

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Youth Health & Safety, Select  
For HB 2962

Compiled on: Monday, April 24, 2023 8:35 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.

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Hearing Date: April 24, 2023 1:30 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Mitzi Higginbotham

Self

Reklaw Texas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 2962. I believe this bill has consequences that will silence the voices of parents/guardians and concerned tax paying citizens. The bill is not necessary! Parents could be arrested for sharing their opinion with school boards and school administrators. If a parent is difficult contact the SRO or law enforcement.

I oppose HB 2962.

Mitzi Higginbotham

Rachel Hale

TX Freedom Coalition & Myself

Henderson, TX

OPPOSE this bill please. Schools can already do this - why do we need another law?? Also it is no secret that parents going and speaking up at school board meetings are targeted when Atty Gen Garland sent out letter declaring us domestic terrorists. Why would the state of TEXAS want to further the agenda of the federal govt and try and take away someone's First Amendment Right?? This bill is bad for TX & I respectfully ask you oppose it!!

Julie Goode

Citizens Defending Freedom

Frisco, TX

I am against this bill bc it may be used against parents as a form of censure for held beliefs. Parents have the right to peaceably visit the schools their children attend.

Brent Holtz

Parent

The Colony, TX

FOR

Amy Beneski  
Texas Association of School Administrators  
Austin, TX

TASA supports this bill.

Carolyn Lux  
Self/Retired RN  
Fredericksburg, TX

I am opposed to this bill. A parent who is expressing an opinion to a school administrator could easily be punished for just being there expressing that opinion since defining what is a violation of this law is purely subjective and poorly defined. There are unintended consequences that will no doubt arise from implementing this bill. Please do not pass this on. Thank you!

Paula Hilliard, Mrs.  
Texas Education 911 and self  
san antonio, TX

We oppose this bill.

It is too subjective and able to be weaponized against parents with whom a district disagrees. What is one person's "Inappropriate" is another person's "nothing strange." Who decides? The school. The school that might want a parent to be silent about corruption or illegality occurring on campus.

Another undefined term involves whether the person left "immediately." Is that a millisecond or 5 minutes while they finished gathering their child from the pick up line?

Subjectivity such as this can be dangerous. We have seen Texas parents arrested for made up and exaggerated excuses in retaliation for speaking at board meetings where they exposed bad things going on in the schools.

We fear this bill WILL have the effect of endangering involved, informed parents and staff members who are brave enough to speak out. We believe it would have a chilling effect on Free Speech. Thank you.

Meridith Manis  
Self  
Frisco, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. We need to do everything we can to keep our most vulnerable children safe. There are no police officers at day cares like we have at public schools so if something were to happen the police may not be there in time.

Laura Angelle  
Self (self employed owner of insurance agency)  
Katy, TX

I am for this bill. No one without official school business should be close to the school property.

charlene matthews  
Self/community volunteer  
Flower Mound, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Cody Manis, MR

Self

Frisco, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 2962. Protecting our citizens is top of the Government's priority and when children are involved and under the care of the government.

Amanda Maxey

Self

Little Elm, TX

For this bill

Sandi Pineda

Self and the community where my kids attend school

Aubrey, TX

I am FOR bill 2962 because i believe our schools and daycares need to be safe ground where our kids are not afraid to attend due to the injustice happening all over the united States of school shootings. No One without valid reason or lawful purpose should be on school grounds or anywhere near. Thank you for considering this Bill that will give us piece of mind and hope for a better future for our kids.

Reba Valdez

Self

Plano, TX

Need this to pass

Cindi Martinez

Self

Denton, TX

For

Karen Brewer

Self

The Colony, TX

Approved!

Micki Goodeill

Self

Boerne, TX

For it!!

Debi Litton  
self  
Sherman, TX

"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the legitimate object of good government." Thomas Jefferson

Dear Congressmen and Congresswomen,

My name is Debi Litton and I am a resident in TX Congressional District 62.

