



Policy Committee Meeting
April 18th, 2023

Judge Judy Warne	Committee Chair
Amy Smith	HCDVCC
Thecia Jenkins	HCDVCC
Deputy Oscar Cisneros	HCSO
Lt. Kira Webster	HPD- Family Violence
Sonia Corrales	HAWC
Katharina Dechert	Tahirih
Veronyka James	Office of Justice and Safety
Shannon Fowler	UH/Downtown
Sydney Mike-Mayer	Texas Advocacy Project
Maisha Coulter	AVDA
Carvana Cloud	Empowered Survivor
Darcy Padgett	Busy Bee
Rebecca Councill	HCDVCC

Judge Judy Warne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She gave an update on the Rahimi Case in the 5th Circuit Court. The Department of Justice has taken the case to the Supreme Court. In order for the case to be heard because it is not under direct appeal. The DOJ has to establish a reversible issue (there is one because 2 courts disagree) and it has to be a National Emergency. 4 out of the 9 Justices have to agree to hear the case. And they gave the defendant in the case until May 23rd to respond to the filing. If 5 of the 9 Judges agree they can issue a stay of the 5th Circuit Ruling. She also stated that some bills are languishing in the Legislature waiting on the outcome of this case. However, it does not appear that there will be a decision before the Legislature ends. If nothing is done, we have to wait 2 years before we can change anything through the Texas Legislature. She also talked about the Robb Elementary Firearms Act that even though it is a school shooting bill it might be helpful in DV situations because it will allow guns to be taken away under certain circumstances.

Judge Warne stated there are over 300 Family Law Bills that have been filed. SB 48 – Mandatory/Standard Forms on P.O.'s has passed. There is some concern this might limit creative add-ons to P.O.'s in specific cases.

Maisha stated that the 280th has asked for the firearm language to be struck from all P.O.'s. There is a concern about that language being removed from all P.O.'s. Judge Warne gave some suggestions like

enhancing the distance in orders. Finding in P.O. that a weapon was used in the commission of the incident. Bottom line the only way to protect some victims from some defendants is to surrender their guns. Maisha will monitor the use of these suggestions.

Katharina mentioned HB 20 (Major impact for immigrants. Creates new immigration police under DPS that reports directly to the Governor. Can deputize any citizen that does not have a felony conviction) had a hearing in the State Affairs Committee last week. Another bill heard was to create new penalties for some crimes and increase them to felonies.

SB 855- Judges Education Bill- passed recommended to be fast tracked. There are a lot of bills about Judges, including training, removal, and qualifications to serve. The issue is that we want to make sure that the Judges receive quality training, and we know what they are being taught.

Sonia- Mentioned Chapter 51 of the Human Resources Code is under a rehaul- This dictates what services can be provided and it hasn't been updated in years. SB 1841/HB796 will add and updated services.

Carvana thanked Annisa and the Minaret Foundation for their help in getting SB 855 passed.

Several Extreme Risk P.O. bills are pending but not getting very far. All have been referred to the Community Safety Committee. Several committees are looking at Firearm safety. There is also a lot of scrutiny on CPS.

We will continue to meet by ZOOM and revisit possible in person meetings in the fall.

Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting is on May 16th at 2:00 via ZOOM.