

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety
For SB 656

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:11 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 25, 2023 2:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Mayte Benitez

Self

Rio Grande City, TX

I'm a 53 year old mother of 17 year old Ivan , my only son with severe Autism, he is non verbal, and he is a big boy, and when he is scared, he does not respond to verbal commands, my biggest fear is that in case of a car accident, or any situation, responders may not know he is disabled, and may consider him a threat and he can get hurt, this bill will alert first responders that there is a disabled person in the car , and his name is Ivan, and he is not dangerous... I am so afraid...

Terri Hall, Founder/Director & Legislative Liaison for Liberty in Action

Texas TURF, Texans for Toll-free Highways, We the People - Liberty in Action

San Antonio, TX

While we believe this bill is well-intentioned to help disabled, particularly deaf drivers, to be able to communicate with police to avert escalation, we adamantly oppose any effort to fuse medical data with state issued IDs for the purposes of interacting with law enforcement. This is akin to a fusion center of data that must have a hard wall between private citizens and police. Drivers personal health information is nobody's business. Conditions that effect driving already have statutes to address their ability to drive safely without imperiling and exposing other driver's private medical data to police (or setting a dangerous precedent that this is okay). This can be weaponized against innocent citizens. Please oppose this bill. This isn't the right solution.

Gregory C Porter
Texas For Liberty
Austin, TX

TxDOT nor DPS should have any legal ability to collect or store medical data. HB-71 has passed through this committee after public testimony confirmed the true intention of digital drivers licenses which the CIO of DPS has publicly admitted are to aggregate and access data from a wide variety of state agencies. The committee sub already added hunting licenses to Digital ID. How many people currently discriminate against gun owners? This may be convenient but it is an imprudent risk for violations of privacy and discrimination. Fusion centers application have long been rejected which is what we are creating by allowing DPS to store multiple types of personal data, especially medical data. This bill sets a dangerous precedent as drivers licenses are provided for many applications (renting or buying homes, setting up utilities, and even entering a bar).

The argument that this is voluntary is mute, the bill gives DPS the legal right to collect and store this type of data. This is opening the door that cannot be shut and the committee should consider the global risks of this decision and address this concern with a much more simple solution, that has no risk of data privacy.

The solution to this bill is to leave the option to include an emergency contact and create a menu of checkboxes that a Texas resident can add to the license which specifies the specific disability they voluntarily choose (i.e. deaf, ect). There is no need for DPS to store private medical or any other form of data. Please eliminate all language permitting DPS to collect and store medical data records.

Thank you, gp

Gregory Porter