This bill seems to want to challenge parental rights. Parental rights need to be addressed more so by Congress and push back the over reaching arm of government and the schools.

This bill seems to say that we can't even "enter or remain on school property" without committing an offense, even if they don't threaten harm or receive a request to depart! This opens up ways to use this against parents.

My goodness, this opens up a wide discourse between what a school sees as a threat and what a parent sees as a threat. This is what all the parental battles are about! The schools see parents that "doth protest too much" as a threat already. This will widen the barrier between the schools and parents even more!

This bill needs to protect parents. It isn't written well and gives to much leeway to the schools and doesn't protect parents.

Please vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you for consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Litton

shaffer sallade, Self

Self

The Colony, TX

This needs to pass

Ronald Murphy

Self

The Colony, TX

For

Tim Shaffer

Self

Little elm, TX

Wanting the bill to pass for child safety at schools

Iban Uribe Saldana

Self

Frisco, TX

I hope this bill gets passed as it would be a step in the right direction to ensure schools are protected and kids are safe.

Linda Martin  
Self  
San Angelo, TX

Please vote AGAINST this! This put parents in direct aim of a school administration that perceives the parent as a threat for speaking out! 1st Amendment rights of the parent to speak out on behalf of their child! We've seen it too often lately!

Alice Cains, Ms  
Self  
Denton, TX

We must stop this ! This is not allowing us acces to our children.

Anna Bartosh  
self, retired teacher  
San Angelo, TX

Please oppose this bill

Chris Donofrio  
Self  
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 2962.  
I urge you to kill it in committee.

I live in The Woodlands, Texas. The fundamental plan for it, developed back in the 1970s, was to create public spaces and wooded areas that were located close to schools. There is an elementary school at the end of my street.

For this school, attended by my children, and the other schools they attended, the 250 ft boundary includes substantial public spaces including parks, play areas, walking paths, and streets. Parks and play areas are intended for people to sit and spend time enjoying themselves.

This bill criminalizes such behavior.

The same situation holds true for all schools I know of in The Woodlands.  
HB 2962 creates an onerous, and unreasonable, burden on those of us enjoying the public spaces.  
It is also unenforceable and a waste of local money and resources.

I don't believe our community is unique.

I oppose HB 2962.  
I urge you to let it die in committee.

Respectfully,  
Chris J. Donofrio

Kris Kittle  
self  
Fort Worth, TX

OPPOSE this bill. There are so many ways this could be twisted for bad. While perhaps created with a good heart, this bill has many unintended consequences.

Melissa Beckett

Self

Longview, TX

AGAINST - Too much unchecked power already exists for district administration, this authority cannot be abused, especially when it could be used against well-meaning parents. Feared Consequences: Parents arrested as retaliation for speaking out. Administrator just perceives them as a threat then claims the parent didn't leave immediately when asked to.

Alan Higginbotham

Self

Reklaw, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill. It's just another tool that will be used to intimidate parents into forced silence. You're ignorant if you don't think it'll be used that way.

Robert Hayhurst

Self

Canyon, TX

I do not support this bill. It could be abused to remove parents from schools, school board meetings, etc. It uses very subjective language with no legal definitions: "substantial risk of harm," "behaves in a manner that is inappropriate for a school setting." The bill defines school property as all land and buildings owned or leased by a public school, which would include the place where school board meetings are held. So, with no legal definition or reference to sections of penal code, school personnel would decide what is inappropriate behavior.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs

Self

Gainesville, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. It could be used to infringe on a parent. Could be used to silence parents. I'm sure the intentions of this bill are good but please do not pass this bill. Thank you.

Amy Huggins

self

Houston, TX

I OPPOSE this bill as too broad. It could be used to silence outspoken parents, which is a violation of the First Amendment. I favor school safety, but this bill has too much potential for abuse. Please vote NO on this bill.  
Thank you