

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs
For HB 4174

Compiled on: Thursday, April 13, 2023 4:16 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.

Hearing Date: April 13, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Monica Dumke

Self

Justin, TX

Declining any "vaccine", shot or medical service should not exclude a service member from Honorable discharge. They shouldn't be discharged at all, they should be allowed the same personal freedoms as anyone else. They're enrolled, not owned like property. The fact this needs to be introduced is a shame. Accept their choice to decline or honorably discharge them for their service

Mandy Villarreal

Self - spouse of Veteran

Plainview, TX

Please VOTE YES on HB4174. I am a spouse of a veteran and it's important - vital for those bring discharged to be done in an honorable way. Thank you!

Angela Webb

Self

Magnolia, TX

I am asking you to please pass this bill to ensure that Texas Veterans who were discharged solely based on declining the Covid 19 "vaccine" receive all state benefits that they would if they were honorably discharged. Our citizens, military or otherwise should not be used as guinea pigs. It is barbaric the way this was handled.

Anne Landry, Mrs

The Landry Family

LONE OAK, TX

The HB 4174 by Hefner goes along with the values of Texas. Please vote yes HB 4174 to protect the right of Veterans who have defended our nation. As a veteran myself along with my husband and an active duty Marine son, I urge you to protect the veterans in Texas by voting you to AH 4174. Thank you for your service to the state of Texas!

Blessings,

Anne Landry

Keren Broce
Self
Murphy, TX

My family moved to Texas because it was known for its freedoms and protecting the liberties and dignity of its residents. My husband was discharged honorably from the Air Force in 2001 and left before Anthrax was mandated and for the reason of declining the vaccine without a dishonorable discharge.

A person in the military should not be punished both in the military and in future employment because of a personal medical decision that should be weighed and decided on with their personal healthcare professional. And opting out of the COVID-19 vaccines are no exception. Many countries in Europe have even stopped recommending the COVID vaccine for all of their citizens because they don't see a scientific need to require at this point in time.

I hope that Texas will stand on the side of reason and protect the dignity of its veterans who made a personal health decision and change discharge papers to honorably discharged. Otherwise, we may look to relocate to a state that does value liberty, and take my lucrative business with us.

Thank you!

Lola Hurt
self
Addison, TX

Please Vote YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense & Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 13th! Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits! Thank you

Carolyn McClugage
Self- precinct chair 263
Leander, TX

I am asking you to please vote yes on HB 4174 favorably out of committee. Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining any sort of vaccine still much deserve to be honorably discharged for the purpose of state benefits.

Meagan King
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please VOTE YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 13.

Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits!

Thank you

Colette McCadden
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill.

JEROME YOUNG, DR
SELF
THE WOODLANDS, TX
I SUPPORT THE BILL

BUT..

Would amend to reinstate with back pay if soldier so desires.

Anne Pottinger
Self
Keller, TX

Please defend the rights of veterans who have selflessly served our nation.

Carrie Baker
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please VOTE YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 13.

Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits!

Thank you, Carrie Baker

Mark Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my support for HB 4174.

I support HB 4174 because Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits.

Thank you.

Melinda Olinde
Self
Magnolia, TX

Please VOTE YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Texan veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining Covid-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits!

Ben Sachs, Dr.
Self, Doctor of Chiropractic
Houston, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you today to ask you to please VOTE YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 13.

Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits!

Thank you,

Dr. Ben Sachs

Miriah Sachs
Self, disabled
Houston, TX

Dear Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee,

I am writing to you today to ask you to please VOTE YES to pass HB 4174 favorably out of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee on Thursday, April 13.

Texas veterans who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID-19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purposes of state benefits! The mandates were unconstitutional and the discharging of soldiers in good standing should never have happened to begin with but this is our chance to make it right and restore their hard earned benefits.

