

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
For HB 2883

Compiled on: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 5:20 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 28, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Daryoush Zamhariri
Myself
Fort Worth, TX

This bill would result in an extraordinary amount of wasted funds, resources, and manpower.

Raul Moran, Don
The people ???
El Paso, TX

This goes against what Texans want. Put them on the MEXICAN border. That's where our real problems are coming from. We the people do NOR support this bill

Jesse Williams
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill or it's purpose.

Mandi Hughes
self
Kyle, TX

Do not support this

Christian Luna
Self University student
Harlingen, TX

I do not support this bill I am against our state enacting this into law.

Zachary Sharp-Bloise

Self

Magnolia, TX

This bill will just cause greater tensions and unrest with average citizens trying to travel for family and work. It's fear mongering and would just exasperate the ridiculous amount of racial profiling our police force already does. If this bill goes through I'll be doing everything in my power to help your opponent in the primaries.

Jared Sampson

Self; Engineering student and small business owner.

Houston, TX

I am vehemently against this bill because it is unconstitutional at its core, and is seeking to further punish and prosecute nonviolent crimes. I do not support interstate checkpoints inside the United States of any kind for the same reason. The taxpayer money that would be funding these unconstitutional checkpoints would be unpopular to say the least! Texas should be moving toward legalization, and targeting interstate travel should be reserved for actual crimes, like human trafficking.

Sandra Ortiz

Self

Humble, TX

I don't support this bill!

Romana Harding

Self, Disabled Veteran

Cleveland, TX

This is a terrible bill, and I am completely against it!!! Shame on the author of this! We need less criminality regarding cannabis, not more!

Laurie Zapinski

Self

MANOR, TX

I do not support this bill, how are people to be randomly selected for illegal searches based simply on their travel routes this is a complete violation of everyone's right

Betty Williams

Self, front desk clerk

Elgin, TX

I do not support this bill.

Marcella Tincher

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I am not in support of this bill. I have family in New Mexico and drive there frequently. I believe this bill would be a waste of tax payer dollars that could be better used on more critical issues.

Ruben Lazcano

Self

El paso, TX

I don't agree with this HB.

Brennan Avants, CW2, US Army, Retired

Self

Boerne, TX

I do not support this bill. This would allow the harassment of innocent citizens, create unnecessary travel delays and subject the populace to "random" searches of personal property without probable cause. Unnecessary use of LEOs and a complete waste of taxpayer dollars.

David Jentis

Self

El Paso, TX

Why would you do this? I am an HVAC Technician that often drives between New Mexico and Texas daily. Time is money and this will cost myself as well as other hard working Texans money.

This is about something else though correct? The need to be prejudiced against brown people on the states western and southern borders is it not?

Perhaps checkpoint at the exits of every liquor store parking lot checking for blood alcohol content is not on the table?

Loren Simpson

Swlf

Lago Vista, TX

This is unconstitutional! No checkpoints coming into or out of Texas!

Jeffery Seiffert

Self Web Programmer

Tomball, TX

There are enough problems in Texas without wasting Law Enforcement time on checking vehicles crossing the border between New Mexico and Texas.

With all the Illegal aliens getaways that should be found and all the criminal activity going on around Texas drugs should be the least of our worries coming from New Mexico when tons are coming across the open border in Texas.

And worse than all that even more Blacks and Hispanics will be racially profiled by Law Enforcement as they already do now and be pulled over and harassed. To say otherwise would be a lie.

This is a bad Bill and Texas doesn't need any more bad bills on the books.

Skye Fredericks

self

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill stands in direct contradiction to what the majority of Texas residents have stated that they want— decreased criminalization of marijuana (source here: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/texas/article/4-5-texans-favor-decriminalizing-marijuana-poll-17759553.php>). We do not need more policing along Texas borders or more folks in Texas prisons for marijuana possession.

Bertha Hudson

Self

Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. I do not use marijuana but I do not believe that others should be penalized for using it. I support decriminalizing marijuana

Maribel Martinez

Dope Moms 915

El Paso, TX

As a member of the community, it is unconstitutional to proceed with passing this bill. Texas declared DWI checkpoints unconstitutional in 1994 in *Holt vs The State*. Therefore, if checkpoints and resources are being used for a plant, it's only fair to also fund & place multiple Checkpoints throughout the different highways in the city and borders.. check points for drunk drivers as they seems to be an ongoing issue for the city. As a community, this city can use the resources to fight against the increasing and alarming trend we've seen over the last few years in relation to drivers speeding and swerving on the wrong side of these highways. Multiple lives have been damaged and lost due to bigger issues this area has, such as drunk drivers. As a responsible consumer, I ask you to please educate yourselves more on cannabis and the amazing benefits it offers vs this imaginary stigma & incorrect information that continues to be spread around. Are check points a good idea? Absolutely! But only if used to fight the real problem affecting this state and country.. ALCOHOL. With alcohol comes violence, speeding, motor vehicle accidents.. can we please address those issues with the same passion, effort, and resources?? Asking for the state of Texas.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I hope you can reconsider and see what a waste of resources this is going to be. Please choose THE RIGHT THING to do for your state and country.. this is 2023, not the 1940s. Have a great day!

