

SB 1362 - Relating to a Texas Youth Commission comprehensive plan to improve student reading skills and behavior

Madam Chair members of the Committee, my name are Clifford (Cliff) Gay and I am here today representing myself, to recommend approval of SB 1362. This bill will address one of the gaps in the rehabilitation of the Youth.

Recently I was a Volunteer for the Youth Commission and discovered that one of the gaps in the rehabilitation of the youth is, part of them have difficulty reading. How are you going to be successfully re-integrated back into your community, if you can not read?

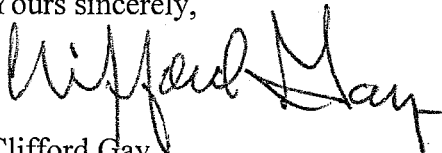
As further proof of this, there was an article in the Austin American Statesman based on a study done within the Youth Commission that also reached the same conclusion that the Youth could not Read. The article went on to say that the Youth were disruptive in class (behavior problems – my comment). Also while volunteering I noticed these behavior problems ‘spilling over’ into the classes we were presenting.

Also while at Turman House, here in Austin, we had one youth with such sever behavior problems that we had to ask that he not be allowed back into the class until he improved his behavior, he never came back. Do you think he can successfully re-integrate himself back into his community with this type of behavior?

With these reading and behavior problems the Youth have now, in my opinion, they will not be able to successfully re-integrate them selves back into their communities. With a recidivism rate of 50% after the first year and 70% after the second year, something must change.

SB 1362 calling for a comprehensive plan to improve student reading skills and behavior is a must. Therefore, I respectively recommend that you approve SB 1362

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clifford Gay". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Clifford Gay
501 E Stassney Ln
Austin, TX 78745
512/916-1549