

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEVE TOTH

Sound of Hope Act

HB 194

Purpose of the Bill: The Sound of Hope Act seeks to empower churches and faith based organizations to play a pivotal role in providing long-term care and support for foster children, creating a pathway for meaningful change in the child welfare system.

Summary of the Bill: The Sound of Hope Act outlines a collaborative approach to foster care, leveraging community resources to reduce recidivism, rehabilitate families, and limit government overreach. It prioritizes placing children with families over institutional settings, emphasizing stability and lifelong connections. Inspired by successful community-led efforts, such as Possum Trot, this bill redefines how foster care can effectively operate through faith-based partnerships.

Key Provisions:

1. Reduce Recidivism by Creating Long-Term Connections and Resources

- a. Provide ongoing support networks for children aging out of the system and after cases are closed with courts and state department.

2. Break the Generational Cycle by Rehabilitating Families

- a. Implement family-focused counseling and support services.
- b. Offer resources to reunify families whenever safe and possible.

3. Decrease Government Overreach

- a. Empower churches and community organizations to manage local foster care initiatives.
- b. Streamline policies to minimize bureaucratic barriers.
- c. Foster partnerships that allow private citizens to directly support foster families.

4. Place Kids with Families First

- a. Provide incentives and training for foster families within church communities.
- b. Promote adoption pathways that focus on long-term stability and care.

This Act serves as a legislative blueprint for transforming foster care by engaging faith communities as central partners, ensuring that every child finds a place to belong, heal, and thrive.



District 15



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