

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence
For HJR 99

Compiled on: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 9:56 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: May 2, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

John Heller
"self" teacher
The Woodlands, TX

Protect our young or we do not have a safe and orderly society.

Jennifer Hixon
Texas Civil Rights Project
San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to share comments on HJR 99. Last session, the legislature passed SB 6, which has significantly increased the number of people held in pretrial detention in Texas. Additional expansions in pretrial detention will not improve safety for Texans but will continue to detain more people before they have had an opportunity for a full and fair defense. People held in pretrial detention denied the possibility of release have not been convicted of any offense. This is a fundamental violation of liberty. People in pretrial detention are held in facilities not intended for long-term detention, including poor access to physical and mental healthcare. Indefinite detention while awaiting trial is detrimental to the well-being of individuals who may be wrongly accused or be able to provide affirmative defenses for charges. For these and many other reasons, we oppose any expansion of pretrial detention in Texas.