

Texas Legislative Alert – April 28, 2023

Protecting Women and Children:

1. Save Women's Sports Act Hearing

SB 15, by Senator Mayes Middleton, would protect female athletes in college from having to compete against biological males in women's sports competitions. To date, 15 other states have passed laws to protect women's collegiate sports and it is time for Texas to act on behalf of women. Allowing biological men who claim to be trans women to take away athletic scholarships and opportunities from our sisters and daughters is wrong and must be prohibited.

We need to restore the original purpose of Title IX, and the God-created distinctions of male and female. SB 15 was passed in the Senate, but now needs passage in the House.

When: Monday, May 1st, 2023, at 10:00am (arrive no later than 9am to park, walk to the Capitol, check in on the kiosk outside the hearing room)

Where: Texas Capitol, Room E2.010, House Higher Education Committee

Parking: Capitol Visitor's Parking Garage at 1201 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, TX 78701, or Bob Bullock History Museum 1800 Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701

ACTION: There are five different ways to support SB 15 and help save women's sports.

1. Sign in your support for SB 15 online at <https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c290>.
2. Come to the Capitol and sign your support of SB 15 at the kiosk outside the hearing room.
3. Stay and give a testimony (3 minutes) on why this bill is important to women's collegiate athletics. Please contact Cindy Asmussen at casmussen@sbtxas.com if you plan to come to the Capitol and need help preparing your testimony.
4. Provide written testimony by bringing at least 12 copies to hand to the committee clerk. Be sure and write your name and the bill number on each copy and why you support the bill.
5. Call each member of the House Higher Education committee and request they vote this bill out of committee.

Position	Member
Chair:	Rep. John Kuempel (512) 463-0602
Vice Chair:	Rep. Dennis Paul (512) 463-0734
Members:	Rep. John H. Bucy III (512) 463-0696
	Rep. DeWayne Burns (512) 463-0538
	Rep. Dustin Burrows (512) 463-0542
	Rep. Travis Clardy (512) 463-0592
	Rep. Sheryl Cole (512) 463-0506
	Rep. Mary E. González (512) 463-0613
	Rep. Donna Howard (512) 463-0631
	Rep. Suleman Lalani (512) 463-0596
	Rep. John Raney (512) 463-0698

2. Protect children under the age of 18 by banning surgical procedures or pharmaceuticals that are for the purpose of gender transitioning or gender reassignment.

SB 14, by Senator Donna Campbell and HB 1686 by Rep. Tom Oliverson, have authored bills to prohibit procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments to minors.

SB 14 was passed out of the Senate and should be voted on by the House sometime next week. We need to show up in the House gallery to show support that Texas MUST protect our children from the horrors of what these procedures are doing and prevent a lifetime of regret. Now is the time, approximately 14 other states have already passed these protections.

ACTION: There are three different ways you can help.

1. Please meet in the House gallery to show support for the passage of this important bill. Email Cindy Asmussen at casmussen@sbtexas.com if you plan to attend, and she will notify you when the House votes on SB 14.
2. Please call or email your Texas House Representative today and let them know you support SB 14 to protect children. You can find your House Representative at <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>.
3. Please call or email House Speaker Dade Phelan's office and let him know that Texas must pass SB 14 out of the House. You can email Speaker Dade Phelan at dade.phelan@house.texas.gov or call 512-463-1000.

3. Prohibit all sexually oriented performances on public grounds in front of minors adding both criminal and civil penalties.

SB 12 by Senator Hughes strongly defines "drag performance" and this bill is needed now as various establishments, even "educational" institutions are hosting sexually explicit drag performances in front of children. SB 12 has passed the Senate and is now in the House State Affairs Committee, which has not scheduled it for a hearing yet.

ACTION: Please contact the House State Affairs Chair, Rep. Todd Hunter at todd.hunter@house.texas.gov, or call 512-463-0672 and communicate that a hearing is needed immediately on SB 12 and passage is critical. Time is of the essence.

4. Prohibit sexual orientation and gender related conversations and instructions in public schools expanding the responsibilities of the Student Health Advisory Council to include policy recommendations of when and how human sexuality can be discussed outside of health class.

SB 1072 by Senator Hughes would accomplish this. It was heard in Senate Public Education and is set to be brought to the Senate floor for a vote.

ACTION: Please call Lt. Governor Dan Patrick at 512-463-0001 and ask him to bring SB 1072 to the floor for a vote to be sent over to the House.

Religious Liberty:

1. Religious Liberty for Attorneys

H.B. 2846 By Rep. Briscoe Cain seeks to address, preemptively, the growing attack on freedom of speech and expression of religious beliefs by prohibiting the state bar from adopting a rule that could limit a person's ability to obtain, maintain, or renew a law license based on the person's religious belief or burden a license applicant's or state bar member's free exercise of religion, freedom of speech about their faith, membership in any religious organization, or freedom of association.

HB 2846 has been sent to the House Calendars and needs to get to the House floor for a vote. The senate companion version by Senator Hughes, SB 559, has already been passed by the Senate so we need urgent action in the House.

ACTION: There are two different ways you can help.

1. Please call or email the Chair of the Calendars committee, Rep. Dustin Burrow, and tell him they need to pass HB 2846 and get it to the House floor for a vote to protect the religious liberties of attorneys. You can email Rep. Dustin Burro at Dustin.Burrows@house.texas.gov or call at 512-463-0542.
2. Please also call or email House Speaker Dade Phelan's office and let him know that Texas must protect religious liberties for attorneys and to pass HB 2846 out of the House.

You can email Speaker Dade Phelan at dade.phelan@house.texas.gov or call 512-463-1000.

Gambling:

Gambling interests are spending tens of millions of dollars to turn Texas into a predatory gambling state, and we must resist these efforts. Read more at https://sbtexas.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/TERLC-Sentinel_Jan-2023.pdf.

1. Sports Betting

HJR 102 and HB 1942 by Rep. Jeff Leach would legalize Sports Betting in Texas, which is known to be highly addictive, especially for our young people. A vote on these bills could come at any time on the House floor.

ACTION: There are three different ways you can help.

1. Please call or email your Texas House Representative today and let them know we do not want ANY predatory gambling in Texas, including Sports Betting, and to vote against these. You can find your House Representative at <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>.
2. Please also call or email House Speaker Dade Phelan's office and let him know that we do not want Texas to be a gambling state. You can email Speaker Dade Phelan at dade.phelan@house.texas.gov or call at 512-463-1000.
3. Please call Lt. Governor Dan Patrick at 512-463-0001 and make sure he hears from you that we do not want Texas to be a predatory gambling state and to please not let any gambling bills through the Senate.

The 88th Texas Legislative Session will be concluded on May 31 however, it is always possible that a Special Session is called. In 2021, there were three Special Sessions that followed the regular one.

Many times, a tactic used in the Legislature is to have various bills move slowly through the process so that they will not make it. It's important to hold our elected officials accountable and let our voices be heard for critical legislation to make it through the entire process and passed into law.

Please continue to pray and stay engaged. There is still much work to be done! A quick email or phone call can make all the difference.