

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services  
For HB 4029

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 7:37 PM

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Hearing Date: April 23, 2025 8:00 AM

David Lowthorp  
Hutto ISD Police  
Hutto, TX

I've proudly served in law enforcement for 14 years, and for the past four, I've had the privilege of working as a School-Based Law Enforcement Officer. This role has been incredibly rewarding. Every day, I get to mentor students, help guide them toward better choices, and hopefully keep them from ever entering the criminal pipeline. The impact we can have—sometimes even changing a family's trajectory for generations—is something I truly value.

But as much as I love what I do, I've found myself wrestling with a difficult decision. The retirement system for school-based officers, TRS, is significantly less beneficial than what's offered through TCDRS or TMRS—especially with no 2-to-1 matching. When you combine that with already lower pay, it becomes extremely hard to recruit and retain quality officers in our schools.

We need to recognize the vital role SBLE officers play—not just in safety, but in shaping lives—and ensure the support and benefits reflect that value in our compensation and retirement plans. Thank you for your time.

Robert Gauvin  
Hutto ISD PD - TX  
Hutto, TX

I am a Police Sergeant at an ISD Police Department. The biggest issue we have with recruitment is the retirement available to officers. Because TRS is so limited, we cannot attract younger officers at all. Routinely we have to hire officers who have retired from another system first and that makes the vast majority of our officers elderly or near elderly. We have to do something to ensure we are as attractive as competing departments so our children aren't only protected by senior citizens. At the present time, ISD Police Departments just can't compete with traditional law enforcement agencies on retirement. This bill is a step in the right direction.

george dranowsky, Chief  
EastCentral ISD Police  
San Antonio, TX

This is a good start to recruit and hire professional officers. Our students deserve the best for their protection. School law enforcement is a specialized unit and need special training.

Cody Bradford  
self- Chief of Police  
Mount Vernon, TX

To the Respective House Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Texas House Bill 4029, introduced by Representative Ryan Guillen, which proposes the creation of a supplemental program retirement fund for certain law enforcement officers within the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).

Our law enforcement officers face extraordinary challenges every day as they protect our school communities and children. Many of these officers are members of the TRS system, and yet their retirement options do not always reflect the risks and sacrifices their roles demand. HB 4029 is a crucial step toward correcting this disparity by providing enhanced retirement benefits to those who serve in this capacity.

This bill not only honors the commitment and service of our officers, but also helps ensure that Texas can continue to attract and retain dedicated, qualified personnel in law enforcement. Offering fair and competitive retirement options is one way we can show our respect for their work and recognize the demanding nature of their noble profession.

In addition to being a matter of fairness, supporting HB 4029 is a matter of public safety. When we invest in the well-being of our officers—both during and after their careers—we strengthen the institutions that keep our communities safe.

I urge you to support HB 4029 and help move this important legislation forward.

Thank you for your time and commitment to serving the people of Texas.

Respectfully Submitting,

Cody Bradford  
Chief of Police  
Harts Bluff ISD Police Department

Beverly Freshour  
self  
Kyle, TX

This is our legislation recognizing the above-and-beyond work of law enforcement in protecting our youth. I spent 25 years in this arena, and now provide training to those who serve on our campuses. Every day (including COVID), my fellow officers and I do everything we can to protect everyone on our campuses. LEO work is highly stressful, especially when you oversee other people's children. Let's compensate all of us who have done our time!

Jason Ward Ward  
Self- Law enforcement  
Cleveland, TX

Currently a young new officer that works in for an ISD could have to spend in excess of 30 years with the schools to become eligible for retirement, meanwhile peace officers in agencies such as TABC and DPS can retire at 20 years under LECOS. Many officers come from the streets looking for a slower pace of life mid career, and will have to wait until 65 under TRS to retire. The focus of the state agencies jobs are not the same as campus officers, yet ultimately the face the same risks. ISD officers still have physical confrontations in the line of duty and do not want to be broke down old persons at 63, popping ibuprofen to get through the day thinking in two more years I can get out of here. If you want every school to have an officer, then help improve retirement. Its well known in the LE world that TRS retirement is one of the lower regarded options, with most cities and county retirement options along with ERS are looked as the better retirement option.

Bring TRS LE retirement up to a more even playing field with the other options out there, and you'll have some more officers considering campus LE and get closer to achieving the goal of an officer for every campus.  
Thank you.

