

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 3908

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:06 AM

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

Shannon Noble
Texas Counseling Association
Austin, TX

The Texas Counseling Association supports HB 3908. Thank you.

Patricia Moore
"self" Retired Teacher Alief ISD/ currently Alief ISD substitute teacher
Houston, TX

I urge you to VOTE YES on HB3908 relating to fentanyl prevention and drug poisoning awareness education for public school students in grades 6 through 12.
Our children are dying by the thousands from this evil.

Toni Mckinley
Myself
Austin, TX

I am in favor for this bill. My daughter was poisoned by fentanyl July 4, 2022. Her life may have been spared if she had received education that this poison is in every street drug. Maybe she would not have taken that pill someone gave her for anxiety if she knew there was a possibility she could die from it. Please pass this bill so kids can be educated about the dangers of fake pills and fentanyl. Too many of them are dying!

Kammie Marshall
TXAF
Cedar Park, TX

I cannot express how important it is to have this education available. As a grown adult I was unaware of the dangers of fentanyl & after losing someone that means the world to me I am still learning new things about this deadly poison. Kids need to be aware, parents need to be aware. This is a tragedy nobody should have to endure.

Rebecca Hamilton

Self

Smithville, TX

Please vote YES for HB 3908. The Fentanyl crisis is out-of-hand in Texas and we must find a solution.

Margaret Crownover

Self. Retired Registered Nurse

Lakeway, TX

Dear Sir,

My granddaughter died May 22, 2021 from a single pill she thought was xanax but was fentanyl & another drug not allowed in the US. She was 18, 1 week from graduation from Lake Travis high school & to begin UT in the fall. She was a bright young lady who made a bad fatal decision to buy a pill to get a good night's sleep after experiencing 2 panic attacks that day. She died quickly in her bed and my son found her the next morning, a day he or our family will never forget or get over. As a nurse, I don't believe students can get too much education on the dangers of drugs, or the lethality of just one pill. This fentanyl crisis is worse than the HIV crisis as death is immediate & if alone, there is no hope of survival. 110,000 deaths thus far is astronomical & eliminating our future generations. Please pass this bill to save our young people! Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret Crownover, RN. BSN.

Shannon Noble

The Texas Counseling Association

Austin, TX

The Texas Counseling Association supports HB 3908. Thank you.

Jennifer Stevens

Texas Against Fentanyl

Cedar Park, TX

An awareness campaign and information for teachers students and parents is a must!!

Beverly Stevens, Mrs

Self

Abilene, TX

I am grandparent who cares about all children. Education is paramount! Pass this bill!

Chelsea Stevens

Self

Briggs, TX

I am in full of support of this bill. Kids need to be educated on the dangers of this terrible drug.

Danny Stevens, Mr

Self

Abilene, TX

This bill needs to pass if you care about health and safety of our children

Joyce Bailey, Mrs

Self

Abilene, TX

Pass this bill!

George Brian Vachris, P.E.

self retired

Humble, TX

In the last three years opioid overdoses have killed more people than all the wars since 1946. Students must be made aware that one pill can kill.

I support this bill.

Jennifer Stevens

US Dental Health Management Solutions

Cedar Park, TX

Jennifer Stevens will be in attendance in regards to house bill 3908 today

Lisa Smith

Self

Plano, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. While we recognize the fentanyl abuse and overdose is a crisis, this course delves repeatedly – 10 hours per year – grades 6-12 into dark subjects. It creates a mandate that is practically a whole new health class just devoted to darkness. Parents worry this will worsen the mental health and increase anxiety of students. Also, these topics are covered in health and counseling lessons.

If this is implemented, it must go through the SHAC and require FULL INFORMED CONSENT by Opt-In of parents. To be fully informed in order to give consent, a parent must be properly briefed on the potential negative psychological effects on their children's and teens' of being overexposed to dark, scary, scarring, heavy topics. Feelings of hopelessness and doom, feeling responsible for saving everyone else's life while still in childhood. Triggering a trauma/re-traumatizing a student.

Furthermore, fully informed parental consent. Notification to parents about the policy, who is trained, when it will be used and the parent should be IMMEDIATELY notified.

