

Texas Legislative Update May 10, 2021

There are only three weeks left in the 87th Texas Legislative Session for our legislative priorities (listed here sbtexas.com/terlc) to make it through the process, and your actions are urgent and critical to make this happen! All it takes is a very quick email or phone call (directions below).

There have been many bills of focus over the past few months that have been written about in our legislative updates (see here sbtexas.com/terlc), and some are making it through the process successfully, but the ones below need our immediate focus to help cross the finish line.

Currently, most of the bills below are stuck in the House Calendars Committee and they need to be voted favorably out of committee and get to the House floor immediately for a vote. Simple instructions and action points are listed for you to send a quick email or phone call and ask for our legislators to support and vote on these bills while there is still time:

Gender Identity

HB 1399 by Rep. Matt Krause – Relating to professional liability insurance coverage for and prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Children are being indoctrinated to believe they were made as a mistake and their gender should be changed. We know God does not make mistakes, nor is a child mature or able to make such a life-altering decision. We must stop providers from being allowed to perform these harmful gender reassignment procedures and puberty blocking hormones. Children must be saved from a lifetime of regret, sterility and confusion.

URGENT ACTION: See this link for exactly what can be done - mcusercontent.com as well as how to contact the entire House calendars committee below, specifically Chairman Burrows.

SB 1646 by Senator Charles Perry - Relating to the definition of abuse of a child. This bill would protect children from receiving puberty-suppression drugs, cross-sex hormones, medical procedures or surgeries for the purpose of gender reassignment – this bill passed the Senate and now needs to be passed out of the House Public Health Committee.

URGENT ACTION: Rep. Stephanie Klick is the Chair of this committee. Email stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov or call at 512-463-0599 and let her know how critical it is to pass SB 1646 out of committee.

Religious Liberty

HB525 Rep. Matt Shaheen - Relating to the protection of religious organizations. This bill provides that a governmental entity may not at any time, including during a declared state of disaster, prohibit a religious organization from engaging in religious and other related activities or continuing to operate in the discharge of the organization's foundational faith-based mission and purpose; or during a declared state of disaster order a religious organization to close or otherwise alter the organization's purposes or activities and makes relief available. (In House Calendars)

HB 1291 Rep. Keith Bell - Relating to notice of the right to object to participation in an abortion procedure for health care personnel of a hospital or health care facility. (In House Calendars)

HCRI Rep. Stephenson - Supporting prayers, including the use of the word “God,” at public gatherings and displays of the Ten Commandments in public educational institutions and other government buildings.(In House Calendars)

HJR 72 Rep. Leach - Proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations.(In House Calendars)

URGENT ACTION: Please contact the House Calendars Committee Chairman Dustin Burrows to ask that he bring all these priority bills up for a Committee vote along with contacting Committee members to ask them to vote YES on HB 1399 (prohibiting providers from gender modification treatments on children under 18), and the above religious liberty bills, and to vote these bills favorably out of Committee so they can be voted on the House floor.

Chairman Dustin Burrows 512-463-0542 • Dustin.Burrows@house.texas.gov

Committee Clerk Paige Higerd 512-463-0758

Rep. Cody Harris 512-463-0730 • Cody.Harris@house.texas.gov

Rep. Cole Hefner 512-463-0271 • Cole.Hefner@house.texas.gov

Rep. Ben Leman 512-463-0600 • Ben.Leman@house.texas.gov

Rep. Jared Patterson 512-463-0694 • Jared.Patterson@house.texas.gov

Rep. Shelby Slawson 512-463-0626 • Shelby.Slawson@house.texas.gov

Rep. Tom Craddick 512-463-0500 • Tom.Craddick@house.texas.gov

Rep. Joe Moody 512-463-0728 • Joe.Moody@house.texas.gov

Rep. Ana Hernandez 512-463-0614 • Ana.Hernandez@house.texas.gov

Rep. Toni Rose 512-463-0664 • Toni.Rose@house.texas.gov

Rep. James Talarico 512-463-0670 • James.Talarico@house.texas.gov

Education & Parental Rights

SB 442 Senator Bryan Hughes - Relating to local school health advisory councils and health education provided by school districts, including requirements regarding human sexuality instruction. This bill would create changes to the Student Health Advisory Council, (SHAC), a committee that recommends health programming for local school districts that includes, alcohol abuse, drugs, vaping, sexting, human sexuality and other topics. Currently, too many SHAC's have little accountability. Advocates for Planned Parenthood and other radical and harmful organizations seek to be appointed to these committees and then meet in secret and keep parents in the dark when it comes to curriculum that may have graphic and inappropriate content. SB 442 would provide much needed changes and accountability such as: submitting meeting minutes on school district websites, holding public meetings to inform parents of content and to provide feedback, providing detailed descriptions of human sexuality curriculum, and requiring all content of instruction on website and available to parents.

Passed the Senate and is now in the House Public Health Committee.

URGENT ACTION: Rep. Stephanie Klick is the Chair of this committee. Email her at stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov or call at 512-463-0599 and let her know how critical it is to pass SB 442 out of committee.