HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health

For HB 1686

Compiled on: Friday, March 31, 2023 6:14 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: March 27, 2023 8:00 AM

Andre Szejko
self
Cedar Park, TX

Children are not able to drive until their 16, buy cigarettes or vote until their 18 and drink alchohol until their 21. I don't believe it is safe for children and they should be protected and give them the space and time to grow until they're mature enough to make these decisions and the consequences that come with them. This course of action could damage society forever if we don't approach it with extreme caution. My children want cell phones and access to social media and they believe it will make them happier. ALL the studies suggest that they're wrong and a cell phone and social media access causes major harm to children. Parents and Caretakers need to guide our children and give them the time to grow and understand and protect them from permanent harm. There are so many examples in which the government limits certain rights to age in order to protect them and the people that could be affected. I'm certainly not ok with using my tax money on this. Please help our children be safe. Thank you!

Sara Heizer
self/retired
Weatherford, TX

I write in SUPPORT of HB 1686! I !find it unconscionable that any human beings, especially children, are being used as "guinea pigs" in the name of public health! Too many "medical professionals" are disregarding their Hippocratic Oath to do no harm, in order to follow a newly available Cash Stream that clearly takes advantage of the most vulnerable among us! We must insist on the highest standards by all who impact the lives of children in such a permanent way and stop this nonsense now!
Sara Heizer

Jessica Riddlesperger
Self
Richardson, TX

For this bill

Rachel Stewart
Self
Frisco, TX

FOR

Harold Watkins, Pastor
Freedom Fellowship
San Angelo, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Dorothy Hablinski, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

This must stop! Pass this bill!

Holly Fox
God Almighty
Flower Mound, TX

“Over the past decade, the medical community has treated cases of gender dysphoria differently than other mind/body disorders. Typically, such disorders are treated by helping the patient reconcile with his or her body. It is only in the case of gender dysphoria that doctors encourage and facilitate expensive chemical and surgical interventions in the name of “gender-affirming care.” Far from alleviating the dysphoria and related mental health problems, these interventions leave the root problems unaddressed. To follow this path with minors is an especially troubling form of social experimentation.” Experimentation that financially benefits the medical community and forever destroys God’s perfect handiwork. The transgender movement is a sign of the level of brokenness in our world and the need for Jesus. The false claim and that these treatments are lifesaving, the “best practice” or are essential is the lie of the enemy. God will hold each of us accountable for our decisions that are not in alignment with His will and His word. Do not put the millstone around your neck.

Joanna Stewart, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

Vote FOR this bill!

Sydney Hewitt
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB1686, as a long time Texas Resident, mother and grandmother, and retired Early Childhood Education Private School Owner. I am a trained specialist to understand the unborn child, the newborn child, and the growing and emerging child from conception through 18 years of age. The ongoing, unprecedented grooming of the minds of kindergarteners and early school agers is Child Abuse and maltreatment at the highest level, and is abuse of the Family, whose role it is to educate their own children in Morals, Values, Spiritual Truths, and be the PRIMARY builders of their child's Self Concept! The horrific practices being perpetrated upon families and very young children regarding Gender dysphoria and subsequent Child Abuse that would include treatments for this NON existent but coerced ideology should NEVER happen, especially with public money or assistance. Public Education has become a monster and a villain of the traditional Family, and we will not stop until this insanity against our youngest TEXANS stops!

Barbara Seekamp, Ms
Self
McKinney, TX

For the wellbeing and safety for the children please vote to protect them from the destructive treatments that are being allowed. This can lead to health issues and sterility.

Joseph Schwendeman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Do No Harm. Young people have always renowned for immature and poor decisions. That is why laws exist to prevent purchase of tobacco and alcohol until 21. Why God's name would we allow young people to elect to accept a permanent and potentially catastrophic biological alteration decisions?

Alice Newton, Mrs.
Self
Carthage, TX

I I support this bill. Please pass it!!! Our children need to be protect from deviant behaviors.

Perla Muñoz Hopkins, TX Director, Moms For America
Moms For America
Leander, TX

I have been a mother for over 2 decades, we must always protect a child's well-being. Every child deserves to be safe and loved as they are. Our youth do not fully develop executive functioning skills until age 25. Thus, every minor deserves to explore and discover who they are on their own trajectory, not thrust into life-changing decisions at a pre-mature age.

Please support HB 1686 and protect TX Children from harmful drugs and mutilation.

Kristi Bajer, RN
Texas women
Abbott, TX

When I was growing up there was an epidemic of young girls who thought they were fat. They were starving themselves to death. No one could convenience them they were not fat- it was their reality. Had we been dumb enough to "affirm" their delusions we would have sentenced them to death. Instead the treatment helped them regain an accurate body image- not the one distorted by mental illness.
Affirming mental illness is cruel- and mutilating children's genitals is barbaric.
Let's fight mental illness not damage kids.
-Kristi Bajer

Keith Burgett
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am in support of this House Bill and I pray you are too. Thank you!

Jean Swanson
Individual
Conroe, TX

FOR the bill

Nancy Chapman
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill

Diane Nelson
Self, retired accountant/auditor
Spring, TX

This is an important bill that needs to be passed. Children and adolescents often don't understand the consequences of permanent treatments such as this! As they mature they may decide they don't want this type of surgery.
At one point my child wanted me to change his name to "volcano". I refused. He was very upset with me about my refusal. We laugh about it now and he says he is so glad that I didn't let him change his name. The same May be true of some of these children seeking gender altering surgery. What happens when they're 17, 21, or older and decide they don't want this? And I certainly don't want my taxpayer money used to promote this type of potential mistake.

Grace Handley
Self
Tomball, TX

I am FOR HB 1686

Veronica Scheibe
Self
Gordon, TX

PLEASE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN from gender reassignment and the mutilation of their precious bodies!

Chia Foster
Self
Sugar Land, TX

It should be a CRIME to allow kids to surgically alter their God given gender and identity. Their prefrontal cortex haven't even been developed fully yet and cannot make a decision this drastic that will screw up their bodies forever. People are not even allowed to drink alcohol until the age of 21, but to alter their gender, they are supposed to be allowed before 21 years old?? How does this even make any sense? Also, most people are not in support of using our tax money on these surgeries, are you insane? Watch any video of a de- transitioning person and they will tell you how awful the transitioning process was for them and how much they regret greedy trigger happy doctors who agreed to do surgery on them. Please support HB1686 now!

Samantha Buford
Self
Palmer, TX

I support and ask for you to vote in support of this bill.

Gregory Peterson
Self
DeSoto, TX

I stand on the word of God, Romans 8:26,27 make it absolutely clear that God abhor such practices.

Nancy Deis
Self
Austin, TX

For

Stuart Tucker
self ranch broker
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Anthony Barber
Self
Kyle, TX

Children do not have enough knowledge or the ability to know how this will effect their life. You can't vote till you are 18 and can't drink until 21. Yet this bill wants to give children the right to do this is nonsense. So this bill needs to vote no!

Paul Gauthier, Gender Modification bill
Self, currently a School Board member, Leader,TX place #7
Leander, TX

There is only Man & Woman. I know some would have others believe there are more than 2. But there is not. There is no confusion. It's that simple. Man & Woman…. Kids should be protected from Adults who try to confuse them. Or protected from themselves if they get confused. This was done in the past & needs to be done now. Lord help us Protect our Children.

Guy Dowdy
Self
Allen, TX

No child is born the wrong gender. A human being is born male, or female. There are no other realities. Stop the pathetic operations of evil people with a huge profit motive. Stop child abuse, by anyone, or any organization.
Make this bill law, please.

Gregory Potts, Mr
Travis county Republican Party self
Cedar park, TX

Hb1686. Do not destroy the normal man / wife home for children.

Alisha Kidane, Dr.
Self
Missouri City, TX

We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. No child is born in the wrong body. All people are created in the image of God. God is perfect, good, and loving and makes no mistakes.

Krysten Wilkins
Self
Celina, TX

This is insanity, no child is born in the wrong body! This is doing more harm to already confused children. Please stop!

Shauna Barber
Self
Kyle, TX

Minor children should not be allowed to have gender reassignment. They should be much older and have time to mature to make this decision.

Marty Reid, Pastor
Trinity Family Church
Forney, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Carolyn Dunkin
Self
Laguna Vista, TX

HB 1686 Do not approve any procedures for the gender transitioning of minors. DO THE RIGHT THING. Protect our children!!

Angela Aberle, Mrs
Self
Cypress, TX

For

Cora Bettis
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill!!

Rebeca Martinez
None
Round Rock, TX

There are a lot of people detransitionning after 18 years. There are active lawsuits for this. Children cant consent because their brain is not developed to make such life altering decisions witout regretting it. Let them be kids and as adults make adults decisions.

Jamie Floyd
Self
Frisco, TX

No human is born in the wrong gender! I do NOT support gender reassignment surgery on children.

Alisan Hames
Self
Spring, TX

Children cannot make permanent, adult decisions. Ban immediately.

Lindsi Gross
Self, mother, doula
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Children need adults to protect them, not mutilate them. We have to consider their futures. They may change their minds later in life, but certain procedures would prevent them from having their own children.

Katharine Walker
Self
Austin, TX

For HB1686. The government has no business using tax payers hard earned money to pay for gender transition or reassignment. America has strayed so far from our founding principles. God have mercy on us!

Tamara Hall
Freedom Fellowship
San Angelo, TX

FOR

Elizabeth Valenti
Self/ Wealth Management
Boerne, TX

I am in agreement banning gender transitioning treatments and procedures for children and minors. Individuals under age 18 are not prepared to make those life altering and irreversible decisions. There are only two genders: male and female. That's it. This is madness what's going on in our country.

Jenna Smith
Self substitute
San Angelo, TX

I am for this

Kieu Trang
n/a
Round Rock, TX

Children can't buy Cough Medicine NOR are they allowed to pick up medication for anyone, why are they allowed to decide on gender transitioning or gender reassignments? Please do not allow any children to do this until at least 21 years of age!

John Francis
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am for this.

Melanie Presley
Self - Dietitian
Burleson, TX

I am in favor of this bill!

Karen Cole
Self retired secondary science teacher
Grapeland, TX

Genital mutilation should never be performed on children. They are too young to understand what the procedure entails. They do not realize that they will have to endure the ramifications of this mutilation for the rest of their lives.

Joe Sabedra
Self
Quitman, TX

No monies of any kind that is derived from taxes should be used to alter the north gender of any child. This is at the child's discretion when they reach legal age and not sooner.

Joline Rush
America
Marble Falls, TX

Where you pee is what you be! Leave our children alone! Do not support any modification of our children for any sexual changes or taxpayer money to do it period?

Jan Goria
Self retired
Frisco, TX

A baby will cry to alert a parent when attention is needed – wet diaper, cold, hungry, needs to cuddle etc. This alerts the parent that attention is needed. When provided trust is built.
A toddler or adolescent on the other hand follows what the parent tells them because parents are there to raise a child to have good manners, good study habits, kindness, love others, good decision making and much more. At this age the child totally relies on and trusts the parents and the direction provided. They don't know anything unless they are directed by someone.
Having said that a child is not capable of deciding what gender to choose. They don't know what a boy is or what a girl is or what the difference is.
This is a terribly high price for an unsuspecting child to deal with. Gender modification is for keeps and the child will suffer not the parents. No one wants a lifetime of big pharma. How utterly cruel to treat someone you're supposed to love and provide the best for. There are 2 genders- male and female. Stop the insanity! Thank you.

