

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select
For HB 2780

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:17 PM

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Hearing Date: March 21, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Janie Brittain
Self - Retired
Garland, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2780 (and its companion SB728). These bills codify Biden-backed gun control that passed in the U.S. Congress last summer (S.2938). Biden referred to it as "the most significant gun [control] legislation enacted in nearly 30 years." HB2780 will prohibit adult residents of Texas with certain juvenile offenses from possessing firearms due to indiscretions as a youth.

Worse, the bill FORCES state reporting to NICS on ALL future juvenile inpatient mental health cases and opens the records of individuals retroactively who received inpatient mental care after the age of 16 – including the overwhelming majority of cases where there is NO violent risk, and the mental health issue is resolved. More plainly stated, SB 728 discourages kids from coming forward to seek help for mental health issues by stigmatizing them and removing their Second Amendment rights for the rest of their lives. NICS is a broken system that needs to be abolished, not expanded.

In fact, more than 94% of firearms purchase denials from NICS are false positives, meaning 94% of those individuals are falsely denied — often because individuals have the same name, or a similar name, to someone who is prohibited from possessing firearms. Simply put, funneling millions more names into this already flawed system is a recipe for disaster.

Bob J Brown, Rev
Self
Garland, TX

Mr Congressman: OPPOSE HB 2780 because NICS is a broken system that needs to be abolished, not expanded. In fact, more than 94% of firearms purchase denials from NICS are false positives, meaning 94% of those individuals are falsely denied.

Regards, Rev. Bob J Brown

john miknavich
garland t party
garland, TX

Please review this bill for a better alternative. This will be used to restrict firearms from many folks who should be allowed to possess them.

Jennifer Birkholz, Mrs

Self parent

Round Rock, TX

I support this.

Hilliard Brittain

Self

Garland, TX

If passed, this bill would discourage kids from coming forward to seek help for mental health issues by stigmatizing them and removing their Second Amendment rights for the rest of their lives. Furthermore, NICS is a broken system that needs to be abolished, not expanded. Please vote against this intrusion on 2nd Amendment freedoms.

Gregory Nieman II, Esq.

Self, Attorney

Dallas, TX

This seemingly benevolent legislation will have an undue chilling effect on Texans' Second Amendment Rights.

Prohibiting adult residents of Texas with certain juvenile offenses from possessing firearms due to their youthful indiscretions - with no regard to their offense or rehabilitation - is wrong.

Worse, this bill FORCES state reporting to NICS on ALL future juvenile inpatient mental health cases and opens the records of individuals retroactively who received inpatient mental care after the age of 16 – including the overwhelming majority of cases where there is NO violent risk, and the mental health issue is resolved. Of course the effect of this will be to discourage kids from coming forward to seek help for mental health issues by stigmatizing them and removing their Second Amendment rights for the rest of their lives.

NICS is a broken system that needs to be abolished, not expanded. More than 94% of firearms purchase denials from NICS are false positives, meaning 94% of those individuals are falsely denied — often because individuals have the same name, or a similar name, to someone who is prohibited from possessing firearms. Simply put, funneling millions more names into this already flawed system is a recipe for disaster.

I urge you to uphold your oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitutional rights of Texans, and thus reject this bill.

Calista Herbert

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Jacob Wilson

Self - CPA

Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 2780. I thank Representative Leach for authoring HB 2780 and Senator Huffman for authoring the Senate version SB 728. It's encouraging that the Texas Legislature wants to take meaningful steps to reduce gun violence, while also preserving the rights of responsible adults to own weapons which are necessary for self defense. I am very interested to watch what happens with the other bills that the House Select Committee on Community Safety is considering, and see what other solutions might be found that may reduce gun violence while also protecting responsible adults' right to defend themselves.

Dennis Tibbs
Self
Magnolia, TX

Absolutely against this bill

Elizabeth Hopkins
Precinct 1035
Little Elm, TX

I am against this bill as it simply makes no sense! Children should not be purchasing a firearm. Period.