Jose A Garcia  
Self/Police Officer  
McAllen, TX

This bill proposal has been long overdue. I pray that the Texas House members approve this bill for police officers. The benefits from this proposed bill will undoubtedly help so many law-enforcement families for this great State of Texas. Thank you for your time and consideration on this very important matter.

James Fischetti  
SELF  
Georgetown, TX

As a Texan all my life, I fully support this bill in creation of supplemental program retirement fund for Texas Peace Officers who are enrolled in or receiving benefits from TRS.

Ryan Urrutia, Chief  
RRISD Police Department Chief of Police  
Round Rock, TX

As the Chief of Police for the Round Rock Independent School District and a law enforcement professional with over 28 years of service, I offer my strong support for House Bill 4029, which aims to enhance retirement benefits for certain law enforcement officers who are members of the Teachers Retirement System of Texas (TRS).

This proposed legislation is critical to recognizing the tireless efforts and sacrifices of our officers—especially those serving in school-based law enforcement. These men and women play a vital role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and broader school communities. House Bill 4029 acknowledges not only the emotional and physical toll of this unique public safety role but also the long-term commitment these officers make to our youth and future generations.

In Round Rock ISD, we are building a department focused on safety, trust, and mentorship. However, one of our greatest challenges is recruiting and retaining highly qualified officers who are passionate about working with students. Competitive retirement benefits play a major role in attracting professionals who are committed to the mission of school safety and community-based policing. House Bill 4029 would help level the playing field, allowing school district police departments to retain experienced officers and maintain a high standard of service.

I respectfully urge lawmakers to pass House Bill 4029. This legislation is more than a policy decision—it is a clear statement that Texas values and supports those who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities, especially in our schools.

Matthew West

Self - School District Police Officer

Bastrop, TX

I am a 25 year law enforcement veteran and currently work as a school district police officer in Central Texas and support HB 4029. For the past 6 plus years, I have been working in school law enforcement and is one of the most rewarding law enforcement jobs I've had. Unfortunately, the hazards commonly found in law enforcement have taken a toll on myself and my fellow school police officers. Many of us have come from traditional law enforcement, bringing years of experience to help protect our schools. Unfortunately, most of us who work under TRS will have to work into our early to mid-sixties before we can have a full retirement. Sadly, the life expectancy of a U.S. police officer is around 66 years old according to studies and is outlined in U.S. Health and Human Services research publication (<https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/37845>). According to this study, police officers over the age of 45 actually see a very sharp increase in early death rate. I worked for a state law enforcement agency prior to entering school-based law enforcement and was part of the LECOS retirement system where I could have retired at the age of 55. I have seriously thought about leaving the school system to go back to work at a state law enforcement agency just so I can retire earlier and also received health insurance (which is not offered by TRS for law enforcement retirees).

I ask the committee to seriously consider lowering the retirement age for school-based peace officers and mimicking the LECOS ERS retirement so that we can enjoy what few years we have left to still be with family. This really hits home for me as my father, who was a 30 year veteran police officer, died before his 60th birthday. Many of his co-workers also passed away between 60-70 years old.

I thank you for your consideration into this matter.

Richard Palomo, Chief

Southwest ISD Police Department

St. Hedwig, TX

Honorable State Representative Guillen, I respectfully request your support for HB4029. As Chief of Police, I believe this bill will help educational law enforcement agencies recruit and retain quality officers. Our current system under TRS makes recruiting and retaining officers difficult due to the rule of 90 formula, age plus years of service. Under the current system, officers have to work into their 60s and 70s to qualify for a pension, and this in it in self deters applicants from applying with ISD Police Departments. Passage of HB4029 will help us recruit and retain quality officers. Thank you for your support,

Tyler Hall, Officer

Self, School based law enforcement

Bells, TX

This would help all school based law enforcement for an affordable retirement when all they have is Teacher retirement.

Mike Ford

Self

Brookston, TX

Support

Steve Wade, Chief of Police

Farmersville ISD Police Department

Farmersville, TX

Please consider voting FOR HB 4029.

Van Slusser  
self - Police Officer  
Edinburg, TX

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Pensions, Investments & Financial Services:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4029, sponsored by Representative Ryan Guillen, and currently under consideration by your committee. This bill seeks to implement a much-needed 25-year retirement plan with supplemental pension benefits for peace officers enrolled in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS), similar to the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental (LECOS) retirement benefit already in place for state peace officers covered by ERS.