Linda Dowdy
Self
Allen, TX

No child is born the wrong gender. A human being is born male, or female. There are no other realities. Stop the pathetic operations of evil people with a huge profit motive. Stop child abuse, by anyone, or any organization.
Make this bill law, please.

Heidi Pezdek
Myself
Lorena, TX

Please protect children by prohibiting procedures on minors and young adults. I support this bill

Janelle Shepard
Myself
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686 and pray the Committee does too!

Travis Copeland
Self
Spring, TX

No child is born in the wrong body

Lee Ann Smith
Self
Magnolia, TX

HB1686 FOR the bill

Bonita Keith
Self
Frisco, TX

FOR!! PROTECT THE CHILDREN! This is insane that our society is allowing children to be mutilated, in effect sterilizing them, and creating a medical industrial complex consumer for life via the constant supply of hormones and drugs needed to help with symptoms created by said surgery and hormones. So many trans kids are now trying to de-transition and warn of the dangers of transitioning.

Christine Muat
myself/Texas parent
Cedar Park, TX

PLEASE PROTECT TEXAS CHILDREN. We as adults need to do everything in our power to protect ALL kids from this gender ideology. We need to OUTLAW gender procedures on children under 18 because they do not know who they will be when they get older. Once they are mutilated there is NO going back. The medications being used can NOT be reversed!!! All these lies need to stop. I was in the medical field for over 25 years and the number 1 thing we are taught is "DO NO HARM"...what this does is ruin a child's adult life because adults chose their future for them! Please protect our kids and VOTE YES on HB1686. Thank you, Christine Muat

Cynthia Landry
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Jessica Pryor
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please help protect our kids! This Bill would prohibit harming minors with puberty suppressants and supraphysiological wrong sex hormones, as well as sterilizing surgeries and mastectomies for minors. We need to protect our kids from harm.

Jerry Stewart
Texan
Odessa, TX

Against

Mary Ward
Self
Heath, TX

I support this bill

Yvette Mendiola
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm #LetThemGrow

Sandy Kerr
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Corinne Smith, Pct Chair
My Constituents
Sachse, TX

I have heard from people that have gone thru this ordeal and how tragic that they must continually be on the chemicals treatment from Big Pharma for the entire duration of their life . The issue that an individual can never recover from this procedure. They often commit suicide . You must understand the physical and psychological events in forming their identities to how they are being " Manipulated " for ulterior motives of experimentation and profit. I VOTE YES IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL . Thank You !

Kristin Mlinar
Self/physician assistant
Conroe, TX

For! Please protect our children!

Loralei Hoggard
Self; educatir
Red Oak, TX

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Janet Brooks
Self
Round Rock, TX

I have an adult child who believes he’s a trans woman and is taking wrong sex hormones. He did not receive proper mental counseling. He received affirming mental support at age 21 of a mental disorder and the green light was given to have hormone therapy. The long term effects are not known - no study available. I may lose my child because of the damage this does to his body. The pharmaceutical companies and doctors win big in this. The patient loses bigger and with the current prescribed care, never addresses the real underlying mental, physical, or even social reasons for his lack of identity, gender dysphoria, or whatever is is (that we might have a clue to if he was getting real care based in truth). Many people have transitioned; learned from the experience that it was not the fix to their problem; and are now detransitioning. For most, the damage is pregnant and they’ll never be whole again. Please support this bill.

Cathy Davis
self
McKinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm.

Timothy Lyke
Self Retired
Austin, TX

I am in support of this bill. We specifically have to protect children and the God given right of parents to make decisions for their children. You can also easily make the case that parents shouldn't choose it either as it would be a decision for an adult to make for themselves at best. It is time for politicians to step back and take a closer look at doing what is right and not supporting policies that harm our children in any way. Just ask yourself "What if it were me that had been forced or coerced into these procedures?". I support this bill.

Karen Breithaupt
Self
Odessa, TX

For stopping surgery

ANNETTE WILSON
Self
HOUSTON, TX

FOR the bill

Valerie Iglehart
NA
Pearland, TX

Not in favor of trying to play, minapulate or replace God's creation with foolishness.

Eric Miles, Mr.
Self
Euless, TX

Pass this bill! It is unconscionable that these permanent surgeries and meds are allowed. If they were cutting off feet so they could identify as handicapped would you allow that? Stop this and PROTECT THE INNOCENT CHILDREN!

Marlene Williams
Self
Austin, TX

FOR

Cindy Hardin
Self
Richmond, TX

No child is born WRONG!!! We must protect children and do no harm!!! Gender modification should not be done especially under the age of 18

Duane Kelly
Self
Princeton, TX

Please do not allow this abuse to be carried out on our kids. Support HB1686.
Thank you,
Duane Kelly

Lynn Estes, Mrs.
Self
Frisco, TX

I support HB 1686. We must prohibit gender modification of children.

Kim Rimmer
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

I am in SUPPORT of this bill. It is an affront to the medical field and to patients to have radicalized, politicized physicians to halt the natural progression of children when the are still in the developmental stages, and to surgically remove healthy body parts again from underdeveloped children. Children depend on adults to make rational, intelligent decisions for them while they are too young & immature to make these grave decisions for themselves! Further, I DO NOT want my tax dollars to be used to conduct such heinous procedures. We tried NAZI doctors & other medical personnel for performing heinous experiments on people - HUMAN BEINGS, yet we think this is ok in the name of wholeness. It is NEVER ok to do these things & have the taxpayers pay for them to anyone, let alone children!!

Sheri Edwards, Pct Chair
Brazoria County Executive Committee
Rosharon, TX

We must protect our children until they are of legal age!

George Ricks
Self
Midlothian, TX

Please support this bill. Protect our children.

Susan C Cowsar, Ms.
Self
Richardson, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. A child is either male, female, or hermaphrodite, in which case the hermaphrodite gets to choose between male and female. Gender is set; sexual orientation is choice. Gender dysphoria is treatable. Leave our babies alone!

Robert Gottschalk
Self
Austin, TX

We are for this bill. Please protect the minors.

Kimberly Wood
Self - tax paying voting Christian
Shepherd, TX

God does NOT make mistakes. No one, despite the very real feeling, is actually in the wrong body. True "body dismorphia" is quite an uncommon mental disorder, but gender confusion and general identify confusion is a very common and normal part of adolescence. I shudder to think what today's demented progressive left would have done to me as a child had I been born 40 years later. Because I was born when I was I could hate being a girl, cry about being a girl, beg to not wear a shirt like the boys, long to pee standing up, and do every "boy" activity better than the boys without being lied to, deceived, sterilized or mutilated. Like the vast majority of children like myself, i grew out of my confusion. I learned that it's ok to be a tomboy! I learned to embrace both my femininity and my atypical interests and skills. Today I know that I am a far more adventurous, confident, interesting, adaptive and well adjusted person that the average woman.
Don't take that opportunity away from other children like me!!! Don't coddle to a child's every crazy whim and desire! Stand for TRUTH in a world filled with lies! Have the courage to stand for what is right!!!
I will be watching closely how my representatives vote on this issue and will actively campaign against anyone too frightened to resist the "mob" to vote for TRUTH.

Lorrie Green, 1686
Self Pediatric RN
Aubrey, TX

I am a Pediatric RN. I fully oppose this bill. Transgender children are clearly born this way. Genitals are formed at six weeks in utero and the brain is washed with testosterone and /or estrogen at 18 weeks. Young transgender children are so distressed many want to kill themselves at very young ages. Can you imagine being born in the wrong body? Being transgender is NOT in the DSM. It is not a mental or psychological condition. Families spend many many years denying their child’s reality until it is so apparent and so life threatening their scared they’ll lose them. Thank goodness these days we now understand this is like a birth difference, just like a heart defect, cleft lip, or Down’s syndrome. Children’s hospitals understand this. Young children change hair and clothes. That is it! Pubertal kids use a hormone blocker which makes them pause the wrong puberty. Going thru the wrong puberty is awful and causes up to 70% of transgender kids try to commit suicide, especially if they don’t have loving supportive parents. This blocker is comply safe and reversible! Many other kids with precocious or early puberty or hormonal issues take it. Surgeries are not done until right before college. Please please I beg of you to listen to transgender adults of how their lives could of been so completely different, less complicated, and happy had they known back then about being transgender. We have the knowledge and education now. Please meet transgender people, Trans kids and their parents. It’s awful they are an alienated group of people and they just trying to save their kids life. There are studies if kids transition early they are happy and well adjusted . Thanks for educating yourself and not being on the wrong side of history on this issue.

James Shook
Myself Retired Registered NirseHB
San Angelo, TX

I I support this bill and I am against gender modification procedures ,

Wesley Pryor
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please help protect our kids. No need for transitioning or puberty blockers.

Nolberto Martinez
Self, HVAC Technician
San Angelo, TX

I am for the bill, God has created man in his image therefore children shouldn't have to get altered physically, because they are still their gender genetically!

Laura Moxley
Self
Leander, TX

This bill MUST be passed. Put the funds toward mental health resources. No more mutilation of children!!!

Nancy A. Cole, Mrs
Myself
Euless, TX

At no time should the government fund or interfere with the gender of a child under 21. No school should teach such a practice since this is a private matter for parents and families to decide.

Chase Mcmichael
Self
Austin, TX

Children mist be protected against profit driven and ideological institutions intending to profit from and through gender confusion being driven by teaches and parents subscribing such directions. In the last 3 years the accelerated gender dysphoria has been primarily drive by a Marxist doctrine that is well published on both methods of queering children. 2nd the ramp in teen conversion suicides is up to 20% parents are manipulated with paid actors in the pipeline to reach children as young as possible. Librarians are connected as well as the medical institution developing materials linked with medial colleges engineering a pipeline of "care" to affirm the cultish movement to subvert family and a child's reproductive future. The evidence is compelling of what the Marxist movement has created on a mass scale. Sadly these pedophilia organization in US are driving the movement and to normalize child manipulation.

Dava Caballero
Self, homemaker
Kyle, TX

I strongly believe that gender transitioning or reassignment is not in the best interest of our children. Public funds should not be used to provide those procedures!

Nickki Cluck
Self
Canyon, TX

For this bill. Protect Tx children

Jessica Young
North Texas Conservatives
Little Elm, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must protect our kids and let them grow. Do not allow this harm to be done to these children please.

Diana Russell
Self / homemaker
Sherman, TX

Support the bil!

Charity Kirk
Self
Frisco, TX

Public money should not be used for this purpose!

Sallie Griffith
self
FORT WORTH, TX

I am absolutely 100% For the banning of governmental health plan coverage of, and public funding for gender modification procedures and treatments and most definitely when it comes to children. FULL STOP. In absolutely NO way should the government get involved with such matters.

Litza Gonzales
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill and believe that children are incapable of assessing the very PERMANENT decision of gender transitioning and should wait until they are adults to make the decision on their own.

Lance Pyburn
Self
Austin, TX

As a 9th generation Texan, I’m against HB 1686 because it strips access to healthcare from other Texans. I encourage anyone who truly loves this state & freedom to stand against it as well.

Tami Fannjng
Self/teacher
Spring, TX

FOR the Bill

Julia Russell
Self
Austin, TX

Thank you for writing this bill I am in support of it.

Susan Browne
Citizen
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686

Jannette Zafiroff, Mrs.
self
The Colony, TX

Please vote yes on bill1686. Prohibiting gender modification surgery for Minor.

