

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select  
For HB 2066

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 12:26 PM

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Hearing Date: March 27, 2023 2:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Sylvia Campbell  
self, retired  
The Woodlands, TX

Dear Members of the Youth Health & Safety Committee,  
I am writing in support of a very good bill, HB 2066. This bill addresses the fact that oftentimes children in a foster situation have a trauma response that may appear to be delinquent behavior. Then, instead of receiving treatment, they are arrested. These children need mental health care, not incarceration. Supporting HB 2066 is just the right thing to do.  
Thank you,  
Sylvia Campbell

Laura Weaver  
retired/self  
The Woodlands, TX

Please support HB 2066. Too many youths in foster care end up in the Juvenile Justice System. Often, these kids are acting out because they have been abused or suffered trauma and need counseling, not incarceration. By diverting these kids from Juvenile Justice, they can get the care they need and get a better start in life.

Carol Ortiz, Ms.  
Self/retired  
Montgomery, TX

Please support passage of HB 2066. Too often, young people in foster care facilities have a trauma response that looks like delinquent behavior and are then arrested instead of receiving treatment. This bill would help prevent so many foster children ending up caught in the juvenile justice system simply for lack of proper intervention in a behavioral crisis.

Mary abry  
Self  
Spring, TX

Those in our foster care system and those newly out need our state's special attention. Please support this bill so that our foster kids do not enter the Justice system unnecessarily. Their histories at the hands of adults make them more vulnerable and more in need of diversion and counsel rather than incarceration. Society has harmed these children. Please do all you can to help them be treated fairly.

Betty Daugherty, MS

self

The Woodlands, TX

I am asking the committee to approve House Bill 2066 . I am a retired social worker . I have been a CASA Volunteer, Trained Casa Worker, recruited Foster Parents, worked with Pregnant Adolence, child sexual abuse ,group homes,Alcohol and drug treatment programs. There can not be enough training programs for Foster parents, workers in any group home, law enforcement.The Foster population is growing and most of those kids act out due to trama and no family training. The first programs that get cut financially are training programs for program that involve children. Please vote yes.

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev.

Texas Women for Justice

CONROE, TX

I encourage you to vote in the affirmative for HB-2066. This bill helps foster children by requiring approved crisis response training for staff in foster facilities. It would also "direct local juvenile justice boards to include children in foster care facilities in their existing diversion policies and track how many of them are referred to the juvenile justice system." In a post about the bill, Texans Care for Children says "too often, young people in foster care facilities have a trauma response that looks like delinquent behavior and are then arrested instead of receiving treatment." Let us not allow this, but give all our children the direction, support and love they need so desperately.