I have proudly served as a campus peace officer under TRS for the past 15 years, and I am currently 41 years old. My role, like that of my peers in campus law enforcement across Texas, is physically demanding, mentally stressful, and inherently dangerous. Campus peace officers respond to and manage critical incidents, including threats to safety, emergencies, and complex criminal investigations, tasks indistinguishable from those performed by other law enforcement professionals covered by more favorable retirement systems.

Over the past several years, I have already begun experiencing significant physical challenges directly attributable to the duties of my job. Chronic back pain and related health issues are becoming an increasing concern. The prospect of continuing to serve in such a physically demanding role until the standard retirement age of 65, as currently required by TRS, is daunting and unrealistic. Early and appropriate retirement options, similar to those provided to our counterparts in other law enforcement agencies, would greatly enhance our ability to maintain our health, safety, and effectiveness while serving our communities.

The creation of a 25-year retirement plan with supplemental benefits, as outlined in HB 4029, would bring essential parity to TRS-covered peace officers, aligning our retirement benefits with other state law enforcement professionals. This parity is critical not only to individual officers but also to the overall effectiveness, recruitment, and retention of dedicated peace officers within educational environments.

Moreover, the recently completed TRS study clearly supports the feasibility and advisability of Option 1, upon which HB 4029 is modeled. It demonstrates careful fiscal consideration and thoughtful structuring of supplemental benefits that provide critical security without imposing undue burden on the retirement system.

In conclusion, passing HB 4029 will directly support the men and women who tirelessly protect our campuses and students. I urge this committee to strongly consider the physical and mental toll inherent in our duties, the fairness in providing comparable retirement benefits across all law enforcement positions, and the broader benefits to public safety through improved officer retention and well-being.

Thank you for your consideration and ongoing commitment to supporting peace officers serving under TRS.

Zinzun Javier  
Self  
Von Ormy, TX

The police officer need this

Chris Alderson, Captain  
Self  
Slaton, TX

Thank you for creating this and supporting School Base Law Enforcement.

David Rider, Chief of Police

Katy Independent School District Police Department

Katy, TX

My name is David Rider, and I am the Chief of Police for the Katy ISD Police Department, serving 98,000 students and 13,000 employees covering 180 square miles. Katy ISD employs 80 sworn law enforcement officers who have a heart for serving students and making a difference in their lives by building positive, professional relationships. As a 34 year law enforcement veteran, I have served 28 of those years in school based law enforcement. Over 12 years in Austin ISD from school resource officer promoting up to Assistant Chief. From there I served 15 years as Chief of Police in Fort Bend ISD and now I serve as Chief of Police in Katy ISD. I have led both Austin ISD and Fort Bend ISD to RECOGNIZED status through the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) Best Practice Program where we follow 180 best practices in law enforcement. I hold a Masters Degree, a Master Peace Officer Certification, and numerous other certifications and awards.

The purpose of my correspondence is to support House Bill 4029 which would allow police officers who have fulfilled at least 25 years of service to retire at any age and with a .5% supplement, which is needed to offset the shorter number of years served. This change in the TRS retirement system is needed so that school district police departments, as well as university police departments, may compete on a more level playing field with municipal police departments and county and state law enforcement agencies. These other agencies typically allow 20, 25, or 30-year retirement at any age. Without passage of this bill, police officers may have to work until their mid-60s to get their full retirement benefits. While this may be possible for an educator, the physical, mental, and emotional rigors of the police officer job often place this retirement age out of reach. Police officers must wear a constrictive police uniform with a heavy-duty belt that includes a firearm, bullet-resistant vest, handheld radio, handcuffs, TASER (or some other less lethal device), flashlight, extra ammunition and tourniquet at a minimum. In an active shooter scenario, they must be able to carry a patrol rifle or shotgun and active shooter shock plates along with extra ammunition, and breaching tools. Officers typically work long hours in all kinds of weather conditions, and often stand for extended periods of time with no rest. Given these working conditions, it is not a reasonable expectation that a person should be able to do this for more than 25 years under normal circumstances.

I ask that you please consider making these changes to the TRS retirement system so that we can more successfully recruit and retain the best talent for our public schools, colleges, and universities. Without these changes, our police departments will continue to be training grounds for other departments. Officers must know that they have the option of being able to retire within a reasonable time frame, or they will leave us to go to another agency.

William Edwards, Chief of Police

Hutto ISD Police Department

Hutto, TX

HB 4029 is a great step in the right direction to level the recruiting and retention of SBLE officers in Texas. There is a HUGE disparity on retirement benefits in the TRS system that makes this a challenge and has been even more apparent since the passing in the last session of HB 3.