Cheri Copeland
Cheri Copeland REALTOR
Spring, TX

For

Kathy Phillips
Self
Bulverde, TX

I am for this bill. Child sex change is medical and psychological abuse with no long term studies proving otherwise. Children are being sterilized and lose ability for normal sexual functioning. What happens to the child when they reach adulthood and decide they made a mistake? Are de-transitioning procedures covered by insurance like transitioning or is this a cost the patient will have to bear? Obscene profits are being made by providers and pharmaceutical companies treating gender dysphoria. Step up and join the other states that are taking a stand to protect our valuable children from such radical life altering procedures.

Michelle Freeman
self
Princeton, TX

Per the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) "The brain finishes developing and maturing in the mid-to-late 20s. The part of the brain behind the forehead, called the prefrontal cortex, is one of the last parts to mature. This area is responsible for skills like planning, prioritizing, and making good decisions." Children before their mid-to-late 20s are still trying to define who they are, and once they have surgeries to remove female or male genitalia there is no going back. Once kids start on puberty blockers and hormones there is no going back. These kids' lives are forever changed by the in-the-moment decisions they and their parent(s) are making. Children oftentimes go through phases, and there is no reason a parent cannot wait until their child is in their mid-to-late 20s to then let the child make the decision themselves. I'm strongly opposed at letting anyone surgically altar and prescribe puberty and hormone blocking drugs to children under the age of 25. For kids who believe they are the wrong gender or diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria by a psychiatrist, counseling should be provided in place of surgeries and/or drugs until the child is of age.

Julie Spokes
Republican
Rockwall, TX

Vote yes

Marilyn Boyd
Regents School of Austin
Austin, TX

For this bill! Protect the children!

Anne Meng
self
Houston, TX

please support this bill

Srini Raghavan
Self
Allen, TX

I am FOR this bill. I support HB 1686!

Shea Steger
Self
Princeton, TX

No one is born in the wrong body! Please DO NO HARM to children and vote FOR this bill.

Jenifer Leyendecker
Self
Bastrop, TX

I do not agree with my tax dollars being spent on gender transitioning procedures or treatments

Sharon Mathews
Self
Mckinney, TX

For protecting children

Lee Seale
Resident
Austin, TX

I supoort this bill. Please vote in favor.

Susan Hester
self; retired
La Vernia, TX

For

Marisa Williams
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686. As a retired teacher it is critical that we honor childhood as a season when our children are learning about themselves. We don’t need to alter their bodies causing them irreversible changes that might cause regret. Thank you for supporting HB 1686.

Melissa Jones
Cirizen
Lancaster, TX

Please support this bill and do not allow our children to experience irreversible damages! Protect our children. Stop child mutilation of genitalia. Stop left wing agendas that go against the Christian values this Nation was founded upon!

Wesley Sheldon
Self / retired police officer
Spring, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body.
We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Jessica Paez
Self
Houston, TX

FOR

Haley Kyles
Self - Manager
Dallas, TX

No child was born in the wrong body. We should not be allowing any gender modification

Jana Pasley
Self , RN
Canyon, TX

I support this bill.

Teresa Whitehead
Self/nurse educator
Lake Jackson, TX

Parents should not have the right to decide to alter their child's gender surgically or by any other means. The individual should only be able to make that decision for themselves after they are an adult and have had extensive counseling to make sure they are aware of all of the possible consequences of such a choice. Many children deal with conflicted feelings while they are growing and learning about their bodies and relationships, but it does not mean that they would benefit from undergoing gender transformation. Children should not be subjected to any gender alteration that is imposed by caregivers or health care providers!

Alison Lambert Darrell
Self
Frisco, TX

For. We must prohibit all gender mutilation of children.

Larissa Mears
Self
Leander, TX

I support this bill!

William A. Nevin
self, database analyst
Houston, TX

FOR
Children are not allowed to purchase alcohol, tobacco, or firearms. They are not allowed to get tattoos on their own, nor to sign a 15 year mortgage to purchase a home.

The legislature has wisely placed these restrictions on children's actions to protect children from the consequences of their own potentially poor choices, in recognition of children's relative immaturity and lack of knowledge.

If children are wisely prevented from making a temporary or reversible decision such as receiving a tattoo or making a commitment to repay a mortgage, then why should they be able to make a dire, permanent, and irreversible choice to remove parts of their own bodies, or to interfere chemically with the natural process of puberty? The value of normal sexual pleasure and the value of becoming a parent are values that children, as children, are uniquely incapable of understanding.

These are among the reasons I favor this bill, Please pass it out of committee.

Vicky Porterfield
Self, teacher
Round Rock, TX

The children of this state must be protected from dangers. Please do not let adults with agendas convince young immature confused kids to do things that would change their identity given at birth.

Stephanie Hughes
Self
Round rock, TX

Please support house bill 1686.

Cassie Francis
Self
San Angelo, TX

Vote For

Paula Hardman, Grandma
Self
Conroe, TX

God doesn’t make mistakes! Stop this insanity, please!

Michael Mydlowski
self
rowlett, TX

A child's "permanent physical life long reproductive abilities" should not be decided by another, but instead reserved until they reach the adult age of 21 for them to decide thereafter.

Tanya Grimes
Self
San Angelo, TX

For

Vikki Boatman
Self-retired educator
Nacogdoches, TX

I support this bill!

GARY PALMER
Remlap Mfg Inc
HOUSTON, TX

Vote for the bill;

Kelly Vela
Self
MISSOURI CITY, TX

I am registering FOR/In Support Of HB 1686.

Lora Blackwell
Self
Lakewood Village, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body. We MUST protect our precious and perfect children. We MUST prohibit gender modification of MINORS. #DoNoHarm

Doris Urban
Self Educator
Duncanville, TX

I support HB 1686, and ask for you to support it also. Thank you

Cheryle Priolo, Precint Chair 11
Collin County
Farmersville, TX

I support this bill. Please vote in favor of Bill 1686..

Jennifer Fountain
Self
Segiun, TX

I support protect children from mutilating procedures and debilitating medication forced on them by a radical ideology and the bullying of pedophiles. We MUST protect our children! Vote YES on 1686

Thomas Tullos
Self
San Marcos, TX

FOR

Lupe Vega
Self
Allen, TX

I am completely against this bill, and I do not approve of using public money to change their gender. They are wonderfully, and fearfully made just the way they were born, and there were no mistakes.

Melannie cader
Me
Austin, TX

I oppose, for the safety of our children.

Nancy Irwin
Self, IT executive
Spring, TX

I am FOR this bill.

STOP changing the gender of minor children. They are too young to know what they want, and this decision is too important to be made for them. #DoNoHarm

Ronald Holmes, Pastor
Church of the Open Door
West, TX

This bill needs to pass, to protect the kids in our state!

Dorothy Skinner
self office
Plano 75023, TX

I am against using public funds for procedures that are not necessary. There are too many people with serious life and death issues that cannot get the assistance needed and if there is available funding for these questionable procedures, it would be better used for them.

Melissa Albracht
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please vote in favor to protect children! We have an obligation to protect children from these procedures, as they are irreversible.

Cheryl Stalinsky
North Fort Bend Conservatives
Fulshear, TX

For God's Sake, please stop gender transitioning. This is a sick practice. These children need to be mature before making such life changing decisions! Texas is better than destroying our children's lives.

Maria Beltran, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Do no harm to children, prohibit gender modification of minor children. Totally against this bill , young children get confused and when it happens they hate it and some have taken their lives when they realize what has been done to them. SO CRUEL. The use of our public money or public assistance to provide those procedures or treatments is heinous. Put the money to children diieing of cancer, save them!!

Put.

Mary Ellen Snell
Bexar County GOP Precinct Chair #3194
Boerne, TX

Dear Legislators-

We do not want public funds to be used for ANY medical procedures, or medical treatments such as hormone treatments related to gender confusion. Whether children or adults, the preference is for a person to receive mental health care for these personal problems. Mental health issues that result in personal decisions to pursue drastic elective changes in the body of adults are NOT medically necessary, so are NOT appropriate for the public to fund. And, these changes certainly should never be allowed in children, without parental consent, and certainly cannot be using public funds.

Brian Russell
Self/attorney
Austin, TX

As a Texas parent and attorney, I strongly support protecting children suffering from gender dysphoria from life- altering surgeries and hormone treatments. Please support and strengthen the protections of children and stop the state-funded abuse of children, for example, by Texas Children's Hospital in Dallas. The vast majority of the children injured by these procedures and therapies would have their issues resolve if they were allowed to grow to adulthood and align with their biological sex.

Charles Cayce
Self
Dallas, TX

I support House Bill 1686. We must prevent gender modification.

Ericka Morris
Bethel Austin
Austin, TX

I do NOT agree with providing children procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Karen Rogers
Self
Spring, TX

For the bill

Patti Chesney
Self
Austin, TX

For

Daniel Pridgeon, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. God made them Male and Female. He does not make mistakes. He left that up to us. And He is watching. You don’t want to be on the wrong side of His-story. So, Please…

Ken Murrah
Self, Ecommerce Specialist
North Richland Hills, TX

On the one hand, I believe it should be illegal for ANY minor to undergo gender reassignment surgery, with or without parental consent. I think it should be illegal for ANY gender reassignment surgery to be done at the expense of taxpayers. However, IF the surgery was elected by the patient as an adult, and paid for with private funds, then I do not object to having that individual covered by Medicare or Medicaid, assuming he/she meets all other criteria, and that the medical needs are not a result of the gender reassignment surgery.

Erin McBee
Self
Chico, TX

FOR

Julie Benich
Self
Conroe, TX

I support HB 1686

kristen Perry
Self
Spring, TX

Agree

Alesa Smith
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Gender modification in a children is child abuse and should not (under ANY) circumstance happen.

Jackie Curtin
Self
Austin, TX

Please protect our innocent children from this awful ideology and mutilation of their bodies and minds. Please prohibit any state funds for gender transitioning or procedures for children under 18. Lord help us.

Sharon DePauw
Self - retired
Cypress, TX

For passage of this bill

Kathleen Moore
Self - arts administrator
Austin, TX

1) This bill will make kids who are trans have a really hard time getting healthcare at all
2) Fewer doctors will practice in our state
3) Kids have a hard enough time getting healthcare in Texas as it is

Lynette Florey
Self, remodeling
Dallas, TX

I support HB1686. Please protect our children from life-changing procedures that they may regret as mature adults. Allowing such procedures is child-abuse, ridiculous at face value, and should absolutely not be allowed.

Charlotte Russell
self, student
Austin, TX

I support the passage of HB 1686. Mutilation of our children cannot be allowed to continue.

Kacie Dolton
Self/Teacher's aide
Van Alstyne, TX

I support HB1686, as a born and raised Texas Resident, mother , and Texas elementary school educator. The ongoing, unprecedented grooming of the minds of kindergarteners and early school agers is Child Abuse and maltreatment at the highest level, and is abuse of the Family, whose role it is to educate their own children in Morals, Values, Spiritual Truths, and be the PRIMARY builders of their child's Self Concept! The horrific practices being perpetrated upon families and very young children regarding Gender dysphoria and subsequent Child Abuse that would include treatments for this NON existent but coerced ideology should NEVER happen, especially with public money or assistance. Public Education has become a monster and a villain of the traditional Family, and we will not stop until this insanity against our youngest TEXANS stops!

Betty Estes
Self
Dallas, TX

My opinion. Public money should not be used to aid in child gender transitioning. Gender transitioning should be outlawed in Texas until you are an adult.

Kathy Ponce
Self
Maypearl, TX

I support this bill. It needs to be voted out of committee and go to a floor vote.

