

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 2229

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 2:46 PM

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Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Alice Yi, Chair
Austin Asian Community Civic Coalition
Austin, TX

On behalf of AACCC, we support this bill.

Mykel Matthews
Self
Kyle, TX

I think that this act would be a great way to provide resources to people who otherwise may feel there's no solution to their problem. When I'm in a situation of abuse it sometimes feels like the police can only do so much to help you so this extra step would go a long way for a lot of people.

Talitha Brant
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support the passing of the Natalia Cox Act

Derrick Jackson, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

I was a freshman in college when I met Natalia. She was one of the most down to earth person I had ever met. She was intellectually gifted and had a heart of compassion. She was an advocate for her community and the environment. A person who you knew would make a significant impact where ever she went. When her life tragically ended it left a mark on my heart, a person I would never forget. But, I was not closest to her, there were many others before me I'm the closeness of the relationship. If I was any closer to Natalia, I'd want to know her circumstance and the severity immediately.

Iman Raji
Self
Austin, TX

This bill could prevent so many people from dying like Natalia Cox did. It is so necessary to provide help for people, especially when they ask for it.

Drew Corlew
Self
Houston, TX

In full support of HB 2229 to protect victims of family and dating violence while educating the community and law enforcement officials on how to handle these situations.

Moanah Mims
Gates 2Recovery
Arcola, TX

Certainly to implement this kind of awareness is very important and in addition to that given students and their peers the tools and abilities to identify character development like people who would be potential love bombers, or narcissist, character that they wouldn't be a to detect on social media platforms and dating sites allowing a person to mask who they really are before going down that road of dating horror

William Ross Pumfrey
Myself
Austin, TX

I urge the committee to vote favorably on HB 2229, relating to the notice given to certain victims of family violence.

We need to make certain that victims of family violence are told what their legal rights are and what services are available to them. They are victims, and they are our neighbors and friends, and we as Texans must make sure they receive as much help as possible through the public servants we have assigned to answering the call.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kayla Weir
Self
Frisco, TX

I have had the pleasure of meeting Natalia's parents while dealing with my own homicide grief. My brother tortured and murdered our grandmother, who was like our mother back in August. Also a victim of Domestic Violence. There is no loss like homicide loss, the grief is immense. Bills like this will save lives.

Shauna Bick
NATALIA COX ACT
Fate, TX

Asking for the House support in House Bill 2229 being submitted in honor of homicide victim, Natalia Cox. Having supportive information for victims of family or dating violence about their legal rights and resources that are available to them, this includes organizations they can contact for assistance, protective orders, and how to exit a lease and move to safety. This information provided through brochures, distributed to law enforcement, college campus officers, medical professionals or others is essential. Getting this information to victims of family or dating violence can help them stay safe from further violence.

Jaylin Turner
Natalia Cox
Houston, TX

Victims knowing their options after they have been targeted is literally a matter of life and death. Knowing what precautions can be taken and what has saved others is imperative to survival. Unfortunately, Natalia was not given that guidance and it cost her her life. She was an absolute force and a light that this world absolutely needed. In a time where women are constantly being stripped of their rights, the very least law enforcement can do is share best practices, resources, and legal rights so that attackers cannot easily find their victims and victims can make more informed decisions about next steps. This bill will prevent families from experiencing what the Cox family and many other families have endured. I implore you to pass this bill and do SOMETHING.

Imani Stinson
Huston- Tillotson University / self
Manor, TX

I am in support of this bill. As a recent victim myself still dealing with my case unless my attorney told me this information I would have not known. The incident happened of my house in front of my 3 year old son. I do not feel safe and especially now with trial coming up. To know that I can relocate and that there are services to help me pay for it means alot to me.

nedra warren
Huston=Tillotson University
austin, TX

I support this effort in memory of my sorority sister and alum.