Veronica Rollins

Dope Moms

El Paso, TX

This is going to send people straight to street vendors which is unsafe. i was sexually assaulted once and people just want to get their medicine. you are increasing violence, sexual assault of a perfectly safe substance. We are working hard to decriminalize Cannabis and this is moving in the opposite direction that ALL TEXANS want.

Victoria Calderon

Self/ federal worker

Horizon, TX

As a federal worker who does night shift, the amount of drunk drivers I see and the amount of times I have almost been killed is ridiculous compared to the amount of police I see out in the street during the night. Yet using police officers to instead establish checkpoints for people coming in from New Mexico is absolutely sickening. Do better for the everyday person trying to get to work rather than trying to imprison people for misdemeanors.

Joshua Martinez

Houstonians for Responsible Cannabis Reform

Houston, TX

We do not support this bill, We are AGAINST our state enacting this into law.

Dulce Flores

Self / freelance photographer

Canyon, TX

I do not agree with this bill proposal. The DPS should use their resources elsewhere. Texas isn't a separate country, and it shouldn't feel like it is when coming home from a neighboring state.

Katharine Neill Harris

Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, Drug Policy Program

Houston, TX

I respectfully and strongly oppose HB 2883. Most Texans, and most Republicans, support decriminalizing cannabis possession. This bill would move the state in the opposite direction of the will of its residents. Texans strongly believe in personal liberty and limited government. HB 2883 directly contradicts these values.

HB 2883 would not improve public safety or deter the use and availability of cannabis products. It would waste law enforcement resources that can be spent in better ways than monitoring the state border with New Mexico.

HB 2883 wouldn't make the public safer but it would certainly burden individuals with harmful and excessive legal consequences.

A criminal conviction reduces employment opportunities and earning potential; renders an individual ineligible for student loans and subsidized housing; interferes with parental rights; increases the likelihood of future legal involvement; and contributes to higher stress levels, lower quality of life, and acute and chronic adverse health outcomes. Even if an individual is not convicted, they may still have a criminal record that is accessible to police and potential employers.

I respect our elected officials enough to trust that they are aware of the collateral consequences of legal involvement. So perhaps the motivation for this bill is a strong conviction in the dangers of cannabis use, or a belief that people who use cannabis are criminals or deviants who deserve punishment. But the collateral consequences of legal involvement are worse than any potential harm associated with using cannabis. And the people who use it aren't dangerous criminals—they're your friends, family, and neighbors; they're the people who staff your offices, take care of your lawns, do your taxes, fix your computers, cook your 4-star dinners, give you legal advice, and teach your children.

Older adults and veterans who use cannabis for medical reasons would be harmed by this law, as would young men and women whose potential for a joyful and prosperous life would be severely diminished by a criminal conviction. Texans who travel to New Mexico for cannabis products would almost certainly prefer to buy these products legally in their home state. The state refuses to provide this option.

Meanwhile, businesses in New Mexico will legally profit from the sale of the same products that create a lifetime of negative consequences for Texas residents. Arresting and prosecuting otherwise law-abiding Texans for possessing a drug that is legal for most American adults to consume does not benefit our state.

The provision allowing officers to stop drivers they believe with "reasonable suspicion" may be bringing controlled substances into the state is legally questionable and will essentially amount to demographic-based profiling.

Texas should reduce penalties for cannabis possession, not create more.

Ron Campbell

Retired Army/social worker. Something Rep King knows nothing about!

Canyon, TX

Why are you whining about weed when you have an extresouthern border? Texas legislators are stupid, you included, because all you seem to want to do is restrict everyone who doesn't believe the same way you do. All you display is hate. The Texas Panhandle doesn't need more of that crap! You hate ethnicities. Other religions. You hate women and children! Otherwise you'd fix the CPS system. But no. Squeeze the taxpayer. Fill your coffers at the expense of everyone else.

Alan Staton
Self
Houston, TX

Absolutely against this enroachment of freedom.
I have always imagined Texas as the land of freedom. No so anymore.
Let's NOT make Texas more of a police state!
Thanks for considering comments.