Gerardo Lozano
Pastors Coalition of Texas
Brownsville, TX

Beloved leaders of the state of Texas,
You have been chosen by God to lead the people in your districts. Honor your mother and your father and Do not exasperate your children Ephesians 6:1-4 come to mind.Please stop this fatal decent into anarchy.
Please receive my support in favor of this bill. The rejection of the Authority of God in creation has re-birthed the most heinous of experiments on humans since the end of the third reich. No human has the right to make another human mutilate themselves or another humans body. No government should legalize this kind of macabre behavior. No parent, no human should transition from the original gender designation from birth. Gender transition and or gender reassignment is by definition. EVIL.
Thank you and God have mercy on us all.

Elizabeth Russell
self, journalist
Austin, TX

Regardless of your views on transgender people and gender dysphoria, it’s common sense to prevent minors from making life-altering medical decisions (especially because detransitioners often face stigma, ruined health, and lifelong regret). We don’t let minors drink, vote, or get tattoos. Children and teenagers are rapidly changing individuals whose perceptions of identity are often non-fixed. Why would we give our money to help them make permanent changes based on current feelings? Please make the right decision for young Texans.

Vikki Mitchell
Self/ Connection Coordinator
Amarillo, TX

SUPPORT HB1686!!!!

Barbara Osby
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

You have my support for this bill. You can count on my prayers also. The people pushing for this abuse of children are bent on evil. Please fight for our children.

Barbara Tokuz
Republican women
Rockwall, TX

I support hb 1686 to prohibit gender mutilation or transitioning.

David Tropp
Self / General Contractor
Wills Point, TX

FOR

Christine Vorderbruggen, Mrs
Self
Allen, TX

Biological boys should never be allowed, forced, coerced, or otherwise encouraged to change their sex, same for females. Any medical involvement, including surgery or prescriptions, should be labeled as mal-practice and the doctor and their office should be charged with child abuse. Has our nation lost its mind? We need to be encouraging children, and adults for that matter, in the greatness and differences between male and female. Stop this abuse. Please protect these innocent kids who are victims of agenda driven parents.

Elsa Arroyo
North Texas Conservatives
Little Elm, TX

No to this bill.

Sage Clay
Self. Hydrogeologist
Austin, TX

This bill greatly overreaches the authority of the state, providing no benefit to its population in the process. Limiting treatment strategies that could be labeled as “gender
transitioning” also curtails their use in medicine outside of transition. On top of this, the limiting of transition support from official sources will

1. Cause greater incidence of youth self-harm as a result of labeling pubescent self-conciousness as inherently wrong and

2. Will only lead to those needing this medical aid leaving the state, taking their families, tax dollars and workforce with them. This is a violent and short sighted bill that not only wrongly and aggressively targets a small subset of the population, but does it in a way that will negatively impact the medical experience of all texans.

Mindy Malicoat
Self massage therapist
Kennedale, TX

Children (minors) under the age of 18 should not be allowed to make permanent modifications to their bodies. Even if with a parent consent. Never ever no matter what age should public money tax dollars support or fund these modifications in any form. When someone is of age they should be ?? financially responsible. No discussion. We already have a stressed and drained financial crisis with the endless of mindless funding of everything in the world and our country keeps going further in debt. Tax payers work endless and never get ahead financially yet are expected to fund body mutilation as well as endless numbers of other things yet we can’t even afford to buy groceries because the cost is so high or pay electric bills. The madness has to stop. We have to stop the hemorrhage of funds.

Rosei Matcek
Self / Manufacturing Quality Assurance
San Antonio, TX

Healthcare for transgender youth is a human right that should not be taken away. Making it more difficult to access gender care only serves to weaken an already extremely under-served group of people in our society. Targeting children means that these individuals will bear mental and social trauma that is entirely preventable.

Greg Cox
Self / self-employed
Allen, TX

Please pass this bill. Children should not be able make life-altering decisions before their brains are fully developed. It’s truly heartbreaking to hear the “detrans” stories out there.

Anna White, ANP-C, FNP
self
Wimberley,, TX

There are many options to properly identify and treat severe gender dysphoria without performing permanent treatments or surgeries to minors. These children and their families deserve proper treatment and support. Until that child reaches adult age and, then, can make a legal informed consent, these procedures should be limited to "first do no harm" types of treatment. Parents need accurate information and support not scare tatics. For those parents who believe it is the parents right to support and promote mutilating procedures, they should be screened for child abuse.
Tax dollars should not be used to fund these procedures and medical providers should be legally prosecuted for child abuse as well. If children are not old enough to legally smoke, drink, or vote, why do we think they are old enough to make life altering decisions. Why do you think auto insurance rates are higher for ages under 25?
Pass this bill!
Anna White

John Burton
Self
Austin, TX

My vote is yes for this bill. This should be a no-brainer that deciding and performing to do a surgery to mutilate their sexual organs in any way shape or form is child abuse by definition. Adults can do what they want to do with themselves but leave the children out of it! Most children don't even know what their favorite color is during all of this. Children can't get a tattoo or purchase cigarettes until they're at least 18 years old only wanting to mutilate the child in its most influential age group. Please do not allow this to go on anymore? Thank you

Philip Smith, LtC (R)
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Gender modification should be illegal in all forms in regards to children.

Candy Gombert
Self. Office manager in dr’s office
Dallas, TX

For HB 1686 Prohibit gender modification of minors

Amanda Erickson
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will cause extreme harm to the transgender community. Increased suicides will result due to this bill. Studies have shown that providing gender affirming care results in better outcomes for these children. Prohibiting this care against the parents wishes will cause more suicides. Please vote no on this bill.

Sue Wall
Self
Azle, TX

Protect our children, please.

Alice Linahan
Women On the Wall
Northlake, TX

I am FOR this bill

Susan Hubek, Mrs.
Self
Allen, TX

Our children need to have protection from ghouls who prey on them. That’s what this is. NO CHILD MUST BE ALLOWED THIS DEFORMATION NO MATTER WHO IS PROVIDING IT. NONE.

Michele Wallace
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill

Rita Carlson
Srlfy
Round Rock, TX

Help protect our kids from harmful procedures and puberty blockers. Thank you

Luis Melendez
Self
McKinney, TX

IN SUPPORT OF prohibiting Transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and PROHIBITIONS on the use Of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Maria Paulus
Self
Porter, TX

I vote YES on HB 1686! Gender Transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria has NO place in society! Do NOT use my TAX $$$$ on MUTILATING OUR CHILDREN, young or old people!!

Keri Rogers Mize
Self
Huntsville, TX

I support this bill.

Debbie Georgatos
Self
Celina, TX

I strongly support this bill, and I'm very confident the vast majority of Texans also support it. There are countless cases of young adults, whose lives have been ruined by the pursuit of gender reassignment when they were too young to have any idea what they were doing to themselves.
Adults must protect children from this lunatic, gender ideology craze that is destroying the lives of so many people in America. Texas should lead on this issue and ban all gender reassignment procedures, or treatments or surgery, for children.

Chris Curran
Self sales
Austin, TX

I support this bill to protect our children.

Sophia Smith
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Gender modification, in all forms, done on children is child abuse. It should not be legal in the state of Texas or anywhere…

Barbara Moffett
self; medical professional
Red Oak, TX

PLEASE use some COMMON SENSE (a rare commodity these days i know!) and vote FOR this bill if you truly care for the children; protect them!!

Stephanie Davis, Mrs.
All things cute
Desoto, TX

Please protect our children from permanent sterilization, and mutilation.

Larkin Miller
Self-retiredHB
Zapata, TX

Let's check the science on this--no matter how much a human body is mutilated or how many hormone doses are given, the DNA in every cell of the body identifies which of the two sexes the body is. We do not need to further confuse children and ruin all chance of normal function and appearance of the gender they really are. Certainly our tax monies do not need to be used to perform this type of body modifications, which should actually be illegal to perform on minors

Paula Leeper
Myself
Weatherford, TX

Please protect our children from changing the sex God assigned to them.

Amy Vrba
Self - Homeschool Mom
Tyler, TX

I have a background in nursing and am a mother of 3 school-aged children. I strongly encourage that you pass this bill to prohibit childhood medical gender transitioning procedures. It has been scientifically proven that most people's brains do not fully mature until they are at least 25, so it is highly immoral and unethical to let what are most likely temporary feelings to guide making irreparable harm to children before they are able to make wise decisions for themselves. If the gender dysphagia persists into adulthood, then it is a different issue. But we should not be condoning (and definitely should not be funding!) the mutilation and chemical castration of children.

Patricia Harrison, Mrs.
Self
Ovilla, TX

FOR

Anne Trousdale
Village Republican Women
Houston, TX

I support this bill prohibiting public funds for gender modification for children. Gender modification is harmful .

Carol Zellmer, Mrs
Self - retired
Cypress, TX

FOR! There is NO CHILD BORN in the WRONG BODY! We MUST prohibit medicalization of minor children. Healthcare establishments MUST STOP this HARM done to children! LET THEM GROW!

Stacey Watts
Self
McKinney, TX

No child, key word child, should be able to be genetically transitioned, reassigned, etc. First, it defies science no person can ever become the opposite gender. All it is doing is surgically taking away or adding artificial body parts. If a child is to be mature enough to make the decision on their own they should not be subject to something that can be irreversible. It is irresponsible and immoral to allow such a thing. We have seen the studies that state a child’s brain is not fully developed. How are we trusting that know what gender that want to be. So many things are fads at this age and they will grow out of it by the time they are adults.

Kelly Conley
Self
Hunt, TX

I believe that no child is born in the wrong body.

Theresa Guittard
myself
Celina, TX

I support HB1686
Public money and/or assistance should NEVER be used to promote the evil practices supporting and promoting Gender dysphoria as that would be Child Abuse and destroy lives!

TEXAS - DON'T GO WOKE!

Anne Welch
Chandlers Landing
Rockwall, TX

Against mutilization and gender change of children

Laura Farias
Self
Little Elm, TX

I support the passing of this bill.

These types of decisions should be made at the legal adult age of 18, we have age limits to drive, purchase alcohol and tobacco amoung other things- these procedures are
LIFE ALTERING and should not be taken lightly!

The pushing of this agenda on minors is wrong, the only reason in my opinion is money, not because people truly believe in this.

Taxpayers do not need to pay for any of these procedures, this should be elective surgeries that are paid by the individual wanting the procedures.

Thank you

John Kerr
Self
Austin, TX

Please support this bill

Marcia Lamb
Self
Sinton, TX

I ask you vote fr this bill.

Lori Curtin
My faith
Austin, TX

FOR. This is not where our money needs to be spent. We need to help them not with their mental illness, not aid them in a delusion.

Connie Rodriguez
Self teacher
Zapata, TX

For the bill

Daiqing Yuan, Dr
Abilene Bible Church
Abilene, TX

Changing children's physical body permanently before their age of adulthood is child abuse.

Lynn Clark, Mrs.
SELF/retired
Nacogdoches, TX

I support this bill whole heartedly.

Don Carlos
Self
Round Rock, TX

Thank you for protecting our kids from harm

Brenda Warkow
Myself
Lakeway, TX

For prohibiting this

Pamela Presbitero
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. Let’s not mess with the bodies of our beautiful children. God made them who they are. We should guide them properly and support them when they are confused.

Heather Winchester
Self
Lucas, TX

I am FOR this bill! I do not believe that children are born in the wrong body nor are they capable of making such permanent life altering decisions. Please vote FOR this bill and save our children!

