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Texas Education Policy Alert

Action Alert: HB 3 Provides an Illusion of School Safety, Help us Today!

In 24 hours or less, lawmakers will vote on whether to adopt the conference committee report for House Bill 3, the priority school safety bill. While in conference committee the bill drastically changed and includes harmful provisions that will do little to protect students from school-based violence. This is the **last stage before the bill heads to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.**

- **HB 3 requires more guns on school campuses, with no increase to school-based mental or behavioral health resources.** Requiring more police on campus is unnecessary and will make schools *less safe* – particularly for students of color and students with disabilities.
- **Research has shown no association** between having an armed officer and the deterrence of violence in school shooting cases. In most cases of targeted school violence, **an armed officer on the scene was the number one factor associated with increased casualties** after a perpetrator's use of a high-capacity gun.
- **HB 3 is expensive.** The bill does not increase the school safety allotment. And rather than allocating surplus funds to teacher pay raises, mental and behavioral support staff, and other evidence-based practices, HB 3 authorizes new school hardening mandates.

Building trusting relationships and supportive communities is the proactive way to support the mental, emotional and physical safety of students and adults in schools.

We urge you to **call your House representative today** and tell them to **vote no on House Bill 3!**

Find Your Representative!

Use [Who Represents Me](#), to find your representative's contact information.

Resources You Can Use!

[What Safe Schools Should Look Like for Every Student: A Guide to Building Safe and Welcoming Schools and Rejecting Policies that Hurt Students](#) - IDRA's Policy and Practice School Safety Roadmap

[Commentary: Texas bills offer illusion of school safety](#) - Op-ed in the San Antonio Express-News by Paige Duggins-Clay, J.D.

[School Policing Resources](#) – Resources to assist school districts that choose to invest in strategies that create safe and supportive schools for all students and move away from school policing and other harmful approaches.

Testimony Against House Bill 3

[HB 3 Offers an Illusion of Safety but Fails to Invest in Real Solutions for Safe and Supportive Schools](#) – IDRA Testimony Against House Bill 3, submitted by Paige Duggins-Clay, J.D., to the Texas House Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety, March 27, 2023 – [See video](#)

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IDRA is an independent, non-profit organization whose mission is to achieve equal educational opportunity through strong public schools that prepare all students to access and succeed in college.

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