Carla Emery-Culberson
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,Inc
Smithville, TX

Support this bill so others do not fall victim of negligence and die with unheard cries for help

Jonna LaGrone-Haynes
Self, Realtor
Georgetown, TX

I am in favor in passing this bill. I am an African American woman who supports a better system, process, protection and efficiencies for all people in similar situations, but specifically for collegiates and young adult women that look like me, who may be away from home without a support system, who may encounter unstable males and who may not be taking seriously when complaints and request for help is sought.

Gloria Frazier
Yourself
Austin, TX

The passing of HB 2229 Natalia Cox Act is a MUST. It is important police and medical personnel provide a standard set of information that are clear and concise during domestic disturbance calls to victims impacted. We must have stronger domestic and protective order laws. This bill contains additional information to assist with obtaining services. One crucial feature of the bill is safety planning. Many domestic victims are so overwhelmed by violence they're enduring or/and have endured, they don't know how to protect themselves or get out of harmful situations safely.

Please vote to pass bill ensuring domestic victims or/and families will have all necessary information regarding legal rights. This includes filing criminal charges, obtaining emergency protective order and termination of leases due to threat.

Everett Grey

Self

Austin, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 2229. No person should have their life taken for turning down a date.

Natalie Masino

self

San Antonio, TX

I fully support this bill because people need to know what they can do if they find themselves in a situation like Natalia Cox's. Too often, victims are made to feel that they are being dramatic or overstating a threat. This bill will help lessen that stigma by clearly directing people to the resources that will support them.

Jasmine Windon

Epsilon Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Austin, TX

As a Black woman myself, I am in support of the bill as protection for those in domestic violence situation. Living in the city as young college students makes us a vulnerable population. We need a bill to help us with protecting ourselves from aggressors.

Hailey Ross

Me

Houston, TX

I support this bill

Diari Dabney

Epsilon Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Austin, TX

As a young African American woman living in Austin, I would feel a lot safer and comfortable knowing that if I was ever put into the same situation similar to Natalia Cox's that this proposed Bill will allow me to take any safety precautions necessary to continue to live my life securely.

Tori Hicks

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Austin, TX

I support the movement of this bill.

Essence Jackson

Self

Houston, TX

Natalia was absolutely the sweetest, I hope that we can honor her love, and grace as a true leader that loved everything and everyone around her. By passing this bill we will take a step in the right direction, of having the resources to do what is best. Nat is truly missed by many, but her love is forever.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Kennedy Thompson

Self

Georgetown, TX

Nothing was done the numerous times Natalia reached out for help from law enforcement. She was given the run around and placed in harms way because the people who were supposed to help; did nothing. Natalia is so loved and missed. The extremity of the danger she was in, was completely ignored and ended in the loss of her life. We can't get her back. Passing this bill will give people something Natalia didn't have. It is truly necessary.

Andrea Fresch

"Self"

Austin, TX

Natalia Cox was a loving girl who always did things the right way. When she was first attacked she immediately left her residence and followed up with law enforcement. Natalia contacted law enforcement multiple times and received nothing. She was failed by the Justice System due to lack of help and access to available resources. If she had been at least guided in the right direction she would've taken the necessary course of actions. This bill will provide an opportunity for the Justice and Health Services Departments in Texas to provide their citizens with resources to protect themselves when threatened by domestic violence in a major direction to further improve our system.

Kimberly Winzer

Self

Irving, TX

Please pass this bill!!! This bill is very near and dear to me, because one of my best friends and her family was affected by dating violence. This bill is important because the victims of these crimes leave behind loved ones that don't know where to turn once these crimes take place. This bill will help promote resources for these families in need of support. Let's not leave the loved ones of these victims with nowhere to turn. Please pass this bill.

Taleah Hawthorne

Self, Marketing

New Caney, TX

I support HB2229 and believe everyone should have access to resources when dealing with cases of domestic violence.

Chris Hart

self

Kingwood, TX

I support the passing of this bill because the younger generation need adequate and efficient assistance when dealing with family/domestic violence.