Also, parent should have the right to opt their child out - only a parent knows what medications their child might be taking that could have a bad interaction with narcan. Or if their child has a medical condition that might look like an overdose, etc.

susan Lucas

self retired

BRYAN, TX

For AGAINST this bill!! Too much information at once. Too DARK.. needed but NOT as described

Melissa Beckett

Self

Longview, TX

OPPOSE - Our schools have become everything except a place to learn. While I know the author has very good intentions, as a parent I oppose this approach to the problem.

If this is implemented, it must go through the SHAC and require FULL INFORMED CONSENT by Opt-In of parents. To be fully informed in order to give consent, a parent must be properly briefed on the potential negative psychological effects on their children's and teens' of being overexposed to dark, scary, scarring, heavy topics. Feelings of hopelessness and doom, feeling responsible for saving everyone else's life while still in childhood. Triggering a trauma/re-traumatizing a student.

We propose a parent awareness campaign instead.

Debi Litton

self

Sherman, TX

Dear Congressperson,

I am OPPOSED to this bill. While I recognize the fentanyl abuse and drug overdose is a crisis, this course delves repeatedly--10 hours per year--grades 6-12 into dark subjects.

This creates a mandate that is practically a whole new health class just devoted to darkness. I really don't want my children sitting in 10 hours of this kind of stuff. I worry that this will worsen the mental health and increase anxiety of students.

These topics are covered in health and counseling lessons.

If this is implemented it must require FULL INFORMED CONSENT by Opt-In of parents and it must go through the SHAC! To be fully informed in order to give consent, a parent must be properly briefed on the psychological effects on their children's and their teen's of being overexposed to dark, scary scarring, heavy topics! Feelings of hopelessness and doom, feeling responsible for saving everyone else's life while still in childhood and triggering a trauma/re-traumatizing a student must be addressed.

I propose a parent awareness campaign instead!!

Therefore, I ask that you vote "NO" to this bill!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debi Litton

Jane Aguirre
Self, Retired physician
Temple, TX

I support HB 3908 requiring research-based school education on Fentanyl in grades 6-12 as we see the exorbitant number of inadvertant deaths from this drug, mostly due to its flow across our unprotected southern border in the last couple of years. I like that the bill specifies instruction can fall to subject matter experts from outside the school, rather than burdening teachers with another area to master and teach.

I wonder how the number of required hours was reached. 10 hours seems a bit much on first reflection - but there may have been research-based support for it? Please consider sprinkling the education throughout the year to reinforce the principles, and catch up any students who missed earlier presentations in the year.

Jackie Besinger
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Why are librarians and organizations employing mental health professionals pushed in this bill? The education of drug addiction should be given in health class and parents should be involved. Too many pees in the basket gives control of troubled children to the wrong people.

Richard McKenzie
self - retired fixed income derivatives trader
Austin, TX

I oppose HB3908. Enough time is currently being spent on health curricula that addresses the issue of drug abuse. Focusing too much attention on this problem risks arousing the interest of and encouraging experimentation by lost or rebellious youth. If implemented this should go through the SHAC and require full informed consent by Opt-in of parents who have been briefed on the potential negative psychological effects of overexposure to dark, scary, heavy topics.

Thank you.

Sharon Tryon, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX
No to this bill

Jill Wingrove
Self- my family
Austin, TX

This will save lives! Please consider it a necessity given the fentanyl crisis. Kids do not understand the dangers. Education in school should not be limited to academics alone. Safety through awareness is imperative.

Paula Hilliard, Mrs
Self
San antonio, TX

I applaud the concern, but encourage careful consideration of the fact that high school health covers such topics and the law should tie all lessons into the SHAC. I would like to not have the state require designate 10 hours, but to leave that to SHAC and boards to accommodate different situations in different parts of Texas. I believe parents need this education even if it came from public service campaigns, and urge the state to recognize the true causes of these dangers and appropriately/sufficiently deal with them on the front end which will protect our kids. I did not have time, but will call the author to kindly explain some thoughts on how this will look in some classroom settings. Thank you and thank the author for caring.

Danny Stevens, Ceo
Dental Solutions
Jonestown, TX

Education on this topic is sorely needed. Please expedite approval.

christina miller
self, teacher
dallas, TX

I am FOR House Bill 3908 . This is important to me because we need to protect our children