The two areas that need to be adjusted in the efforts to make positive change in this topic include make benefits post-retirement and penalty for early retirement. The bill speaks to that with the rule of 80 and 57 years of age, but unless the rule of 80 in TRS takes into consideration proportionate service credits from other retirement systems there is no benefit change. Currently TRS has 10 of service AND the rule of 80, but for insurance it DOES NOT consider anything other than TRS time. IT does not consider municipal or county or any other system. That would mean you would have to be under 45 when entering TRS for 10 years and the rule of 80 to align. CHANGE THE RULE OF 80 to ONE DEFINITION "Age and years of combined service" equals 80 and require 5 years TRS for vetting and 10 years still for benefits. Same for early retirement deductions remove them for 5 years of service & the rule of 80, again with all service credit considered.

I have been in TRS 9.5 years, have 30 years of service and can not get insurance until after I qualify for Medicare and still face a 50% early retirement penalty. Under the current structure I will have to have 40 years of service as a police officer to retire with benefits.

Please address the early retirement penalty and apply service credits from other retirement systems that were earned in a sworn capacity to apply to the rule.

Daniel Mach  
Self  
Grand Prairie, TX

I am a 15 year Police Officer who has served the last 11 in school districts. I ask these representatives to please approve this bill. Being a Police Officer takes a toll in your mind and body. Our counterparts who serve in municipalities, counties and state have a much more favorable retirement system. Trs in it's design is set up for teachers. As Trs is setup currently for Police, you will only attract older retired officers looking for a "easy" retirement gig. This is not what the schools need for our children. We need to attract young Officers willing to engage and protect our kids. I love my job and helping our students. I regret if this bill or one similar would force me to look to go back to a municipality solely for the retirement. Thank you for reading my comments and I hope you vote to pass this bill and help us dedicated school police officers. God bless

Ronnie Humphrey, Chief of Police  
Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Department  
Mt. Pleasant, TX

I am writing to express my support for HB4029 by Representative Guillen. I wanted to speak in person today for this Bill, however due to department staffing shortages, I could not attend and leave campuses uncovered. This Bill when passed, would strongly help in recruiting and retaining quality officers in our schools. Currently, we cannot compete with other agencies in the State of Texas and this is directly related to retirement qualifications. Not only do they have to work several more years to qualify for a pension, but they also retire at a much lower rate, due to us not having the Peace Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund. I urge you to support HB4029 and help move this important legislation forward. Thank You, Ronnie Humphrey Chief of Police Mt. Pleasant ISD Police Department

Heath Wester, Police Chief  
Sherman ISD Police Department  
Sherman, TX

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 4029, which addresses vital improvements in school-based law enforcement practices across our state. As a [your title/position] with [your agency or organization], I see firsthand the critical role school-based law enforcement officers (SBLEOs) play in fostering a safe, supportive, and responsive environment for our students and educators.

HB 4029 represents a forward-thinking step that will provide much-needed clarity, structure, and support to officers assigned to educational settings. By establishing consistent training standards, clear expectations, and stronger collaboration between educational institutions and law enforcement agencies, this bill enhances both the safety and wellbeing of our schools and the effectiveness of those entrusted to protect them.

Specifically, the bill's provisions will:

Ensure that SBLEOs receive specialized training in adolescent development, trauma-informed practices, and de-escalation techniques—skills that are essential for working effectively with youth.

Promote greater consistency and accountability across school districts and law enforcement agencies.

Help build trust between students and officers, making our schools not just safer, but more inclusive and supportive.

The passage of HB 4029 will also support recruitment and retention efforts in law enforcement by clearly defining the role of SBLEOs and providing them with tools and training that reflect the unique challenges of working within school environments. These measures are not only beneficial for law enforcement professionals, but also reinforce our commitment to the overall mission of public safety and education.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB 4029 and move it forward for passage. This legislation is a critical investment in the safety of our schools, the effectiveness of our officers, and the success of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joel Fischetti  
Hutto ISD PD - TX  
Hutto, TX

As a police Sergeant serving in a Texas public school district, I strongly support HB 4029 by Representative Guillen. This bill recognizes the unique and critical role that school-based law enforcement officers play in protecting our campuses, students, and staff. By creating a supplemental program retirement fund within the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) specifically for law enforcement officers, HB 4029 addresses a long-standing disparity and provides a path to more equitable retirement benefits.