Deborah Jenkins
Self RN
Allen, TX

Protect our children, please vote FOR…..HB1686.

Kathy Keller
Self
Azle, TX

I fully support this bill and it is my fervent prayer that this bill be passed without hesitation or reservation. It is long past time that Texas take a stand and STOP the abuse and mistreatment of our children. Children are our most cherished possession and must be protected at all cost. Please pass this Bill!!

Laura Eubanks, Mrs
Self
NvKinney, TX

I support HB1686, and as Mother and Grandmother, I understand the unprecedented grooming of the minds of young children in our public school system towards Gender Transitioning.This is the highest level of child abuse and abuse of Family values.
Parents have the right to educate their own children in fundamental builders of their child’s Self Concept!
This MUST STOP, children’s lives are at steak!

Laura Eubanks

Stephan Mosier
None
Austin, TX

I support and encourage you to support this bill

Debbie Bowers
Na
Plano, TX

This must be passed to protect our children

Rodney Keller, Mt
Self
Austin, TX

Support!

Melinda Gronauer
ALL MOTHERS WHO LOVE CHILDREN and HUMANITY
Houston, TX

No No No!!!! Horrific Bill!!! Shame on you!!!!

Carolyn Russo
Self
Princeton, TX

I am for this bill. No child was born in the wrong body. God made us all in his own image.

Rhonda Wyatt
Self
Allen, TX

Please vote for this bill!

Becky Spargo
self
Abilene, TX

Thank you so much for submitting and supporting this bill! We need to protect out children.

Amber Stromberg
self
Taylor, TX

Please support HB 1686

Julia Fowler
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Texans DO NOT support transitioning of children!!

Patricia Moore, Ms.
self HCRP Precinct Chair #0483
Houston, TX

I fully support HB 1686 by Oliverson relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. In fact, it should be banned.

It is wrong to let children completely alter their bodies and identities before their judgement is fully mature. It is even worse that those in position of authority over children would do such a thing. Reasonable people are appalled and aghast over such heinous practices. The term gender care is ambiguous and can include anything from puberty blockers, hormone injections that counters ones biological sex and irreversible surgeries that mutilate children's genitals. Look behind the explosion of the transgender agenda in America and you will find money or the lust for it. Money for activists organizations, money for pharmaceutical players who make and sell chemical castration pills, money for teacher unions who enlist teachers to promote far left ideology. Those profiting and advocating for gender care have lied. The reason the State of Texas has launched investigations of such ghoulish treatment of children is to save them. We must stand and fight to protect our children from this evil.

Patricia Moore
Precinct Chair #0483
Houston, Texas
moorephstn@aol.com

Rachel Urban
Self
Oak Point, TX

FOR BILL

Biniam Kinfe, Mr.
N/A
Missouri City, TX

God bless America

Clinton Rarey
Self
Austin, TX

Children are not born in the wrong body. We should be protecting kids from irreversible surgeries. Kids are very impressionable and the grown ups need to stand up to protect them from being chemically castrated.

Bridget Garrish
Fort Bend Freedom schoolers
Richmond, TX

No, this bill should not be passed. Children should be allowed to be children without making adult decisions that will change the rest of their lives. If child isn’t able to choose their bed time they definitely should be able to choose to mutilate their bodies.

Diane Bradley
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support protecting children from harmful procedures of gender transitioning. Please please prohibit these destructive treatments.

Melinda Miller
Self-real estate
Austin, TX

Support/For bill HB1686

Becky Fowler
Self
Midlothian, TX

We are strongly FOR this bill!!

Patricia Snyder
None
Richmond, TX

Protect our children from gender mutilation. They are to young to be making irreversible decisions.

Carl Wolfe
Wolfe Family
Missouri City, TX

I am for this bill to stop interfering with our children and parents choices

Kameron Raburn
Self
Ennis, TX

FOR!

Cheryl Serven
Self/retired
Austin, TX

We must protect the children of this state from those that would take advantage and abuse them for philosophical, financial or political reasons. This used to be common sense. Please act in the best interest of your constituents. Thank you.

Charity Krieger
Self, Homemaker
Denton, TX

I support all bills that stop children from being surgically or chemically mutilated. To tell children that they must physically alter their bodies in order to be happy is child abuse. What happened to teaching children hope or resilience? What happened to teaching children that growing up can be awkward, but in the end, they are going to be okay? Instead, we send them the message that they "are in the wrong body" and must undergo catastrophic procedures in order to obtain happiness.

Encouraging children to obtain so called sex-changes also teaches lies about basic biology. Men absolutely cannot become women, nor women, men. To legislate truth as lies and lies as truth sets up our society for anarchy. Then what kind of world are we leaving for the next generation?

One day, we will all stand before a just and holy God and give an account. I hope that Texas legislators will be able to say that they defended the cause of the weakest, most defenseless among us: the children.

Martha Fierro, Hispanic Action Network Director
Hispanic Action Network
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Elenora Larkin
Self - homemaker
Allen, TX

FOR 1686

Larry Maddalena
Self Businessman.
Austin, TX

I urge you to do the right thing and vote in favor of this bill to protect our children!

Aileen Blachowski
Self
Prosper, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1686. According to The Institute for research and evaluations, November 2022, white paper, transgender research: five things every parent in policymaker should know, a growing number of scientific agencies do not recommend cross sex medical treatments for children or adolescents, because they have found evidence of harmful impact. They recommend counseling and watchful, waiting for gender, confused youth.

In the UK, Sweden, and the Netherlands, gender clinics are closing and “gender, affirming care” protocols are being reversed. These countries begin experimenting with opposite gender medical treatments for those experiencing gender dysphoria, and they were reversing course now.

Research does not show that medical gender transition is necessary to prevent suicide. In fact, there is evidence that medical transition procedures may increase suicide risk in gender, confused teens.

There is no scientific research showing that young children benefit from being taught in school about sexuality, trans. Gender identity, or homosexuality or testing or they’re such teaching is harmful.

Visit https://institute-research.com to access the research cited above.

There is no research-supported risk in supporting this bill: but there is a research-confirmed risk of harm if we allow body mutilation procedures on children to continue.

Save Texas children from irreparable harm. Support HB 1686

Lisa Hall
Self
Bedford, TX

I am for HB 1686.

Leana Divine
Self
Castle Hills, TX

Please let trans people and their parents make their own decisions about their health, life and bodies. This bill is an attack on trans people and if you aren't trans you shouldn't be making decisions for them. Please leave trans people alone and do not support or further this bill.

Bradley Browne
Self, Retired
Allen, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill!

Rachel Keener
Self
Houston, TX

I want to stand against this bill and what it would do. As a trans nonbinary person, I know how lifesaving gender affirming care is, and this bill is actively working to harm my community. Trans kids deserve care. Trans adults who receive public assistance should not be barred from receiving gender affirming care. Trans people deserve to be treated with appropriate medical care, as widely agreed by the medical community and as saves the lives of numerous trans people

Barbara Walsted
self - educator
Lancaster, TX

2 +2=4. Read that again. 2+2=4 Get it? Now pay attention: A man has a penis and testicles. A man can't have a baby. A man can't nurse a baby. A man is not a woman. A woman has a vagina and breasts to nurse a baby. And she has a uterus and ovaries. A woman can have a baby. A woman is not a man. There are only TWO sexes. MALE AND FEMALE. There are only two sexes in the entire animal kingdom. What's going on here is PURE INDOCTRINATION of our children ON PURPOSE. Look at TikTok Influencers ... that's what they want to do. Look at the woke schools and teachers .. that's their GOAL. They want to mess with the minds of our children to bring them into mass confusion. If you don't support this bill then you are absolutely responsible for the mental health of these CHILDREN. There are lots of "confused" children out there .. that think they are cats and hawks too. Stop this nonsense. We ELECTED you to PROTECT Texans. Get with the program and support this bill. Thank you.

Karrie Medina
Self
Austin, TX

FOR

Megan Mack
Self
Waxahachie, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Period. We must prevent gender modification in minors. End of story!

Rebecca Loomis
self, General Contractor
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686, which bans gender modification surgeries and puberty blockers for minors.

Stephen Stedman
self
Cypress, TX

This should not be happening in our country. WHY would any parent want to disfigure their child, change their sex, etc and the state certainly should not be supporting this and using tax payer money to provide this tradegy.

Liz Pollard
Self retired
Waxahachie, TX

For

John Zellmer
Self - Retired
Cypress, TX

No child under the legal age of adulthood should be allowed to have a transgender procedure even with the parents consent. No child knows what they want to be until they're in their late teens at the minimum Public funds should never be used for such procedures, no matter what the circumstances. It's an individual decision, and the taxpayers should not pay for it.

Catherine Shaver, Mrs.
CWA
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Brian Standley
Self
Lewisville, TX

I have no problem with people doing what they want with their own bodies, but children should NOT be allowed to do it until they're 18. If you can't vote then you shouldn't be able to make decisions like that and parents have no business making a decision like that for a child. Thank you.

Anette Mueller, Mrs
Anette Mueller
Mckinney, TX

I am against gender modification for children, and consider it child abuse. Children don't have the capacity to make life altering decisions for themselves until their brains are fully matured, which happens in their twenties. These gender modification surgeries and drugs are irreversible. This is a trend in children and young people, because it's being " introduced" to them through the media, and our education system. These issues never existed before in America.

Travis Jones
Self banker
Austin, TX

Against this.

Francisco Fierro, Anesthesia Assistant
Hispanic Action Network
Houston, TX

I support HB1686. We should protect our children and prohibit this type of abuse on our Texas children

Rebecca McGee
Self
Conroe, TX

I support HB 1686 to protect our children. Report after report has been coming out from young people of how they regret what was done to them before the age of being an adult by gender transitioning, puberty blockers, etc. Now they want to live as the gender they were born as and are sorrowful they will not be able to live that life as fully as desired because of their bodies being harmed. Will they be able to have a family and children ? Some testify they were not told the entire truth regarding repercussions from surgical procedures and medications and really they were too young to make a truly informed decision anyway. We ought not be harming our young people's bodies. Please support this bill.

Terri Black
Self
Plano, TX

I support the passage of this bill

Kali Campbell
Self
Waxahachie, TX

FOR

Virginia Moore, Mrs
Self
Bonham, TX

For

Esther Keeley
I am representing myself and my grandchildren, born and unborn.
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

No public funding should be used to provide procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Research is currently being published on the harmful and life altering effects these kinds of procedures and treatments have caused. The children, many now adults, themselves come to realize very shortly after the procedures and treatments have been completed, that it is NOT what they wanted and many have lamented that someone should have protected them from these harmful, life changing, and impulsive decisions which were made as a result of questioning themselves during normal, natural stages of growth and development. These children need protection. A child cannot even get ear piercings done without parental permission. How is it that these, often permanent, life altering decisions can be made and carried out? Please do not vote in favor of this bill. Our children and young people's lives are at risk. Thank you.

Lisa Lightfoot
Self
Canyon, TX

FOR

Travis Jones
Self banker
Austin, TX

I’m for this bill.

Clint McWhirter
Christians
Baytown, TX

This bill needs to pass.

John Ryan
Self/pilot
Montgomery, TX

NO!!!

Walter Daugherity
self - retired
College Station, TX

I am in favor of this bill since it protects children from permanent harm.
Most of the treatments and surgeries prohibited by this bill are irreversible, causing lifelong damage.
The vast majority (over 80%) of children experiencing gender confusion resolve their conflicts by adulthood and accept the bodies they were born with.
There is a much higher incidence of suicide after the treatments and surgeries prohibited by this bill, which is avoidable by these prohibitions.
A primary measure of a society's morality is how well it protects the most vulnerable, who cannot protect themselves, so children must be protected.
Please vote in favor of this bill.

