

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For SB 1647

Compiled on: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 3:35 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 16, 2023 8:00 AM

Sharla Ferguson
T.I.S.D.
Temple, TX
NO.

Kelli Killion
Myself - Teacher at Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD
Plano, TX

Greetings, Representatives,

I currently teach at the dropout prevention program in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD. I'd like to share my support for the bill before you, SB 1647. The program in my district has been in place since 1979. When it was first created and all throughout its existence, it has become a lifeline for students in my district who struggle in the traditional school model. Within this bill, the changes in funding and the requirements for staff to teacher ratios will enable us to better support our struggling learners and continue to provide a safe place for them to land.

We currently do not have a counselor on campus, and there are only 4.5 staff positions. This year, we are estimated to graduate over 120 students. That's a record for us. But with adequate funding and staffing we can double or even triple that number.

Post-Covid, we have seen so many students who need to recover so much more than just credits. We work on life skills like preparing for college or the workforce, social and interpersonal skills, and we teach them grit. Our motto is "You only fail if you quit." And with the support of this Bill, we produce even more graduates who are ready to face the challenges of life.

Thank you so much,
Kelli Killion
Mary Grimes Education Center
Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD

Kassie Loe
self and Agricultural Science Teacher
DeKalb, TX

THIS ABSENTEEISM IS REDICULOUS - THESE KIDS MISS WAY TOO MANY DAYS OF UNEXCUSED ABSENCES
WITH ZERO PUNISHMENT

John Tedor, Colonel
Self & family - retired
San Antonio, TX
We support SB 1647

Patricia Dicoste, Ms
Retired educator
Bellaire, TX

Please stand up to the powerful and deep-pocketed groups pushing our state to fund private schools over public schools that are open to all students. As a taxpayer, I oppose spending \$500M+ in just the initial years on vouchers to private corporations. This will either raise my taxes, or drain funding for public schools.

Please vote to oppose SB8 on Monday. Don't let defunding public education move to the House floor!

This will only break our public education.

God Bless

Shelia Willis-Reeves
Self/School Psychologist
Temple, TX

Yes

Shelia Willis-Reeves
Self/School Psychologist
Temple, TX

Yes

Traci Dennis-Witter
SELF Public Educator Administrator
Temple, TX

Yes I do support Both In person, remote and hybrid Recovery programs with specific guideline for attendance and state exams.