Cameka Hart

Align Wellness & Beauty Spa

Kingwood, TX

I have worked in Social Services for years, helping women and families escape domestic violence situations and getting them into shelters. I have spent hours on the phone looking for shelters, helping women understand their rights, how to get protective orders, and having their credit destroyed due to leaving an apartment in the middle of the night for their own safety. Information is out there but is not easily accessible. I am honored to know there is a chance for Texas will have this information ready and available to ALL. Natalia Cox is just one of many. Texas help us save men, woman, and children understand their rights, and understand how to get to safety. Look at the news people are getting killed daily. We need to do our part to help in any way possible to save lives. Natalia Cox is my niece, a resourceful, extremely intelligent young woman whose life was cut short. Natalia is not the first and she will not be the last. Texans need HB 2229- Natalia Cox Act as a valuable resource for each community in the State. I support House Bill 2229. SAVE TEXAN LIVES with HB2229.

Tamara Hill
Self
Manor, TX
Natalia Cox Act

De'Ja Nelson, Ms.
self
Buda, TX

Please pass this bill Natalia did not deserve this , nor did anyone who lost their life to domestic violence. Women deserve to know their rights & should be protected.

Christian Hart
self
Kingwood, TX

I feel this bill is necessary because had this information been previously accessible, and easily, to the public, victims would know what to do if and when the time came that they need it. It is truly a sad thing that victims of domestic and/or dating violence are put into these situations and cannot escape because of a lease, or unknown legal rights. I truly feel if Natalia Cox had had this information she would still be here today.

Clarissa Stratton
Self
Arlington, TX

Please listen and help people ??

Keysha Godfrey
Self
Dallas, TX

It's needed! Thank you!

Kailynn Bunton
Self/Educator
Waxahachie, TX

In regards to HB 2229 I believe that it is very important to protect and provide victims of domestic/family violence of their rights and resources. This will be a major step in the right direction, by ensuring there is a system in place to protect victims and spread awareness. It is my hope that this bill is passed to help prevent future tragedies from occurring. By changing the approach this allows victims to have a voice and know they are not alone!

Sehar Knight
Self
Garland, TX

This bill needs to pass! Please pass this bill and help victims of domestic violence know their rights and be able to protect themselves.

Ruth Mekonnen
Self
Austin, TX

People have the right to feel safe and protected in their homes by all means possible. Protection of human lives should come over other circumstances.

Cory Johnson

Self/ Access Solution Tech Service

Aubrey, TX

As a father, uncle, brother, and son I cannot think of any valid reason to not make readily available any resources necessary in order to further protect my loved ones should they need. I have witnessed more family violence scenarios than I would like to recount and can say that it is often difficult for said "victim" to identify as such, and even more difficult to act accordingly and seek necessary help and support. I believe having a clear "what's next" path forward defining what is available and who do I call is imperative, simply knowing where to turn can make all the difference. I urge you all to approve HB 2229, protecting those we love even when we are unaware that they need protection 100% just makes sense.

LaShonda Woolfolk

Self

Aubrey, TX

I believe this bill should be passed and the victims should be made aware of every resource available to them to help them out and prevent situations where their lives are lost in the end. There are too many stories of lives lost due to family and dating violence and the fact that there just wasn't enough done by the aggressor for the police to do anything when the victim felt threatened. I believe a bill like this will educate those in need and provide them with other resources to turn to if there is nothing the police can do in the situation. Please pass this bill and help save lives.

Stephanie Woolfolk

Self

Grand Prairie, TX

By passing this bill you're saving many from death, trauma or life threatening injuries. Our protection lacks in many ways, starting with our government lack of transparency and or ability to simply inform victims of their rights. My prayers are that you pass this bill before another life is lost.

Tiffany Woolfolk

Self

Mansfield, TX

HB 2229

Lisa Woolfolk

Self

Cedar Hill, TX

I support this bill.

