

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services  
For SB 1849

Compiled on: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 11:28 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 8:00 AM

Andrea Sparks, Director of Governmental Relations, Buckner International  
Buckner International  
Dallas, TX

Buckner supports Senate Bill 1849 because it will help us better ensure that the people we hire across our ministries are not only qualified but also safe to be trusted with the vulnerable populations we serve –children AND the elderly. The database that SB 1849 creates will add to our current processes because it will capture and display reportable conduct across multiple work settings. A capability we don't currently have. This is especially critical to Buckner and other providers like us that serve the most vulnerable. For example, if someone is fired from a child services agency or a school for, for example repeatedly breaking policy regarding being alone with a child alone or sharing photos/videos of a child on social media, we would absolutely want to know that in considering them for employment in our children's services but also for employment in senior living. Although the age range of potential victims is different in each setting, the potential for victimization is high wherever there are vulnerable people, no matter the age, and bad actors attracted to jobs where they can exploit vulnerability. This is why SB 1849 is so very important. Providing a safe environment for the vulnerable Texans we serve is a top priority. Senate Bill 1849 will provide a very valuable resource to help us achieve that.