and trauma to the family that results from a child being taken away in handcuffs to emergency detention.

The need for emergency detention arises when a student evidences a mental disorder that requires immediate evaluation and treatment or services. Routinely relying on police as the intermediary in this situation unnecessarily criminalizes mental illness in children. Evidence does not suggest that this practice results in safer schools, but it does show that students with disabilities and students of color are disproportionately harmed by involving law enforcement. In instances where law enforcement does become involved due to a student's risk to themselves or others, HB 1927 would require the use of age-appropriate trauma-informed practices in responding to the situation.

Lastly, I will note that HB 1927 would prohibit the use of certain restraint devices against children under age 10 when apprehending them for emergency detention. This falls in line with a TCDD 2023 Public Policy Priority, which calls to "maximize the use of best practices and lessen the unnecessary use of dangerous restraint and seclusion procedures."

Overall, TCDD finds the aims of HB 1927 to be consistent with our mission, guiding principles, and policy priorities. Please feel free to contact us for additional information or if we can be of additional service.

Linda Logan
Senior Public Policy Analyst
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

Cathy Stroud, Mrs
Self
Gainesville, TX

I strongly urge you to pass this legislation which protects children and their families. This is a matter to be decided by the child's family not the school. Please support this bill HB2927. Thank you.

Juanita Lux
Retired
Lindale, TX

I strongly support this bill because I want parents to have control over the health issues of their children. This bill allows parents to intervene in the mental health detention of their child.

Linda Litzinger
Texas Parent to Parent - Public Policy Specialist
Austin, TX

Texas Parent to Parent is a statewide non-profit serving families of children with disability, mental health or significant healthcare need. We fully support this bill and thank Rep Hull for filing it. Thank you.

Tyler Bosserman
self
Austin, TX

I believe that a parent has the right to intervene in these instances and therefore I am for this bill.

Trista Tripp
Self
Austin, TX

I am 100% for this! I think it is very important as a parent to have the right to intervene in these circumstances.

Susan Burek
Self: I am a Parent and a parent advocate for people with disabilities
Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1927, regarding a parent's right to intervene in the apprehension of a student for an emergency detention.

This bill allows a peace officer to detain a person of any age without a warrant, if the peace officer believes that the person has a mental illness and is at substantial risk of serious harm to themselves or to others unless they are immediately restrained.

It also requires the peace officer to use age-appropriate trauma-informed practices to respond to the situation.

It also requires the peace officer to attempt to attempt to contact the child's parent or other person with a parental relationship with the child prior to the detention.

It also ensures the right of a parent or other person with a parental relationship to the child to intervene in the emergency detention of a child, including the right to take custody of the child and voluntarily seek treatment or services for the child from a provider of the parent's choice.

Finally, certain restraint devices are prohibited for use on children who are age 10 or younger.

PLEASE APPROVE HB 1927.

Thank you very much.

Kim Pruett
Self
Austin, TX

As a parent I am in support of this bill. Parent's rights are extremely important. Parents know their children best and we have clearly seen the results of a system raising our children are far worse than when parents are involved. Please support parents and encourage them to be involved.

Alejandro Tinoco

self

Austin, TX

A parent should have complete and utter say over what happens with their child. I am a parent and no power less than God has the right to intervene or decide on my behalf when it comes to my child. I will not tolerate any form of child detention, restraint, or restrictions. All parents should be informed and have the right to approve or disapprove beforehand, in ALL instances.

Cristin Woodruff

self -mother of children in Tx Public Schools

Lakeway, TX

I am writing in to say I am FOR HB 1927 as a parent I feel this is so important to preserve our parental rights especially when it comes to our children and taking them anywhere. Please pass HB 1927. Thank you!

eyarci dubow

self- parent

austin, TX

I am for this bill. I believe parents should have full rights to intervene in any situations involving their children.

Camilla Bassaly

Self

Lakeway, TX

I am for this bill... I agree it is the parents right to intervene and help determine best course of discipline and mental health care for their children.

Melissa Beckett

Self

Longview, TX

For