Dallas Kennedy
Self
Odessa, TX

Many children who suffer abuse face a long road to recovery, but they do recover. I spend 17 years working with CPS and treatment centers. I have seen first hand how children have suffered, but I have also seen their resiliency. This bill will threaten the Constitutional rights of a person to keep and bare arms because they received treatment when they were 8 years old. There is no way a person should face a lifetime of punishment because they acted out at a young age after being victimized by the adults who were supposed to protect

Aaryce Hayes
Disability Rights Texas
Austin, TX

Disability Rights Texas supports HB 2780 which will better clarify and ensure compliance with federal firearm background checks. Aaryce Hayes, Policy Specialist.

Tim Harry
Self - chemist
Odessa, TX

This bill is dangerous. This has potential to remove the rights of someone to own a gun through no fault of their own over something that happened to them as a child. This does not protect, rather it makes another victim a victim yet again

Ned Luscombe
Retired registered nurse
Gardendale, TX

This bill is a red flag law must be voted down

Jennifer Woodall
Self
Odessa, TX

Vote NO! This is a dangerous bill and infringement upon our right to bear arms. Many children are treated for psychological issues but later fully recover. This should not hinder them into adulthood. Give an inch and take a mile! No way!

Terry Senne
Self
Denton, TX

VOTE NO!

Ala Higginbotham

self

Reklaw, TX

I strongly urge you to oppose/vote down this HB 2780. This is just another tool to deny 2nd Amendment rights. It's joined by the attempts to use ";mental health" as a way to control thinking and those that don't go along will be tagged with mental health issues.

Dennis Scott

Self

Fulshear, TX

I do not support this bill.

Kris Kittle

self

Fort Worth, TX

Please vote NO on this bill. It is a very slippery slope. It infringes on our rights to own a gun. VOTE NO.

Sue Evenwel

Myself

Mt. Pleasant, TX

This may appear to be good, but the consequences will be a disaster. To prohibit an individual from owning a firearm based on a mental diagnosis as a child, takes Texans down a slippery slope. Vote NO

Mark Russell

Self

Houston, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to HB 2780. I strongly oppose HB 2780, as I have multiple concerns with this bill and I believe it to be unconstitutional on several grounds.

First, this bill is a violation of the Second Amendment, as it is an infringement on the right to purchase and bear firearms.

Second, this bill is an invasion of privacy, as it requires the reporting of personal mental health and intellectual disability information to a federal background check system. This is a violation of the Fourth Amendment, as it enables warrant-less seizures of personal information by the federal government.

Third, this bill is a deprivation of due process and therefore a violation of the Fifth Amendment. This bill will potentially deprive people of their Second Amendment right to bear arms and potentially deprive people of their ability to purchase property (firearms) when they have not committed a crime or been convicted of a crime through due process of law. It is not a crime to be diagnosed with a mental health condition or an intellectual disability.

This bill will assist unconstitutional red flag laws and unconstitutional background check laws. I strongly oppose HB 2780.

Thank you.

Jena Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to HB 2780. I strongly oppose HB 2780, as this bill will assist unconstitutional red flag laws and unconstitutional background check laws.

Thank you.

Dee Walsh
self/retired
Grapevine, TX

Support this basic legislation that will further protect the general population from potential gun violence.

Maureen Voosen
SELF - PUBLIC EDUCATION PARENT
Austin, TX

Support - helps close loopholes and will make our community safer.

Lyra Justiss
Self
Grapevine, TX

I oppose this bill. Mental health issues in childhood should have no bearing on the rights of owning a firearm as n adult.

Roberta Dobie
Self, Retired
Three Rivers, TX

Mental health is subjective and can change. This bill should NOT be approved.

Brent McCain
Myself
Bruceville, TX

I am AGAINST HB 2780 for the simple fact that the NICS system has a high false positive rate. Also, once a juvenile becomes an adult and they are healed from whatever mental illness they HAD, how are they removed from the system?

Lonnie Lassmann
self
San Antonio, TX

I DO NOT support HB 2780.

Richard Walsh
self, retired, part-time church music director
Grapevine, TX

I support this legislation.

Kathy Ponce
self
Maypearl, TX

This is a Red Flag law. I oppose HB2780

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair

(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)
CISCO, TX

We oppose HB 2780. As filed, it would prohibit an individual from owning a firearm if they received a mental health diagnosis in a treatment center as a child. This is a slippery slope we do not want to entrust to the NICS system. Please vote "No" on HB 2780.