

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs
For HB 4185

Compiled on: Thursday, April 27, 2023 10:00 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.

Hearing Date: April 27, 2023 8:00 AM

Richard Grady, Hon.
Collin County Veterans' Coalition
Plano, TX

Although a limited program to study the effects of home treatment of PTSD for 250 veterans, we, the members of the Collin County Veterans' Coalition, support HB4185. We hope that there would be an interim report in approximately two years so that the future legislature can make a preliminary determination if expansion of the study and program is warranted. However, any support of our veterans suffering from issues brought about by severe trauma is welcome.

Virginia Simonson, LTC, USA - Retired

Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America and self (retired, volunteer peer specialist)

Flower Mound, TX

I am writing on behalf of the Texas Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America to express strong opposition to this bill as written, for the reasons listed below.

1. It is not cost effective nor in the best of Veterans for the state to attempt (through HHSC) to oversee and manage complex research studies, clinical trials, or medical/psychiatric pilot programs. Public universities, private universities, and the Federal Government already funds (through the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs budgets) promising practices to undergo generally accepted regimens of clinical trials, peer-reviewed research studies and the pilot studies that lead to evidence-based therapies.
2. One can reasonably question whether HHSC has the requisite expertise to oversee the type of pilot program laid out in this bill. The bill requires a contract to provide treatment to 250 Veterans in their homes that reduces neuroinflammation and replenish deficient or insufficient brain chemistry to an optimal level.
3. It is unreasonable to expect that more than a handful of non-profit organizations would have the funding or research/clinical expertise to launch a large-scale pilot program to assess the efficacy of post-traumatic stress disorder to reduce neuroinflammation to address brain chemistry imbalances.

As a Veteran diagnosed with PTSD and as a peer specialist who has worked with both Veterans with TBI/PTSD and researchers (including Daniel C. Krawczyk, Ph.D., School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences The University of Texas at Dallas & Department of Psychiatry University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center) on grant projects (i.e., "Evaluating Brain Function, Cognition, and Life-Skills in Traumatic Brain Injury"), I strongly oppose this bill as written.

There are universities throughout Texas better equipped to work with non-profits who promote promising practices that may later become evidence-based treatment modalities after rigorous testing. They have the subject matter experts, the laboratory equipment to analyze biochemical/blood samples and the experience to oversee these types of endeavors that HHSC likely does not have.

Recommend this committee contact the STRONG STAR Consortium for PTSD Research - <https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/cbn/research/star/> or similar state universities that promote multi-investigator, collaborative and translational research to assist non-profits in the development of such projects to gage their interests in working with HHSC and select non-profits to achieve the goals of this bill. Many research universities fund pilot projects every year to generate the preliminary data required for submission to the National Institute of Health or other federal funding agencies, while providing the time and resources to demonstrate effective and productive treatments.

Sandra Miller, Ms

Veteran

Denton, TX

I oppose this bill the majority of doctors do not understand the traumas veterans go thru and every trauma is different for each veteran I have seen where doctors would determine what was best for the patient but would not listen. Causing them to commit suicide.

Gary Howe
MOAA
Arlington, TX

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