School district police officers face the same daily risks and challenges as other peace officers across the state, yet many of us are members of TRS and have not been eligible for the same retirement considerations afforded to officers under other systems. This bill honors our service and ensures that those who dedicate their careers to the safety and well-being of Texas students are able to retire with dignity and security.

I urge lawmakers to support HB 4029 and take this important step in valuing the contributions of school-based law enforcement professionals. Our officers deserve retirement benefits that reflect the full measure of their service and sacrifice.

Zachary Willard  
self/Police Officer  
Leander, TX

Please help us by giving us this opportunity to better support ourselves and our families.

Stewart Russell, Chief of Police  
Self Chief of Police Goose Creek CISD Police Dept.  
BAYTOWN, TX

School District Police Departments have trouble finding and hiring Police Officers. The current retirement system is an obstacle to hiring. Many new School District Police Officers have to work until their mid-60s to obtain full retirement benefits. The requirements of the job, keeping students and teachers safe is physically demanding (breaking up fights, chasing suspects, long hours on foot patrol). I have worked 33 years as a School District Police Officer and have seen many Officers have to leave the job due to not being able to physically continue. They have done so with little retirement benefits. Please consider passing this bill as a recruiting tool to help School District Police Departments attract Police Officers to protect our students and teachers. Thank you.

Darryl Darnell  
SELF - Law Enforcement  
Taylor, TX  
Greetings,

As a retired State Police Officer and now a School District Police Officer I support HB 4029. Since I retired from the State of Texas I benefit from ERS and LECOS retirement funds as well as state paid Health Insurance. What I did discover when I joined the School District Police force is that the TRS Retirement system IS NOT setup for Police Employees. Police Officers within the TRS Retirement system do not have the same opportunities and health care coverage provided to Police Officers enrolled in ERS.

While I applaud the legislative action to correct this disparity I am very concerned that the Police Officers in the TRS retirement system WILL NOT receive paid health insurance upon retirement like Police Officers within the ERS retirement system. Your consideration in amending this bill to include Health Insurance benefits would be a great step in addressing the need for a proper retirement category for Police Officers within the TRS system.

Respectfully submitted,

Darry Darnell  
darnell.d@sbcglobal.net



Jay Tillerson

Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators

North Richland Hills, TX

On behalf of the Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators (TACUPA), Our Board, supported by the membership, is writing to express our strong support for the filed House Bill 4029, as well as the recommendations outlined by the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT) submitted to Representative Guillen's office. These adjustments represent essential refinements that will strengthen the bill's structure, reduce administrative burden, and most importantly, better serve peace officers who protect Texas' higher education communities and school districts.

We strongly support the proposed enhancements to retirement benefit calculations, particularly the additional 0.5% multiplier per year of supplemental service on top of the existing 2.3% TRS multiplier, as well as the reduced retirement age of 57. These changes would significantly strengthen recruitment and retention efforts. For law enforcement professionals serving in educational settings, the ability to retire with dignity and fairness—comparable to their peers in other law enforcement roles—is a compelling incentive. By making careers in campus law enforcement more attractive and sustainable, these improvements will ultimately contribute to safer learning environments across Texas.

TACUPA respectfully urges our legislature's support for HB 4029 and these recommendations. We believe these modifications are not only fiscally responsible but will directly contribute to maintaining a strong, qualified, and committed public safety workforce in Texas higher education and school districts.

TACUPA represents campus law enforcement executives and public safety leaders from colleges and universities across the State of Texas. Our members are committed to fostering safe, secure learning environments through excellence in law enforcement leadership, training, and service. TACUPA provides a unified voice on legislative and policy matters that impact the safety of our campuses, and the professionals charged with protecting them.

We would like to thank the work the CLEAT and the Texas Police Chiefs Association (TPCA) has put forth as well. Most importantly, we thank our Legislature and Governor Abbott for your leadership and continued support of law enforcement officers who serve in our educational institutions.

Respectfully,

Will Ivie, President

Sam Garrison, 1st Vice President

Bryan Vaughn, 2nd Vice President

Mike Smith, Past President

Clemente Rodriguez, Board Member I Jay Tillerson, Board Member 2

Scott Jenkins, Secretary

Board Members, Texas Association of College and University Police Administrators

Randy Wheeler, Officer

Hutto ISD Police Department

Hutto, TX

I am in support of this bill. As a current school district officer, I feel that we should have the same benefits afforded to municipal and state Police Officers. Having this benefit would greatly increase the number of good officers that would also apply for this position.

