

THE CIVIL BEAT  
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House Committee on Judiciary  
Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony Commenting on S.B. 1226 S.D. 2, Relating to Child Care**  
Hearing: March 21, 2019 at 2:05 p.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Black. I am the Executive Director of the Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization whose primary mission concerns solutions that promote governmental transparency. Thank you for the opportunity to submit **comments** regarding **S.B. 1226 S.D. 2**.

The Law Center raises a concern about section three of the bill. The proposed amendment would delay public access to complaints about child care facilities for an indeterminate time while DHS conducts an investigation. Existing law already protects complainant privacy and allows the DHS Director to withhold information if it would interfere with a criminal investigation. So it is unclear what public policy is served by denying public access to complaints for a prolonged period.

Parents, guardians, and other members of the public considering options among child care facilities should know whether complaints have been filed against that facility. If unaware of complaints, individuals may place a child in a DHS-licensed facility only to learn later that the child was exposed to potential risk because DHS was still investigating the complaints.

*In the companion bill H.B. 1000, this Committee addressed this concern through appropriate amendments to Section 3.*

I apologize for the late testimony. We did not receive notice that this bill would be heard until 30 minutes after the hearing had started.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.B. 1226 S.D. 2.