Katy Fendrich-Turner

Self as a Texas resident. Fundraiser

Austin, TX

Please pass this important bill out of committee. Thank you!

Amanda Masino, Dr.

Self, Associate Professor, Huston-Tillotson University

Austin, TX

My name is Amanda Masino. I'm Associate Professor of Biology and Chair of Natural Sciences at Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas. I am also Chair of our faculty senate body. I write to ask for your support for HB 2229, the Natalia Cox Act.

Natalia was a graduating Senior in my Department when she was killed in March Of 2021. She took several classes with me, and she even worked as one of my research scholars on an ambitious project studying urban wildlife. Huston-Tillotson is a small and close-knit campus, and faculty really get to know their students. Natalia's death was a tremendous blow to our entire community of faculty, students, and staff. It hurts my heart that she is gone so young. We look to launch our students into the next stage of their lives. Having to say goodbye instead is tragic and wrong.

This Bill, the Natalia Cox Act, will help Texans facing situations like Natalia's to get the information they need to protect themselves. It will ensure that the Health and Human Services Commission includes critical details about rights and resources that can be shared across the state. And it directs police, medical personnel, and campus police to share this information in cases of family and dating violence.

It is a common sense measure that has great potential to save lives. Lives like Natalia's.

It is hard when someone dies too young to make any sense of why. Natalia was compassionate, intelligent, full of determination and potential. It is a fitting tribute to lend her name to an Act that will help others.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natasha Jones

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill it will save many lives!

Renee Jones

Self

Pflugerville, TX

I support HB2229. Please provide all necessary information to victims of domestic violence to help educate them on where they can receive help and their rights. When a victim is faced with this kind of betrayal from someone they trusted, the last thing they need in this stressful time is a feeling of hopelessness due to a lack of information for assistance.

Kendra Westfall

Natalia Cox

Fort Worth, TX

Natalia was a beautiful human being who cared about others, the earth, and the animals. She has a beautiful family, great grades, wonderful friends and had such a bright future before her life was so suddenly taken after only two dates with someone. Please support victims of DV to ensure that this unnecessary loss and tragedy never happens again!

Bobbie Smith

Self

Austin, TX

I support!

Daphne Woolfolk
Self
Arlington, TX

Please help protect and save lives by providing important information regarding dating and violence against women.

George Marmell
self - academic advisor
Austin, TX

Please help ensure that victims of family violence are aware of the resources available and their rights to support and protection.

Jennifer Rouse
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Passing this bill will help save lives and victims family's !!

Alejandra Puerto
self
Austin, TX

please support this bill!

Tanea Snowden
Self
Mansfield, TX

Please help victims of family violence or dating violence easily access resources needed to get help.

Freda Mills
Austin Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Round Rock, TX

This bill is important to friends and family of those experiencing threats of domestic violence. We lost a beautiful, smart, talented, young Hustin Tillotson collegiate named Natalia Cox who reported that she was being harassed and threatened to Austin PD. They took the report and gave her no other information as to how to keep herself safe, or what next steps she should take in terms of relocation, etc.

The abuser came to her apartment and killed her within 2 weeks of them meeting. Systems need to be put in place for anyone experiencing this situation so that they don't end up dead like Natalia.

I blame the system for thinking less of her and shrugging her off as just another black women having boyfriend problems! This mentality can end up loss of life as it did in the case of Natalia.

Please pass this bill and save the lives of countless numbers of women, men and children being threatened of violence.

Sincerely,
Freda C. Mills, Member
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Round Rock, Tx. Resident

Mercedes Woolfolk

Self

Arlington, TX

This bill is needed

Amanda Chavez

Self

Irving, TX

We need this. Thank you

Sheridan Woolfolk

Self

Arlington, TX

Protect women

Jesurobo Enobakhare Jr

Self

Dallas, TX

We must do everything possibly to protect women from violence. I support this common sense approach to informing women of their rights. Please vote YES!