

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 3808

Compiled on: Monday, April 3, 2023 6:01 PM

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Hearing Date: April 3, 2023 9:00 AM

Opal Schwager
self, Production Assistant
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I strongly urge you to VOTE NO on R(88) HB3808. This bill wrongly conflates Autism Spectrum Disorder, OCD, Tourettes, and other established medical conditions with the still unviable and understudied hypothetical condition currently known as PANS, or pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.

Mental health and neurodiversity are already very misunderstood in the state of Texas, and this bill will further that misinformation and the broad harm it causes.

The means of selection for members of the proposed committee is also highly corruptable towards a negative bias, particularly against people with Autism. It is incredibly telling that the member criteria does not include any adults diagnosed with any of the aforementioned conditions, but does include "the parent of a child diagnosed with Autism" and "an advocate for those diagnosed with Autism"--yet doesn't specify how the later item is to be determined. I highly suspect that loophole would be a way to select an "advocate" that not only is not Autistic themselves, but who is associated with hate groups such as Autism Speaks, which seeks to "cure" and suppress those with autistic neurotypes. ASD is not something to be cured, it is a different neurotype.

There are many other red flags fluttering throughout this bill as well. It is alarming that there is no explanation to what capacity this council is being created in the first place, how long members would serve on it. The conflation with unrelated and stigmatized conditions is highly suspect and will be harmful. The selection process must not be controlled majorly by the state government's biases in determining the members. There must also be clear recourse for how this selection is done in the event that the public and/or verified top experts in the fields of relevant specialty disagree with whom is appointed and/or the choices being the best interest of those experiencing neurological conditions that are relevant to further study of PANS.

Until these red flags are ALL corrected and removed, DO NOT PASS IT!! Please, do not make accessing care without stigma harder than it already is for people with ASD, OCD, etc. Do not allow room for that harm.

Jordan Schwager
self
Austin, TX

I'm in opposition to this bill because the council it creates would not be comprised of those that are not in a position to fully understand the condition they would be regulating and would not have enough oversight for their actions as an appointed administration as opposed to an elected one.