

HB 1168 – SUPPORT

House Ways and Means Committee
March 10, 2026

Dr. Courtney Glickman
Licensed Mental Health Therapist

Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Courtney Glickman. I am a licensed mental health therapist who specializes in treating children affected by trauma, including those who have experienced sexual abuse and misconduct. I am also a parent. I am writing in strong support of HB 1168.

In my professional practice, I regularly support children and families navigating the aftermath of sexual abuse and serious misconduct. Through my clinical work, I see firsthand how institutional responses to abuse allegations can either support or further destabilize families. In these situations, families are often attempting to stabilize their children while simultaneously trying to understand what actions are being taken to ensure safety. A consistent pattern I observe across families is not only the impact of the allegation itself, but the distress and destabilization that can occur when communication from institutions is unclear, delayed, or inconsistent.

Parents frequently report uncertainty about what protective actions have been implemented, what procedural steps are underway, and what information they are entitled to receive. They are often left attempting to make important decisions without reliable guidance. In moments that are already overwhelming, the absence of clear communication can heighten distress and erode confidence in the systems meant to safeguard children.

From a child-safety perspective, ambiguity is not neutral — it increases risk. Trauma-informed systems depend on predictability, transparency, and clearly defined processes. When notification timelines are inconsistent, documentation practices are unclear, and there is no structured mechanism for reviewing serious incidents, families may lose confidence that institutions are responding effectively to protect students.

HB 1168 establishes a prompt parent notification protocol and creates a structured communication framework for schools. It strengthens record-retention standards, ensures families have access to counseling and sexual abuse support resources, and requires a formal after-action review to identify procedural gaps and improve crisis response in our schools.

These provisions are preventative in nature. Clear procedures and transparent communication help ensure that when serious incidents occur, school systems are prepared to respond in ways that prioritize student safety, support families, and strengthen institutional accountability.

Policies such as those outlined in HB 1168 help create the type of predictable and transparent systems that both families and schools need during moments of crisis. By establishing clear

expectations for communication, documentation, and review, this legislation supports a culture of safety and continuous improvement within our educational systems.

For the protection of students and the reassurance of families who entrust schools with the care of their children each day, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1168.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glickman, PhD, LCPC, RPT-S