

Tab 1

Messaging TOOLKIT

Stop HB 6: Punitive and Harmful School Discipline

Updated May 7, 2025 4:00 PM CST

ATTENTION Testify AGAINST HB 6

DATE: Thursday, May 8th, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM CST

LOCATION: Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin, TX

ROOM: E1.028 (Hearing Room)

POSTING: [Link](#)

HB 6 seeks to propose several changes to current school discipline policies and procedures in Texas that are more punitive, more harmful, and potentially more discriminatory.

Call or Email Members

Call or email the Senate Education K-16 committee members. Feel free to personalize with the talking points above and with any particular anecdotes and experiences you would like to share. It's critical to contact your state senator, especially if they sit on the Senate Committee on Education K-16, which is hearing this bill.

You can find your senator using the official Texas Legislature tool:

<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>

Office	Email	Phone Number	District
Brandon Creighton (Chair)	Brandon.Creighton@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0104	4
Donna Campbell (Vice Chair)	Donna.Campbell@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0125	25
Paul Bettencourt	Paul.Bettencourt@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0107	7
Brent Hagenbuch	Brent.Hagenbuch@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0130	30
Adam Hinojosa	Adam.Hinojosa@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0127	27
Phil King	Phil.King@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0110	10
José Menéndez	Jose.Menendez@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0126	26
Mayes Middleton	Mayes.Middleton@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0111	11

Tan Parker	Tan.Parker@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0112	12
Angela Paxton	Angela.Paxton@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0108	8
Royce West	Royce.West@senate.texas.gov	(512)-463-0123	23

Call Script

“Hello, my name is **[say your name]** and I live in (name the town and/or school district you live in). I am calling to urge **[Legislator’s Name]** to vote no on House Bill 6. This bill harms students through the use of punitive zero tolerance practices.

*This bill would allow for our youngest students in pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade to be suspended for a one time disruption, allow for unlimited in school suspension placements, and allow the courts to be involved in disciplinary actions. **[If you have an example, please share it!]***

The bill will disproportionately impact vulnerable students, especially those with disabilities, and risks placing more kids in the school-to-prison pipeline. H.B. 6 would be a step backwards for our students and we need to prioritize providing support to our schools, teachers, and students.

Please vote no to H.B. 6 when it comes up for a vote. Thank you very much for your time and attention.”

Testify In Person

Written Testimony:

There’s no limit on the length of written testimonies.

Oral Testimony:

We encourage you to write out your testimony before the hearing! Testimonies read out loud should be **two-minutes** to be read to the committee during the hearing. However, written testimonies do not have any page or word limit. To get an idea of what to write about, please see these testimony guides:

- [Writing legislative testimony tips](#)
- [How to Testify before the Texas Legislature](#)

For in-person, individuals can write out and read their testimonies. If you are providing a written testimony, **please bring 15 copies for the members and their staff.**

Please go here to [watch the livestream](#) of the Texas Senate starting at **9:00am on 05/08/2025.**

Talking Points

- The bill's broad language makes it easier to suspend or remove students, especially younger children, for vague or minor disruptions. This risks pushing the most vulnerable students-such as those with disabilities or behavioral challenges out of the classroom instead of supporting them.
- Historically, exclusionary discipline policies have disproportionately impacted students of color, students with disabilities, and those from low-income backgrounds. This bill risks worsening those inequities
- Instead of investing in counselors, mental health resources, or positive behavioral supports, the bill focuses on exclusion and punishment, which research shows does not improve school safety or student outcomes.
- By expanding grounds for in-school and out-of-school suspensions and allowing indefinite in-school suspensions, the bill doubles down on punitive practices that have not worked in the past and are linked to higher dropout rates.
- The bill rolls back reforms from 2017 that protected pre-K through second grade students from suspension for non-violent behavior, allowing even very young children to be removed from school for being disruptive
- The bill allows districts to place disciplined students in virtual disciplinary programs, where engagement and support are minimal, yet districts still receive full funding. This could incentivize schools to exclude rather than help struggling students

Spread the Word

Reach out to your friends, families, colleagues - anyone who cares about keeping students in our schools- to get them involved! There's a template below to get you started.

Hey! The Texas Senate is holding a public hearing on HB 6, a bill that would increase exclusionary discipline and enhance the school to prison pipeline. Are you interested in getting involved? It won't take more than 10 minutes of your time!

Resources

- [IDRA Disciplined Out – Infographic](#)
- [IDRA Testimony against HB 6, March 18th, 2025](#)
- [Texas Appleseed- Keep our Youngest Students in School Factsheet](#)

- [Texas Appleseed- School Discipline Webpage](#)
- [IDRA Safer Schools Webpage](#)
- [TCJE Opposition Fact Sheet](#)