



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**JOE STRAUS**  
**SPEAKER**

Pursuant to Rule 1, Section 16, House Rules, I, Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, create the House Select Committee on Child Protection.

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is one of government's essential functions and the core mission of Child Protective Services (CPS). In fiscal year 2013, 156 Texas children died as a result of abuse or neglect. While this is fewer than in previous years, it represents far too many young lives ended tragically and senselessly.

Consequently, a coordinated, good-faith effort is necessary by the state legislature, the agencies charged with protecting children, and the numerous community-based organizations that work to prevent and address child abuse and neglect every day.

This committee shall study the incidence of abuse and neglect fatalities in Texas and make recommendations to protect children. In developing its recommendations, the committee shall:

- Monitor the ongoing efforts of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the work of the Protect Our Kids Commission and the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, and any relevant Sunset Commission recommendations;
- Assess the efficacy of ongoing prevention efforts that target resources to families at risk;
- Examine regulatory policy and contract oversight within the child welfare system;
- Consider ways to encourage consistent, transparent, and timely review of abuse and neglect fatalities;
- Monitor ongoing efforts to stabilize the CPS workforce, placing specific emphasis on improving work environment, enhancing the quality of supervision, and addressing the unique challenges facing different regions of the state;
- Suggest improvements to the screening, assessment, training, and support of potential foster and kinship families;
- Evaluate the ability of children and youth within the system to report maltreatment;
- Monitor ongoing efforts to enhance the use of data to improve outcomes; and
- Consider strategies to ensure better coordination and collaboration among local agencies, faith-based organizations, the private sector, non-profits, and law enforcement to reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect fatalities.

The committee shall have 9 members.

The following members are hereby appointed to the House Select Committee on Child Protection:

The Honorable Dawnna Dukes, Chair

The Honorable Cindy Burkett

The Honorable Tony Dale

The Honorable Jessica Farrar

The Honorable James Frank

The Honorable John Frullo

The Honorable Bobby Guerra

The Honorable Toni Rose

The Honorable J.D. Sheffield

The committee shall file a final report in the manner provided by Rule 4, Section 61, House Rules, not later than December 1, 2014. The report should identify any recommended statutory changes. The committee expires on the earlier of the date its final report is released or the date the 84th Legislature convenes.



Joe Straus  
Speaker