Raymond Tompkins
Self
Sugarland, TX

We need more checkpoints to and from our border with Mexico not New Mexico human trafficking is far worse then ant other trafficking STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!!!!

Shawn Meredith
Representing myself. Administrative Assistant
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Jordan Paredes, Mr.
Self / Disabled Veteran
Houston, TX

Hello and good day to you. I am a disabled Army veteran with ongoing mental health issues that wholeheartedly supports legalization and or decriminalization of cannabis, cannabis is and has been the only reason I'm still alive to this day. Decriminalization has already been passed in multiple cities in Texas. You wanting to establish checkpoints now all of a sudden because of cannabis legalization of a neighboring state is infuriating and a complete unproductive use of state resources and the people's time, you need to put more priority and focus on the real crime at hand that endangers people's lives, not making criminals out of ignorant control over a harmless plant that has truly shown not to be deadly and disruptive to the community like alcohol, cigarettes, and actual dangerous illicit drugs have continued to be. The majority of the people in the United States and Texas have shown their committed increasing support. Stop with the pushback, use our taxes and the states resources wisely take heed to my opinion it's just one of the countless many thank you for your time, and for your consideration.

Leo McDowell, Mr.
Veteran
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO on this bill. Its provisions and execution of which would constitute an unreasonable search without cause; A violation of personal & constitutional rights to privacy; Represents unlawful search and seizure; And denies equal protection under the law & a presumption of innocence.

Jordan Paredes, Mr.
Self / Disabled Veteran
Houston, TX

I am against HB 2883

Hello and good day to you. I am a disabled Army veteran with ongoing mental health issues that wholeheartedly supports legalization and or decriminalization of cannabis, cannabis is and has been the only reason I'm still alive to this day. Decriminalization has already been passed in multiple cities in Texas. You wanting to establish checkpoints now all of a sudden because of cannabis legalization of a neighboring state is infuriating and a complete unproductive use of state resources and the people's time, you need to put more priority and focus on the real crime at hand that endangers people's lives, not making criminals out of ignorant control over a harmless plant that has truly shown not to be deadly and disruptive to the community like alcohol, cigarettes, and actual dangerous illicit drugs have continued to be. The majority of the people in the United States and Texas have shown their committed increasing support. Stop with the pushback, use our taxes and the states resources wisely take heed to my opinion it's just one of the countless many. Thank you for your time, and for your consideration.

Michael Weinstein
Rebel Dreads Corp
Dallas, TX

Instead of adding checkpoints and wasting Texans tax dollars to stop cannabis coming into Texas from New Mexico. How about all of you politicians create a medical/ recreational cannabis program for Texans. This is what over 68% of Texans want. Colorado would be great State to follow how they started their cannabis program. We are the 2nd most populous state so think of all those tax dollars that could assist with education and child welfare. We rank near the last in both of those categories in the country. The tax dollars could also assist with infrastructure.

Leo McDowell
Veteran self
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO in opposition to thisBill...Since when does the lawful use of a public thoroughfare constitute probable cause for involuntary search and seizure?

Aldo Ramon
SELF
Pecos, TX

Waste of Tax payer money and time - plus is profiling over medicine? We are better than this!

Julie Bray, MA Clinical Psychology
Planet Earth
Lubbock, TX

As a therapist, I am in support of cannabis for mental health and appalled this is still an issue with Texas always being the last to make positive changes. It is our human right to have access to Earth's medicines. I was against it too in the beginning because I received a false education, with text books categorizing cannabis as toxic, killing brain cells when in fact it is an antitoxin and grows brain cells! Its a plant. It has healed me and kept me cancer free for 12 years. It is the best medicine for PTSD. Helps reduce inflammation and pain amongst a dozen other things with No Side effects! I have been pulled over for petty things and searched for something that has healed me! Entrapment at the borders is real. Not having medicines that heal and entrapping those having to cross borders to get it is barbaric. This is a crime against humanity!. Stop it!

Lisa Wallace
self
Fairview, TX

This bill should be vetoed. This invades our rights of free movement. I am against this bill.

Anahi Delgado

Self

El Paso, TX

Do not want

Garrett Yancey, Assistant General Counsel

Jobe Materials, L.P.

El Paso, TX

Jobe Materials, L.P. ("Jobe") had its business adversely effected by a DPS inspection checkpoint that was established on Artcraft Rd. in El Paso, Texas in December, 2022 and January, 2023. The bill should be revised to include a provision that states that long-term or extended period DPS inspection checkpoints will be established in a manner that does not effect businesses in the vicinity of the checkpoint.