

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 2923
Compiled on: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 12:06 AM

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 21, 2023 8:00 AM

Amy Anderson
Self
Round Rock, TX

Is this really more important than securing teachers for next year?

I am a high school math teacher of 25 years. I have twins in their 2nd year at UT Austin. I have to turn in my 60 day notice to move out of my apartment by the end of March. If I am not making more money, I cannot afford my apartment or my job. Well, I need a place to live. I will have to find a different career.

Please make teachers a priority and let us know you care a little about us. If HB1548 is not at top priority of the Public Education Committee, then teachers are leaving. I hear it everyday!

David Fincher
Cotton Mill Learning Center, National Child Care Coalition
Mesquite, TX

We are FOR this bill. This is an excellent step toward policy that will develop a delivery system for prekindergarten that allows the most children possible to attend a prekindergarten classroom and attain an educational foundation that is necessary for success in education and life.

Kathlyn McHenry

Early Care and Education Consortium

Austin, TX, TX

The Early Care and Education Consortium (ECEC) supports HB 2923, legislation that would remove critical barriers to expanding access to high-quality early care and education through public-private Pre-K Partnerships. ECEC is a non-profit alliance of multi-state/multi-site child care providers, state associations, and educational service providers. Our members operate over 6,500 programs nationwide, serving around 900,000 children. In Texas, we operate almost 650 locations with current capacity to serve over 93,000 children, employing around 10,000 educators and staff.

HB3 (2019) required school districts to offer full-day pre-K to eligible 4-year-old's and a half-day to eligible 3-year-old's, and encouraged formal partnerships with community-based early learning providers to deliver those services. The Legislature understood expanding access to preschool through public-private Pre-K Partnerships best leverages the existing infrastructure in communities, preserves the ability for families to access full-day/year round care so they can participate in the workforce, and prevents school districts from having to pursue costly and duplicative expansion efforts to serve preschoolers. Partnerships also prevent negative impacts on the availability and affordability of child care and early learning programs across the state.

Unfortunately, structural challenges make these partnerships rare. HB 2923 would address two of the main barriers, allowing the Legislature to continue its commitment made in 2019.

First, the legislation increases the per-student weighted funding for children co-enrolled in a Pre-K Partnership. This will address the financing challenges faced by both school districts and local providers by ensuring there is enough funding for both the administration and delivery of such partnerships.

Second, HB 2923 directs the establishment of partnerships in cases when children cannot be served by the public school. Specifically, it ensures children can be served in a community-based setting if the public school has staffing or space limitations preventing them from serving eligible children. These requirements could be strengthened further by requiring when local programs have existing capacity to serve preschoolers, schools enter into partnerships before looking to expand their own services.

To reiterate: removing barriers to Pre-K Partnerships is the most effective and efficient way to realize the goals of HB 3 and expand high-quality early learning options across Texas. HB 2923 supports working families across the state who need a full workday of care, throughout the entire year, as well as the child care providers who have served families within our communities for years. It also alleviates the pressure on local school districts to serve additional three- and four-year-old's on their own campuses when they are unable to do so.

ECEC supports HB 2923 and encourages Members of the Committee to do the same.

Rusty Simpson

Whistle Stop Station/By the Barnyard Gate

heath, TX

We are for this Bill. This is would help enormously with the loss of our Pre-K Programs and would put the decision of the childs future back into the parents hands.

Marcus Brooks

Self/Business Owner

Garland, TX

FOR

Tania Vazquez, Ms.

Self, Caregiver/Mother

Weatherford, TX

Please protect our children from sexually explicit material in school.

Jazmin Guerrero

Self

Houston, TX

Free programs should be available for all children.

Amy Mazeika

Self

San Antonio, TX

Against