Thank you,
Miriah Sachs

Bob Bonner
Self
Lindale, TX

Please pass 4174. Since Texans make up a disproportionate percentage of the US military, those who have been stripped of their rights to continue to serve and thus have lost their veterans Benefits should be made while by the state that sent them. Subsequently the State of Texas should withhold the funds required for the program from being sent to the Feds in SOP. Make the Feds sue the state and open the books for discovery. The Feds will back off. Thanks

Cindy Triggs
Self - retired
Georgetown, TX

I urge you to vote for this bill to ensure veterans whose civil rights were violated and who were wrongfully discharged from the military receive all benefits they have earned.
Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Lopez
Diane Lopez Fitness Coaching
Selma, TX, 78154, TX

Dear Representatives, I ask that you vote YES to pass HB4174 favorably out of the defense and Veterans Affairs Committee on Thurs. April 13th. Texas vets who have been discharged solely based on declining COVID 19 vaccines deserve to be considered honorably discharged for the purpose of state benefits! Thank you, Diane Lopez

Carol Daley
Self
Arlington, TX

10000% support this bill!! Dishonorable discharge for refusing any vaccine is not acceptable! Please restore honorable discharge!!!

Tanya Bae
Self
Prosper, TX

Please support this bill. No one should be punished, lose their job or lose their benefits due to personal medical decisions.

Donna Donna Randall
Self
Richmond, TX

As a wife of a veteran I know how difficult it is to suffer adverse effects from serving. As a parent of a vaccine injured child we know the risk. Do not penalize these soldiers for weighing risk vs benefit of this vaccine. Do the honorable thing and give them their discharge in an honorable way.

amber brumm
Self
Millsap, TX

Please support the bill that will help out veterans who were erroneously discharged from the military for refusing the covid-19 vaccine! I'm proud of our members who stood up to commands who were pushing an experimental medical treatment on them. It takes a lot of courage to stand up like that, and they shouldn't have to pay for the test of their lives for doing the right thing. This bill will help right a massive injustice!

Joyce White
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 4174. I don't agree with mandatory vaccination in order to keep your job. This vaccine is experimental and not truly a vaccine. I support the individuals right to decide without coercion what medical choice is best for them. Thank you,

Lynette Lucas, Mrs.
Self Photographer
San Angelo, TX

I lost my daughter in law to the Pfizer shots and I do not think anyone should be forced to be injected with anything, especially our military. Thank you.

Tonya Prim
Self
El Paso, TX

I want to express my support for HB 4174. Service members who declined a covid injection should not have been given dishonorable discharges. They should be eligible for all the benefits to which any veteran is entitled.

Karen Starnes
Texans for Medical Freedom
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support this Bill. No soldier should be discriminated against based on their personal health choices. I'm thankful this will help those done wrong, and pray in the future that they won't be discharged at all.

Jackie Oliver
Self
Diana, TX

I support this bill Cole. It s shameful that a person can volunteer to serve in the military and their service be can be penalized because of their own personal reasons.

But the government can pay a military person to transgender if they choose to. What's wrong with this picture?
Fight for it Cole.

Jenna Osborn
self, marketing
San Antonio, TX

My friend served 19 honorable yrs as Lieutenant Colonel in the US Airforce. She is a great patriot and asset to our military. Her religious and medical exemptions were both denied when she declined to participate in the COVID-19 vaccine experiment. She was dishonorably discharged for standing up for her health and rights. Please VOTE YES in support of HB 4174. Thank you.

Rebecca Gray
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support Rep. Cole Hefner's House Bill 4174 which gives an honorable discharge to those who received a dishonorable discharge due to refusal to receive a covid-19 vaccine.

Rebecca Galinsky
Self, SAHM
Arlington, TX

Members of our military should not be forced to take a vaccine against their beliefs or wishes as a condition of remaining in the military, particularly experimental or emergency use vaccines. Those who were served our National but were dishonorably discharged simply for not taking the CV-19 vaccine should have their discharge changed to an honorable discharge and any and all benefits that go with that designation should be immediately reinstated or accessible to them. Once discharge changed to honorable, they should also be permitted to request and be granted reinstatement to their previous active duty position, including their rank & pay rate at time of discharge. Thank you for considering my comments and I hope you pass this bill out of committee.

Laura Heffelfinger, Mrs
Self
Cresson, TX

It is disgraceful that veterans who served honorably would be discharged because they refuse to take an experimental COVID 19 shot. I ask you to vote yes on HB 4174 to do the right thing for these veterans.
Thanks for your consideration of HB 4174