Chelsea Struiksma
Self
Frisco, TX

I am in favor of prohibiting gender transitions and reassignment of children. They are too young and their bodies have not even matured yet. We need to protect them from this toxic culture that is doing more harm to children. I am against using public funds or assistance to encourage the gender confusion in children.

Caroline Russell
Self / student
Austin, TX

I am in full support of HB 1686. Gender reassignment surgery is disturbing and is extremely harmful. Protecting children from bad lifelong decisions is a good thing and most children will mentally align with their biological sex eventually if allowed to grow up. These procedures are harmful both physically and mentally especially to children. We should prioritize the wellbeing of our children and this bill will do this.

Esperanza Barela
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support HB 1686 and HB 176

SUSAN Horton
Self
Austin, TX

I'm APPALLED that the majority of our Republican Reps are withholding their support of HB 1686!! What on earth is wrong with y'all????

Patricia Deal
Self retired
Spring, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686…Please vote FOR !!! No child is born in the wrong body!!!

Bob Sparkman
Self
Longview, TX

I support & urge all congress persons to support.

Norman Bradley, Mr.
Self Retired
San Antonio, TX

I SUPPORT this bill HB 1686. I reject harming children with gender transition procedures of any kind.

William Hamilton IV
Self
Seagoville, TX

I support this bill 100%. Gender surgery should be limited to adults over the age of 18 in my opinion. Under the age of 18 is child abuse.

Mary Regan
Self/Denton County resident
Flower Mound, TX

I absolutely oppose giving children treatments and procedures for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Debbie Bowers
Na
Plano, TX

For 1686

Mike Sanders
self
Leander, TX

I support HB1686 to prevent doctors from modifying the bodies of children under 18 years of age for gender reassignment surgeries. Children do not yet have the cognitive development to understand the lifelong consequences of their actions and doctors should not be allowed to mutilate children in this way. Thank you.

Jeremiah Diacogiannis
self, entrepreneur
Austin, TX

Anyone voting against this bill sets themselves in opposition to all that is good, true, and beautiful. No previous generation of Texans needed this bill because every previous generation of Texans would have delivered swift and unflinching justice to the wicked butchers of children who masquerade as doctors but are in reality priests of a demonic religion.
PASS THIS BILL!

JEFFREY WHITE
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

I am for passage of HB 1686. We must not allow so called experts and activists mutilate our children in pursuit of a mass delusion. No matter how many hormones a person is forced to take, or how many body parts are irreversibly cut off you cannot change your gender. Telling people this will help them is psychotic.

Richard Pakes
Self/Investments
Austin, TX

Fully support this bill. A child does not have the mental capacity to make life changing decisions.

Alvaro Coimbra
Self
Manor, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill

Maranda Moody
Self, Product Support Specialist
Austin, TX

STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS HORRIBLE BILL

Sonia Vigen, Ms.
None
Lucas, TX

Children should not be allowed to make permanent changes to their physical bodies. Doctors who do this to children should be criminally charged. Children do not have the mental capacity to understand the consequences of these procedures. Children will often overcome gender dysphoria, and often their perceived grief has nothing to do with gender dysphoria. They should be given every other option and they should get a lot of emotional support and counseling. When they become adults, they can make adult choices but children and teens should not be medically altered, disfigured or mutated in any way. It's morally repugnant to do this to children.

Sonya Ayers
CCDF USA
Hutto, TX

Save children from mutilation & drug manipulation that definitely destroys their bodies & shortens their lifespan! An adult at 25 making decisions about their bodies is not same as a child. More & more we hear regret stories from transitioning adults. Other countries, including Sweden, have STOPPED child transitions & have documented terrible results of the transition drugs & hormones. Please stop this madness. Damage is not reversible particularly surgical mutilation & hormonal therapy is debilitating.

Heather McNamara
self
Celina, TX

Vote to end gender modification procedures in Texas. It is wrong and should be considered child abuse. IF someone wants to choose to have the elected procedure, they should be a consenting adult.

Sam Pyle
Self
Spring, TX

Strongly AGAINST!

Jayanta Chowdhury
Self
Allen, TX

Yes, I am in favor of this bill.

Melanie Legamaro, Mrs
Self
Lakeway, TX

Please protect our children until they are adults and capable of making such decisions for themselves.

Joel Weaver
Self
Frisco, TX

Children are just that. We have age limits on things for a reason because as a child things change from day to day. Wait until they are adults.

Jena Masquelier
Self - writer
Frisco, TX

Absolutely cannot process a world- and especially the the United States of America- where we authorize, encourage and fund mutilating children’s bodies. Have we abandoned decency and morality and protecting children? I pray for our country.

Scott Hommel
Lamar County
Paris, TX

As a member of 2022 RPT Legislative Committee I stood in strong Favor of this movement. We need a yes vote and sto the madness of hurting our children. Those who are in favor of mutilating our children are mentally ill.

Susan Borella, Support of HB1686
Self
Flower mound, TX

I support HB 1686 and this needs to pass for the protection and best interest of the child
Please pass this important protection of our children!
Thank you

Lacey Cohen
Self
Dripping springs, TX

FOR the bill!

Marie Nuhn, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

Please support HB1686 Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse. Obscene profits are being made. The lucrative FOR PROFIT medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

Renee Colton
Private citizen
Flower mound, TX

Please support this bill and stop the abuse of our children. We are not born the wrong gender, we are built perfectly in the eyes of God. Let the truth be known today if the extremely high suicide rate after having a gender reassignment surgery. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL

Corinne Garza, Ms
Self
Brownsville, TX

I am against the use of public money or public assistance that provide procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.

Kayla Lain
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Godley, TX

Protect innocent vulnerable children from predators and groomers. They can’t buy cigarettes or alcohol until age 21, they shouldn’t be able to make life altering sex changes before then either. And the fact that tax payer public money is even being considered to fund this is ridiculous, that is taxation without representation.

Debra Liva, Ms
In Child’s Best Interest
Little Elm, TX

Heavenly Father, tear the veil off the eyes of the people and cause their stoney hearts to be made flesh. Let them see and feel your presence Lord and hear your voice of evil doing and harming children. Holy Spirt saturate the hearts and minds of our elected officials and activate angels of mercy and protection and the very individuals that you desire us to take care lest we put a I millstone around her neck as consequences for hurting such as these. Thank you Father and bless the people and be glorified.

I am favor of HB 1686 to stop the insanity of ANY type of disfiguration or any method to get them there a Texas Children and any child anywhere in the mighty name of Yashua Hamashiach amen ??

Claire Wyatt
Conservatives
Allen, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Ed Smith
Self.
Fredericksburg, TX

Gender dysphoria is a mental disorder that should only be treated by a psychiatrist. Providing puberty blockers and/or surgical treatments is child abuse. I do not want any of my tax dollars going towards this horrific abuse.

Lydia Garza
Self
Brownsville, TX

I am in favor of this bill as I do not believe based on my research that children are able to benefit from any kind of gender re-transitioning, hormonal treatment, etc. The studies have shown that this actually harms them emotionally and physically more than anything.

Lee Moore
Self
McKinney, TX

No child is ‘born in the wrong body’. No minor should be allowed to engage in body mutilation. We MUST prohibit gender modification of any kind in minors. Their brains are not developed to be able to make that decision. Their parents should not be able to make that decision for them. we must pass this legislation to protect the children. #DoNoHarm.

Lacyn Ward
Self; Communications Associate
Anna, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Priscilla Lashley
Self
Spring, TX

I am for this bill. It is against God’s creation to reassign our gender. It is a crime to mutilate their bodies.

Andrew Vogel
Self
Austin, TX

FOR/Support the bill.

Barbara Dillard
Self
Cross Plains, TX

I am totally in favor of the ban.

Brenda McPherson, Mrs
Self
Carrollton, TX

I believe it is child abuse/sexual abuse to alter a child’s genetics. Most children who are confused about their gender will grow out of it. They should at l least get to grow up to age 18 and make that determination on their own.

Jennifer Yoch
Self. Teacher
Blue Ridge, TX

I am For this bill because no one is born in the wrong body. There is no gay gene. Children under 18 are not mature enough to make a decision to alter their bodies. Adults making a decision to modify a child’s body are engaging in child abuse. The affects of reassignment surgery are permanent and will have lasting negative effects on those under full maturity around age 18-25.

Debbie Vacek
Self
Driftwood, TX

FOR

Sam Pyle
Self
Spring, TX

Please cancel my first vote against as I was confused. I strongly vote FOR this bill. Sam Pyle

Karen Brown
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

FOR!!

Kathryn Reed
Self- stay at home mom
DeSoto, TX

No child should be able to undergo gender reassignment or be assisted and aided in transition the encourage to. Nor should the use of public money be used for gender reassignment. Instead, children should be encourage to receive proper counseling for this mental health issue and their guardians be investigated for child abuse.

Hilary Rabeler
Myself
Southlake, TX

I support this bill. Making permanent changes to a minor's body is unethical and abusive. Children don't have the capability of making life-altering decisions, and no one else should be making this decision for them. Please protect children and support this bill. Thank you.

Robert Wisner, WC PC 473
Self/retired
Georgetown, TX

There should be no bills for disgendering of our children.

Jennifer Lytle
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote yes.

Belinda Smith
Self
Wimberley, TX

I am for prohibitions against treatments for gender transitioning in children. People with gender dysphoria need mental health assistance. We cannot change our sex.

Leslie Key
Self - Retired
Austin, TX

I am FOR - in favor of this bill. Children are not to be experimented upon. They are too young and their thought processes have definitely not matured enough to make this important medical decision. The medical harm done to them may be irreversible. They are not mature adults.

Ashleigh Leege
Self
Leander, TX

No. I will not ever support this. Children is the key word here.

Laura Aguilar
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Please approve and pass this important bill to protect children of impressionable age from harmful irreversible procedures with irreparable physical and psychological consequences, the extent of which has not even been thoroughly been investigated.
Much less should the general public be coerced into funding a private individual's procedure of any kind. This public funding is improper and may lead to future legal challenges. Nor Is it within the purview of Government to facilitate such aberrant procedures.

Please support and pass this bill.

Mollie Bull
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

For

Joey Nájera
CCDF
Austin, TX

SUPPORT HB1686

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Charles Cooper
Myself
Joshua, TX

Please protect children and PASS this bill. We are not God, and we are not the official re-assigner police. The fact that a bill like this even is considered in Texas is truly troubling. People say “don’t California my Texas”it may already have happened. Shame on those supporting this.

Veronica Montes
Self
Dallas, TX

To Whom it may concern,
As a mother of five I can’t imagine allowing a small children decide on something so life changing. This is why I completely support this bill. There is not enough research to determine the long term side effects that these procedures might have on our children. Protect our children!!

Brenda Rogers
Self
Frisco, TX

God made us male and female. We do not have the right to change that.

Gary Short, RPh
Myself
Austin, TX

I am strongly in favor of laws prohibiting gender transitioning and gender reassignment surgeries, puberty blockers, and hormone therapy for minor children. Life changing and irreversible health changing decisions should be made by adults who understand fully the consequences of their decision. Theses procedures should not be incentivized by the use of taxpayer monies.

Mary Jo Ufema
self-retired
Cypress, TX

I am in favor of this Bill.

