

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Community Safety, Select  
For HB 3534

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 3:53 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.

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Geroge Clement  
self  
Austin, TX  
Against

Geroge Clement  
self  
Austin, TX  
Against - not relevant to the purchase of a  
firearm and rather is a political message concerning firearms ownership.

Eric Kunish, Chair  
National Alliance on Mental Illness-Central Texas Affiliate  
Austin, TX  
We support this bill!

Jeana Foxman  
Temple Emanu-El  
Dallas, TX

On behalf of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, a Reform Jewish congregation with over 2,700 voting-eligible members, we are writing to comment on legislation being heard by your committee on Tuesday, April 18 2023. Our specific positions on the legislation in front of your committee will follow our explanation of how our religious values and faith grounds our viewpoints.

“You shall not stand idly by while the blood of your neighbor is shed,” the Bible instructs us in Leviticus 19:16. Our neighbors’ blood was shed in Uvalde in May of 2022. Uvalde is not the first instance of mass murder; too many other Texas communities have been shattered by needless gun violence by individuals with assault rifles. In houses of worship, schools, medical offices, and grocery stores, at malls, on city streets, and in homes, families and communities are being shattered by gun violence.

The gun violence is not slowing or stopping, and instead continues to spiral out of control both close to home and across the country. As Jews working side by side with other Texans of many faiths, our shared ethical responsibilities as people of faith hold us all accountable for responding to this needless and heartbreaking violence with swift and meaningful action that will help us repair the world and the communities that have been devastated by gun violence.

We are in support of the following legislation and urge you to move the bills to the floor of the House: HB 22, HB 106, HB 236, HB 298, HB 2744, HB 3534, and HB 4472. We believe this legislation, and other similar proposed legislation, will help reduce gun violence in our state without denying lawful citizens their second amendment rights.

We oppose the following legislation: HB 1894. We believe this bill is detrimental to the safety of our communities, perpetuating the environment that allows gun violence to escalate.

We urge you to do everything in your power to bring bills to the House floor that promote the lifesaving work of gun violence reduction efforts and respond to the sacred obligations of the Bible. Working together, we can reduce the rising rates of mass shootings, suicide by gun shot and death in domestic disputes, and other gun-inflicted homicides.

Respectfully submitted,

The Clergy, Board of Trustees, and Advocacy Committee of Temple Emanu-El Dallas

Carol Jacoby, Mrs  
self  
San Marcos, TX  
Against HB 3534

Jonathan Windsor  
Self  
Celina, TX

I am against this bill.

Allen Dinsmore  
self  
Mineola, TX

UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!!! End this bill and burn it to ashes! Stop attempting to add more laws that only law-abiding citizens will comply with! Only armed good law-abiding citizens, or first responders, can save peoples lives or stop armed bad people from doing much harm to the innocent. This bill is ludicrous on all fronts!!! The licensing process is unconstitutional to begin with. How about just repeal that entire 'institutional/government control' (licensing) of the 2nd Amendment! This sounds like an attempt by the initiator of this bill to construct a law where they might benefit as an instructor or having an instructor business! I DO NOT support this bill!!!! THANK YOU!

Norma Hackler

SELF

Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Al Lindsey, M.D.

Moms Demand Action, Physicians for Social Responsibility of Austin

Austin, TX

The more information that is provided, and the more people to whom it is provided, about gun violence and suicide prevention, the more lives will be saved, especially of children and teens.

Harold Waters

self

Houston, TX

This is excessive and imposes unnecessary burdens on the citizens of this state. Please do not vote for this bill.

Steven Price  
The V.O.I.C.E.S. Foundation  
San Antonio, TX

The VOICES of Our Veterans are in Full Support of HB: 3435

The headlines are all too familiar:

Suicide Has Been Deadlier Than Combat for the Military;

1) The Parking Lot Suicides.

2) Every day in America, 124 people die by suicide, of which more than 62 are firearm suicides. Among the 62 firearm suicide decedents, roughly one is a military service member and 11 are veterans. Still more military service members and veterans die by non-firearm suicide.

3) Military service member and veteran suicide is a public health crisis in America and firearms play a critical role, as firearms are the most common method chosen across these populations.

Though there is no single explanation or cause for suicide, there are risk factors that do increase the risk for suicide, including access to firearms.

Firearm ownership does not necessarily increase suicidal ideations, but access to and familiarity with firearms increases the capability for suicide, which is considered necessary for how suicidal thoughts progress into suicide attempts.

Since firearms are the deadliest suicide method in America, these attempts are much more likely to be lethal than suicide attempts using other methods.

While half of the suicides in the U.S. are by firearm, 60-70% percent of service member and veteran suicides are by firearm.

Military family members also die by firearm suicide more often than expected. Firearms are fundamental to military culture, but they cannot be ignored in addressing suicide.

Abstract: Nearly 45 percent of veterans (44.9 percent) report owning guns (compared to 20 percent of non-veterans),<sup>14</sup> and in 2019, the most recent year of available data, veterans were 1.5 times more likely than non-veterans to die by suicide.<sup>15</sup> Our country's veterans are at a heightened risk of suicide, and firearms—the most lethal among commonly used methods of self-harm—are the prevailing method of suicide among veterans.

On average, two-thirds (68.6 percent) of suicides among veterans are by firearm, compared to non-veteran adults, where about half of all suicides (47.8 percent) are with a firearm. In fact, the use of guns in veteran suicide is becoming more frequent; in 2017, 69.4 percent of veteran suicides were by gun—the highest it has been in 15 years.

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/those-who-serve-addressing-firearm-suicide-among-military-veterans/>

If you are a veteran, service member, or military family member and you need support now, please contact the Military and Veteran Crisis Line at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) Option 1, text 838255, or visit <http://veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Elva Mendoza  
Self; public health social worker  
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Texas. Firearms kill thousands of Texans every year, and over half of those deaths are suicides. Making gun owners more aware of the risks associated with firearms will promote a culture of responsibility and safety.

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 9:00 AM

Debbie Carrico  
SELF AMERICAN  
League City, TX

NO TO BILL INFRINGING ON CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF LEGAL CITIZENS

Ian Kress  
Myself. Engineer.  
Nassau Bay, TX

I am against this bill. This bill would require a brochure concerning “firearm violence and suicide prevention” be provided to those buying a firearm. The brochure would include “statistics regarding victims of firearm violence” which is not relevant to the purchase of a firearm and rather is a political message concerning firearms ownership.

Karen miller  
Retired  
AUSTIN, TX

Yes! A good bill for community safety!