



El Paso County Sheriff's Office



Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

As the Sheriff of El Paso County, I fully support Senate Bill 223, Autopsy Reports Death of a Minor. Release of these reports serves no useful purpose to the public. The public's interest in this information does NOT outweigh the privacy of the family of the minor. Information in these reports potentially contain information that not only stigmatizes the circumstances surrounding teen suicide, it can have long term effects on the family and friends of the individual.

In a time where we are working closely with members of our mental health community, schools and public safety to address a growing trend, we want to discourage public statements about the manner in which someone died. This bill provides the proper measures for release of such reports to only the most necessary entities.

I urge you to support this bill to ensure these families have the privacy they deserve in these tragic circumstances.

Bill Elder
Sheriff, El Paso County

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