

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues
For SB 718

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 9:00 PM

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Hearing Date: April 26, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Julie Campbell
self
Waxahachie, TX

Absolutely!! Parents should get time back for what is lost from false allegations, etc. Children deserve both parents. Why do we have to keep pushing for this legislation? Why isn't Texas leading the charge on this? It's so sad that we have to turn to our elected officials and hope and pray they will do the right thing for our kids. The science is there to prove children need both parents. How many of our lawmakers were denied access to one parent? How many of our lawmakers had both parents present? Why are "civilian" parents and children any different?

Joshua Jaros
Myself
Montgomery, TX

The bill as written is a great bill and I strongly support it. It provides an avenue for children to make up for memories that were lost due to unwarranted parental interference with a court ordered custody schedule. Sometimes a parent will purposefully and willfully try to damage a relationship with a child's other parent. This bill provides makeup time. It still is able to be overcome by good cause but it places the hurdle on the parent that instigated the problem. I am aware that a substitute of the bill is being considered. However, the language of the substitute drastically changes what children would benefit to only the select children where an investigation took place. I would urge you not to change the bill or substitute it but to keep it as is. Interference with child custody issues have plagued our state for decades. Include ALL children who have lost time with a parent and not just those in the substitute. I believe the bill as originally passed in the Senate is the best and it does not water down the language and strength. I also believe it will have a positive outcome in our state as parents that seek to play games with the custody schedule will realize that the other parent can still get that time back. In these situation currently, I know of very few times where makeup time has been awarded. Please send a firm message from the Legislature that parents should abide by the schedule and that you will protect parent/child relationships and memories.

Marisa Williams
Self/SAHM
McKinney, TX

I support SB 718 as it creates a safeguard for families who are under investigation for abuse and/or neglect but can still see each other if there's no evidence of abuse or neglect. Please vote favorably on SB 718.