

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Human Services
For HB 2071

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Hearing Date: March 25, 2025 8:00 AM

Tina Freeman
self/retired District Clerk
Lockhart, TX

My name is Tina Freeman, and I support this bill. I urge committee members who are unfamiliar with the child welfare system, to listen closely to those who testify on this bill and other CPS bills. I retired from county government a few years ago, after working for a decade in the District Attorney's office, and then serving as the District Clerk for several terms, so I'm not unfamiliar with CPS. I'd often hear "stories" from family members about CPS problems, especially during the last few years as Dist. Clerk, but there is such a stigma attached to CPS. We often times just assume that a parent deserved to have their rights terminated. I saw enough in the DA's office to have that mindset. What changes is when YOU are impacted by the system and see how crazy the process can be, along with incompetence and untruths. "Best interest of the children" is just a phrase spouted out to justify whatever decisions they make. (Their decisions were NOT in the best of interest of my two grandchildren, and every day is a reminder). I was appalled, and since that time, I've been very vocal about the process. I'll quote Rep. Harold Dutton from a few years ago "who is protecting our kids FROM CPS?" Whether it be access to medical records and other evidence or which doctor can make determinations, please realize that providing more protections to the parents can also bring more protections to the CHILDREN and the family unit. Thank you.