

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select
For HB 2111

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

Chris Donofrio
Self / Gun safety advocate
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 2111.
I urge you to pass it out of committee.

It is a well-written bill. Reliance on law enforcement officers as security personnel is a very good way to go. We need well-trained professionals.

I do have my doubts, however, on its effectiveness. Having armed law enforcement in schools didn't stop the massacres we witnessed at Parkland and Robb Elementary. Especially Rob Elementary where there were so many and they refused to do anything but let more children be murdered. Disgusting.

I'm also worried about the psychological impact and trauma students, especially the younger ones, experience as schools, once a safe space, become more akin to prisons.

We need to address the real issue: assault rifles and lax gun safety laws.
But it doesn't appear that this will happen anytime soon.

In the meantime, HB 2111 is the only game in town.

Respectfully,
Chris J. Donofrio

Dorothy Shelley
self/retired teacher
Austin, TX

I am commenting on HB3 about the proposed bill to have to have an armed adult on a school campus. This will require many schools to have armed teachers on campus because they can't afford to hire a trained law enforcement officer. I retired in 2020 after working as a Special Education teacher for 25 years. The idea of someone wanting to arm teachers on public school campuses makes me cringe. It is an idea with so many possibilities of something going wrong. The overwhelming majority of teachers do not want to be armed. It would be easy for the guns to get into the wrong hands of someone with ill intent who is on the school campus. We could use the funding in better ways than arming the schools. An armed person on campus has not stopped school shootings from taking place. Uvalde was surrounded by armed personnel who didn't prevent that tragedy from taking place. We need to prevent gun violence by using evidence-based policies which include requiring background checks on all gun sales, red flag laws, strengthening storage requirements, and raising the age to buy firearms, and last but not least, banning the sale of assault weapons. It is not normal that our children live in fear that they will die from an active shooter on campus. My daughter is a teacher and I fear for her being in a job that has become so prone to school shootings. No teachers should have to be afraid to go to work because of the possibility of an active shooter being on campus. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.