Daniel Hernandez

Hutto ISD Police Department

Hutto, TX

As a member of the Hutto ISD Police Department I feel that passing this bill would definitely help all ISD police departments recruit and maintain officers in order to fill the vacancies and be in compliance with having an armed officer at ALL ISD campuses, which will most importantly keep our children safe. Thank you for your time.

Dean Peterson, Mr.

Self - Peace Officer

Arlington, TX

Dear Committee,

My name is Dean Peterson, and I serve as a peace officer at a state university in the North Texas area. I'm writing to urge your support for creating equitable retirement options for peace officers in the Texas Retirement System (TRS), particularly those serving in campus and ISD police departments. These officers deserve the same opportunity to retire after 20 or 25 years of service that is already available to their peers in the Employees Retirement System (ERS) and other systems such as TMRS.

Under current law, peace officers in the ERS system can retire at any age with 20 years of LECO service credit. Meanwhile, officers in the TRS system must meet the Rule of 80 and be 62 years old to draw a pension without penalty —meaning someone who begins their service at 25 potentially must work 37 years before becoming eligible for normal retirement. This disparity affects over 5,100 certified peace officers working in schools and universities across Texas, all of whom face similar risks, responsibilities, and challenges as their municipal and state counterparts.

Campus and ISD officers are first responders to emergencies such as active shooters, sexual assaults, and violent crimes. They undergo the same training, hold the same certifications, and enforce state laws on and off campus. They work holidays, night shifts, and weekends—experiencing the same physical and psychological tolls as other law enforcement professionals. Departments like mine essentially function the same as a municipal agency serving a small town. Yet unlike their ERS or TMRS peers, campus and ISD officers are expected to serve longer in one of the most demanding professions. This is unfair and places TRS departments at a severe disadvantage in attracting and retaining qualified officers. Many officer candidates understandably choose agencies with more favorable retirement terms, contributing to high turnover, reduced experience, and fewer candidates for leadership roles in TRS departments.

This inequity not only hurts officer morale but ultimately impacts public safety. Texans expect their schools and campuses to be protected by experienced, professional officers. That becomes increasingly difficult when retirement benefits are not competitive.

Texas currently enjoys a historic budget surplus. There has never been a better time to correct this imbalance and invest in the officers who dedicate their careers to protecting our state's schools and universities. Ensuring parity in retirement eligibility for TRS peace officers is both fiscally responsible and morally right.

We must correct this imbalance. Peace officers in the TRS system should have access to the same retirement options as their peers. It's a matter of fairness, public safety, and ensuring our schools and universities are protected by the best.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Peterson  
1305 St. Maria Ct  
Arlington, TX 76013  
Tel: 817-501-9859

Kirby Warnke

Vice President of Texas ISD Police Chiefs Association and as Chief of Police of the Corpus Christi ISD PD  
Corpus Christi, TX

First and foremost, thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair and Rep Guillen for putting this bill on the agenda. Recruiting and retaining high-quality well-trained peace officers to work with and protect our children is my top priority. This bill will go a long way in helping in that effort.

Texas already had a peace officer shortage and with the mandate to cover elementary campuses the shortage was exacerbated. We Chiefs are all fighting for the same limited resources. Here in Corpus Christi, we are being creative and finding ways to be compliant, but compliance is not our goal, excellence is.

We are frequently training up amazing officers only to have them leave to other agencies where they can work on preferential retirements.

This bill will help and we surely need help.

Please work to help make this bill a reality.

With much thanks and gratitude,

Kirby Warnke, Proud Chief, CCISD Police Department

Burl Smith

Self - Police Officer

Robstown, TX

HB 4029 represents a vital step toward recognizing the unique sacrifices and service of law enforcement officers who are members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. By creating a supplemental retirement program, this bill ensures that these public servants receive the support and financial security they deserve upon retirement. Law enforcement officers often face high-risk, high-stress roles while protecting our schools and communities, and HB 4029 provides a fair and necessary enhancement to their retirement benefits. Supporting this bill means honoring their service with the dignity and stability they've earned. Thank you - Burl Smith

J.D. Villarreal, TAS

Corpus Christi ISD Police Department

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

As a active 33 year veteran of the Corpus Christi ISD Police Department I support the HB 4029. What I have learned and experianced the longer you do begins to take a toll on your mental and physical capabilities, causing Hypertension, stress and other underlying medical conditions. Allowing retirement after 25 years of service with full benefits would allow a retired Law Enforcement officer to live a life and not to succum to the national statistic of passing within the 5 years of retirement.