

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 2572

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

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Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Aaryce Hayes
Disability Rights Texas
Austin, TX

Disability Rights Texas supports a central registry of names of individuals who abused or neglected a child to better protect Texas children. Aaryce Hayes, Policy Specialist.

Christine Bryan, VP, IT and Public Policy
Clarity Child Guidance Center
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Clarity Child Guidance Center is for HB 2572. Clarity is a non-profit providing inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services to children ages 3-17. Clarity's patient census is comprised of 60% low-income, state-supported children through Medicaid, CHIP, STAR Health, STAR Kids and low-cost contracts with area local mental health authorities.

It's not uncommon we see kids that have had interactions with DFPS, HHSC and/or TJJD. It's also not uncommon that one agency may not specifically know about those interactions from another. Due to privacy concerns, it may make sense to have some areas of data silos; but if a state agency is aware of established abuse, DFPS must be made aware and the registry is a great starting point. As we continue to work to solidify services and strengthening families upstream, we need to make sure that those that have been disqualified from the programs are known across the board.

On behalf of our kids and families, we respectfully ask that the committee support HB 2572.