Deana Johnston
self
Dallas, TX

Please PASS HB 1686 and save children! Do not be fooled by the bots who have been hired to make calls and send emails telling you to quash this bill. No sane person could agree to allow children to go through the process of trying to change their gender. No matter how many unhealthy drugs or damaging surgeries they may have, they cannot change their gender.

Ashleigh Edwards
Self RN
Melissa, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body! We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. Do no harm!!! As a medical professional, it is absolutely aggregious to me that we will even consider removing perfectly healthy body parts from children FAR to young to understand the long term consequences of such a decision. PLEASE act in the best interest of our children and our nations future.

Faith Wright
Self
Midlothian, TX

For

Sarah Reichardt
Self - implementation
Keller, TX

I support this. Let kids be kids. Minors cannot consent to irreversible medical treatments.

Virginia Lynch
Self
Waxahachie, TX

It’s very concerning to allow children to transition given that their brains are still developing related to logic and reasoning

Belinda VanDyke
Self
Seguin, TX

Please pass this bill to keep our children safe. I do not want my tax dollars used for such procedures.

Sandra Lodato, Mother, parent, nurse
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill. CHILDREN do not fully understand the consequences of these procedures nor do patents. Research also shows there is a higher rate of suicide for this group. If a person is not able to vote until they are 18 then these procedures should not be legal until then either. I am FOR passing this bill.

Sylvia Coulson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I STRONGLY support this bill. These children must be protected. Surgery is not the solution for mental illness.

Carolyn Cox
Self, Citizen
Ovilla, TX

How in the world could anyone think a minor child should be allowed to mutilate themselves?

Ed Zenner
HB
DeSoto, TX

Great bill
Please vote for

Donna Mel
Self
Allen, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Louise Diehl, Mrs
Self
Duncanville, TX

I am for HB 1686

Ian Howell
N/A
Denton, TX

It is essential that this bill is passed to protect children from dangerous and irreversible surgeries, harmful and unnecessary treatments for a psychological condition. Any transgender treatments should be banned, everywhere, to all age groups, period.

Margery Hoff
self
Austin, TX

FOR/SUPPORT THIS BILL

Vikki Barbee
Self RN
Brownwood, TX

I am absolutely in favor of prohibition on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Karen Pritchett, Ms.
Self/Retired
Bryan, TX

Please count me as for HB 1686

Thank you

Anna Arrigunaga
Self, caregiver.
Round Rock, TX

I am speaking in favor of prohibiting the provision of all minors to procedures and treatments for sex transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. The only treatment I'm in favor of is mental health treatment for minors diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Sex transitioning surgeries, prescribing minors more hormones or puberty blockers is not healthy at all because it has too many harmful setbacks such as persisting infections, reducing fertility health, etc. There are numerous risks on the body and brain development in the long run as they are developing on a body that's already constantly changing. Therefore, disrupting those growth changes that minors are going through is highly dangerous and medical staff are taking advantage of the experiments. It doesn't "cure" or "treat" gender dysphoria or fix gender confusion at its roots on minors whose minds and bodies have not finished developing. We must be able to have licensed therapists and psychiatrists counsel minors extensively diagnosed with gender dysphoria and medical staff must wait. Its much safer than sorry when its legal adults carefully considering any transitional surgeries if they themselves consent to it and can pay for it. Or identify other underlying issues they may have that's causing psychological distress such as depression, anxiety, autism, experienced childhood abuse, etc. To examine minors enough to know when to spot a case of social contagion rather than call it gender dysphoria based on different root issues. Minors are unable to make fully informed decisions that affect the rest of their health life. Hence why minors can't consent to medical decisions and parents shouldn't have the right to choose sex transition procedures for their children because this is child abuse. Parents, medical staff, and donors supporting this are supporting child abuse. Because minors will think differently and have a voice of their own from the ages of 18-25 in an adult body. By taking away their impactful future choice when they are vulnerable and aren't cognitively ready is a direct exploitation on them. Legal adults should be able to choose for themselves without any other parties involved if they want to transition and have re-assigning surgeries, legal adults can consent to all informed consequences that clinics should be obligated to disclose. Our law doesn't allow minors to vote or for parents to vote on their children's behalf, hence why we maintain votes confidential when individuals 18 or older get to vote, so that no one can force a choice once they can choose which candidates they want to represent them. The number of de-transitioners in the US is growing, and de-transitioners for those transitioned as a minor will only grow further if gatekeeping boundaries aren't placed. If the law carries out justice in regards to the consent age on many important decisions, this highly irreversible practice is no exception to the age of consent rule in regards to medical ethics.

Judy McRight
AaElf
Waxahachie, TX

We support hb1686

Maria Wolf
Self
Leander, TX

Vote No to this bill.

Melissa Khorsheed
Self
Cypress, TX

No child is born in the wrong body!

Martha Gouldin, Mrs
Myself as a voter
Houston, TX

I am for SB14

Beverly Tyler, Dr.
Self
Belton, TX

We should NOT mutilate children before they even understand what doing so mean and! They have choices as adults but should be given a normal childhood without this crazy stuff being forced on them by those wanting to make money!

Michael Kelly
Self
CYPRESS, TX

For Bill

Tristan Chizick, Mrs
Parent
Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill. Please protect all children from gender reassignment. No child should be mutilated by these procedures.

Anne Stone
DFW Deplorables Dallas
Dallas, TX

We must protect our children from harm. No child is born in the wrong body. #DoNoHarm

Jillian Hawkins-Zhorne, Precinct Chair
Precinct 1044
Dallas, TX

Children are not mature enough nor do they have the life experience to make life altering decisions for themselves nor should a patent or guarded make such decisions for them.

Arwyn Heilrayne
Arwyn's Art
AUSTIN, TX

Hi, my name is Arwyn Heilrayne. Thank you for having me. I am 18, and I will graduate high school this spring. I identify as gender queer.

I was thirteen when I told my parents that I didn't think I was a girl. They have always made sure that I have access to the medical careI need to feel comfortable and confident with who I am. Through the years I have grown into a person who I am proud to be.

There was a time when this was unimaginable to me. I didn't see any possible future where I was really happy. I know that many of my trans friends felt the same way.

The first time I had a doctor ask what pronouns I preferred, and really listened when I answered, I had a wonderful feeling because a medical professional saw me for who I really was. I don't like thinking about who I would have grown up to be if I didn't have support from medical professionals, if that person would have been happy or proud of who they are.

Access to gender affirming healthcare is a game changer for trans and queer minors. The American Medical Association conducted a study where they they followed 100 trans and non binary youth. They found that within the first 12 month, those that received access to gender affirming healthcare were 60% less likely to experience moderate to severe depression, and 73% less likely to experience suicidality.

These numbers show just how important it is for minors to be able to have individualized care from health professionals who are trained to support them rather than having big government intervention in private spaces.

If you choose to pass this bill you will be intervening where the government does not belong - spaces that provide healthcare to children and so should be based on medical best practices and the rights of parents to implement what is best for their families rather than on political posturing.

So I stand here today to ask you, on behalf of myself, on behalf of my friends, and on behalf of every family with a queer kid in the state of texas, please. Please do not pass this bill. Please allow us to grow up seen and heard and treated in medically appropriate ways.
Thank you.

Katherine Kelton
Self retired teacher
Leander, TX

I am asking for a vote if support for this bill. Minors should not be allowed to make such a huge life changing decision.
They cannot vote or legally consume alcohol as a minor.
Driving a vehicle is prohibited until a certain age.
Why can we not have such laws for a life altering procedure.
Again, I ask for support of HB1686.
Thank you,
Katherine Janell Kelton

Roberta Fischer, Ms
Self
San Antonio, TX

I believe it is child abuse to use these procedures on children. These treatments need to be outlawed!

Julia Heilrayne
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Julia Heilrayne and my pronouns are she/her. I am a born and raised resident of Austin, Texas and I am a nursing student. I actually came here straight from a clinical placement, where I was working with trans youth. I am here to testify against HB 1686.

As you have hard before today and have will hear again, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and many more of the leading professional medical organizations in this country have publicly released statements in support of comprehensive gender affirming healthcare for transgender individuals, and many of these organizations have included transgender youth in their statements, as recommended by the patient's physician.

As someone studying to be a nurse, I would hope the fact that so many of the country's leading professional medical organizations support gender affirming care for transgender youth would be of particular interest to the members of this committee who are healthcare professionals.

The members of this committee and authors of the bill who are not healthcare professionals lack even the most foundational knowledge that is required in order to make any kind of educated statement on the topic of gender affirming care, and the representatives who do work in healthcare are actively going against the recommendations and ethical guidelines of the organizations who represent their professions.

I work with trans youth now in various non clinical roles, and the kids I work with, know, and love, are vibrant, kind, loving, and beautiful children. They have aspirations of becoming teachers, studying engineering, and going to school to become healthcare professionals themselves.

HB 1686 is absurd, inhumane, and unethical, and if passed, will be directly responsible for the death of young trans people across the state, taking some of the strongest and most amazing children out of this world, and ripping them away from the people who love them. If this bill passes, the blood of your youngest and most vulnerable constituents will be on your hands, especially those of you who work in healthcare.

I urge you to join nearly every major professional medical organization in this country in recognizing these kids human beings, and deserve to be treated as such. Gender affirming care has been proven time and time again to be safe and ethical care that saves lives. Please don't take more of my kids away from me.

Joseph Cruz
NYPD Rtd
Princeton, TX

No one is born in the wrong body. We MUST stop feeding into the fantasy of transexuality. No such thing exists. We are feeding into a false narrative that is resulting in the deaths and permanent disfigurement of our children for political and financial benefit of special interests. Pass HB 1686 and stop the insanity.

Janelle Davis
myself
Buda, TX

Please consider those who have gone through procedures and treatments already and have regretted the maiming of their bodies and hormones based on adult decisions. Prevent children under the adult age of 18 to wait u til they are an adult to make that decision. Do not use public money to provide these until a child is an adult and then they can pay for it. Waiting for it will give them the decision and not parents or other adults to make it.

Nicole Morris
self/ educator
Cedar Park, TX

I am FOR this bill to protect the lives and bodies of all children. Medical doctors and surgeons take an oath to Do No Harm; do not let doctors and surgeons mutilate and harm children's bodies and thus harm their emotional and mental health in the long run.

Erma Hernandez, Clerical/receptionist
Self
San Angelo, TX

For the bill

Anu Saraf
Ccgop
Murphy, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Irela Torres, Miss
Self /home health care / tutor
Dallas, TX

I dnt think public money should be used to pay for these procedures. I dnt believe minor are old enough to decide to do these procedures.

Jacob Couch
Self
McKinney, TX

I am in support of prohibiting transgender procedures to children and prohibiting public money from being used to further these procedures.

Jessica Wilson
Self - Engineer
Austin, TX

No child should ever be subjected to permanently body altering medical procedures and or hormone therapy that could chemically castrate the child. It is absurd to think a fickle child that does not even have a fully developed brain would be making permanent life altering decisions to remove their breasts or penis for example, that they will very likely regret when they get older. This is beyond absurd and objectively should be considered child abuse to allow any of these procedures to be done to any child.

Elizabeth Garza, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Honorable representatives ,
Please protect the children in Texas from procedures altering of gender transitioning and gender reassignment. please vote for a ban on these procedures and for a ban on the use of public money and public assistance to provide those gender transitioning and gender reassignment procedures and treatments to children of the state of Texas. please represent me and my family in voting for HB 1686.
Thank you.

George Richards
Self
Buda, TX

I support this Bill

Mary Locker
Self, retired
Dripping Springs, TX

I stand in strong support of this bill!!!

Robert Smith
self / Software Developer
Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill and would like my representatives to vote FOR this bill.

Tammy Warren
Self. Executive Assistant
Mckinney, TX

For!!!!!!!!!! Gender transitioning should be an adult decision. Anyone including a parent or doctor or otherwise who encourages or participates in harming a healthy human child should be guilty of child abuse.

Keri Reynolds
Self
Fate, TX

I am FOR/ SUPPORT this bill

Judith Neal
Self
Plano, TX

I would like to voice my support of HB 1686 and it's companion bill SB 14
No minor child should be allowed to undergo such life changing surgeries. To little is known about the long term physical effects it will have on their bodies.
This is a barbaric practice and has no place in a civilized society.
Please stop the mutilation of America's children and support HB 1686.

Bertie Perry
Self
Leander, TX

Against this bill...children are male or female even by their body cells, according to science!

Judy Moses
Self
Duncanville, TX

Stop this maddness

Cynthia Michie
Self/ RN
Missouri City, TX

I support this bill because I strongly feel that any treatment, whether pharmacological, surgical, or otherwise (permanent or semi-permanent), should not be permitted for any MINOR child of any race, or creed. Furthermore no funds should be provided from the public sector for this purpose for any age individual. The individual is free to pursue this avenue once he/she is of sufficient age to contemplate the ramifications of such actions and is able to provide funds (such as through employment/insurance) to pay for such treatment. In summary, I strongly feel that no public funds should ever be provided for such treatments.

Karen Earhart
Citizen and legal voter
Pleasanton, TX

I totally support this bill! Texas cannot let our children be abused by these radicals! Please pass this bill now!

Dawn Crouch
Our family and children of this country
Austin, TX

FOR! This must stop.

adam baker
Self
Arlington, TX

Against

Patricia Jones, Mrs
Self
Allen, TX

We disapprove of public money used to change children's birth gender. Please do not approve funds for changing children's birth gender. Thank you

ED ZENNER
Republican Party of Texas SREC SD 23
DESOTO, TX

I support this bill, let children be children. When they are 18 they can do anything they want.

Miranda Beckmann
Self
Bedford, TX

Please prohibit the treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and do not allow public funds to fund this torture and permanent damage to children unable to make life altering decisions.

Shelly Burkhart
True options
Dwniaon, TX

We must protect the unboen

Sandra Slater
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am for this bill.

Stephanie Cox
Self
Conroe, TX

I am for this bill. We need to protect children from this practice of transitioning and from medical organizations that seek to profit off of them. Promoting gender transitioning for children is child abuse!

Shelly Akerly
Myself in Dallas county Texas
Coppell, TX

I'm for this bill. We must stop pretending that mental illness and beliefs are a valid reason to permanently change children. A just and rational society should protect all our children from medical experiments and pseudo science.

Wendy Lanier, Mrs.
Self
Lindale, TX

Children should not be subject to a whim of pop culture that can and WILL change. Assisted gender transition for minors is paramount to child abuse.

Kristen Stone
self
Austin, TX

FOR this nill

Binh Ly, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

i strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Miller Karen
Self - retired teacher
Zapata, TX

Nothing - not even surgery- can change ones gender.
Children who are confused need love and counseling. They each are fearfully and wonderfully made. Our culture has fed our children confusion.
Let's protect them from harm not throw them in harm's way!

Kathy Ellebracht
Self
Kerrville, TX

We need to protect our children. Minors should not receive these kinds of treatments. Mental illness is on the rise. This choice cannot possibly help in mental and/or emotional health. Children are individually created to be who they are. Not for us to choose!!!

Micah Tyler
Americans for Jesus
Belton, TX

God is watching

Lucas Martin
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am in support of this bill. Please stop the madness and fight for our children before we end up like the West Coast! We appreciate the hard work of the men in women who are pushing this bill and fighting for the people of Texas.

Andrew Artzt
Self
Austin, TX

This is government overreach. I oppose wholeheartedly.

Dorothy Rackley, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not support public money to be used for children having procedures for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or for gender dysphoria .

Kelley Rumps
self retired
The Woodlands, TX

I support this bill.

Lupe Rodriguez
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I am in support of 1686 HB

Sheri Alford
Self
Cedar Park, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, and procedures on minor children. #DoNoHarm

Jeanette Brookes, Mrs
Myself
Carrollton, TX

Children should not have their gender changed. They are too young to make such a decision and, no matter what they do, their genetics will always be that with which they were born. And, if these reasons are not enough, God forbids it.

Garlanda Stanford
Self
Weatherford, TX

Please don't use public funds to mutilate our children. It should be banned completely. Children are not intended to make adult decisions and some parents are not capable of understand how permanent this damage can be.

Georgia Head
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Burleson, TX

Vote yes for HB 1686. Children are too young to make permanent, life-altering decisions such as this. They can't vote until age 18. Why are we subjecting them to this?

Kimberly Overgaard
Self
Benbrook, TX

I personally do not believe children should change their gender. The doctors who are treating children who "want" to mutilate their bodies need to determine the cause of such actions, and stay true to their Hippocratic Oath.. do no harm. If you vote for children take such measures they should not be able to change their gender until they are 18. They have to wait until they are 18 to vote and 21 to drink. A child can not make an adult decision to change their gender. If you think so then prove it. In addition I do not want to use my tax payer money to provide gender transitioning or reassignment.. When a child becomes an "adult" they or their parents can use their own insurance.

Heather Welbig
Self
Leander, TX

Stop it!! All kids have phases doesn't mean you mutilate them & change their identities

Christina Johnson
Self
The Woodlands, TX

#DoNoHarm

Sebastian Colon-Otero, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and ask you all to vote no. All Texans deserve access to the healthcare they need and which makes their lives better. This bill will cause serious harm to young Texans, their families and communities. It also increases public costs by marginalizing groups -marginalization eventually increases needs for public services and support in physical and mental health. Please vote no

Terri Carriker
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686.

Paul Smith
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please pass this bill. Children are not born in the wrong body!

Gretchen Pierce
Self / Stay-at-home mom
Austin, TX

I want you to vote against 1686 because I believe a parent should have the ability to seek the healthcare their children need. Parents should be the ones making decisions about care for their children, along with their doctors. Those doctors recommend evidence-based care along a timeline recommended by major medical associations. Parents and doctors have children's best interest and health, both mental and physical, in mind. The government should not be involved in these decisions. Thank you for your time and the work you do for our state.

Shannon Pusta
Self
Austin, TX

This is child abuse and I will not be responsible for abusing any child with my tax dollars!

Bruce Lee, Mr
Self
Bulverde, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

TOMMY KEETON
SELF
PLANO, TX

I AM AGAINST CHILD SEX CHANGE

Gregg Groenemann
self
Spring, TX

I am FOR this bill. Children are not old enough to make lifelong decisions about their gender. Let them grow up first, then decide. I wanted to be a pirate when I was a kid. Im glad my parents did gouge out one eye and give me a peg leg!

Stephen Smith
Self
Wimberley, TX

Please do not allow gender transition/reassignment until an adult age. This idea is so preposterous. If we allow this, why don't we allow them to buy alcohol, drive a car, or join the Army? They are not mature enough to be doing irreversible damage to their bodies that will last a lifetime. Thank You!

Bertie Perry
Self
Leander, TX

Am for this bill...sorry about first comment.
Miss read bill

I am for stopping.
These procedures because every cell in the human body declares you are male or female.

Janet Cook
Self
vidor, TX

#DONOTHARM

Oriana Leo
Self, health and wellness coach
Austin, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Anyone who wants to mutilate their body must be an adult to do so. Like tattoos

AUDRA DEAVER, MRS.
SELF
KINGWOOD, TX

I am listening to the Committee on Public Health from Corrina. Texas should not be making mutilating children legal in any way shape or form. It's child abuse.

Dana Oakes, Mrs
Self
Humble, TX

We cannot allow any form of gender modification. The fact that the human brain isn't fully formed until 25-26, why would you allow a life altering decision to be made by someone with an immature brain? Gender modification is CHILD ABUSE and anyone who participates should be in prison! Please stop any and all gender modification.

Jacob Brown
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I fully support this bill!

Windsar Fields
Self/stay at home mom
Spicewood, TX

Sex is decided at the moment of conception and cannot be changed. The state of Texas should not, in any way, endorse, allow, nor fund the mutilation of healthy young bodies due to gender dysphoria.

Christina Wilson, Activist
BISD ACCOUNTABILITY
Georgetown, TX

Children do not have the mental maturity to make these life altering decisions. Studies show they grow out of it after maturity and regret the surgery and drugs later on in life. There was just another school shooting today from a trans in Nashville....affirming genders other than the one you were born into is creating mental health disorders like we've never before seen in the US. The fact that I need to comment on this topic at all should show you the state our country is in. I support this bill. Help this madness end!

Heston Burns
Self, web developer
Fredericksburg, TX

I am for this bill. There are two ways to look at this issue. From the perspective of Christian believers, or from that of unbelievers. One side gets their morality and facts from the one who gave us our unalienable rights: God. The other side gets their personal morality and facts from themselves, or perhaps from a collective vote or agreement. One fact is clear: God either exists, or he does not. This means that one of these sides is basing their entire personal moral and factual system on a lie. We can also conclude from this fact that one of those systems has a broken foundation. For the sake of this comment, I want you to assume that the God of the Bible is real. If He is real, what would that mean? It means that there are commands God has declared for humans to follow as his creation, and there are consequences to that decision. It also means that God created everything in the universe as he intended them to be. God describes all of this in His message to us, the Bible. Let me list a few things it says:

Genesis 1:31
And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 1:27
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Galatians 5:19
Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.

1 John 3:6
No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him

These verses are from God, and they are strong warnings against sinful living. God says sexual immorality it wrong, and He also says he creates humans only male and female. And this is just a few of the many thousands of verses and chapters making up the entire Bible, a guide to righteous living. The bigger picture of it all is to live righteously, following the good and loving laws God gives us as guardrails. And beyond what God says in the Bible, look at the facts around you and how many young people who were transitioned regret doing so. There are likely many others who fear coming forward to share their regret because they will be outcast as fakes.

We as a society must base our laws on what God says is right and true. We must also protect our children from lies and behavior that would harm their physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing. Supposed therapy, drugs, and subtle pushing of children and teens toward this ungodly and dangerous lifestyle is wrong.

If you have a problem with this, or if you don't believe God exists, your issue is with God, not me or other Christians like me. I pray that you would see the only truth that is beyond both of our sides, God's truth. Please protect our kids, ban these surgeries.

Tracy Bagwell
Self
Leander, TX

Please support!

Patricia Guess
Self
Rusk, TX

Thank you

Judy Patenaude
Myself
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686. Please vote to pass this and save our children.

Marilyn McKown, Mrs
Self
Denton, TX

I'm definitely in favor of HB 1686

Debra Taylor Ready
Self, administration
Hutto, TX

No public money for gender transitioning procedures or treatments

Jackie Moore
Self
Rockwall, TX

For

Anamaria Grelus
Self
Frisco, TX

God created from the beginning Male and Female.
He never made a mistake.
No one is born in the wrong body.
Children are manipulated and influenced from early age by adults that fall for secular world views harming children's well being (their health, their souls and innocence)

Please support this bill!
Please protect our kids!

Brandi Burkman
Self provider network management
Leander, TX

Please protect these children from procedures that can have permanent impact on their future. I have a 15 yr-old and 11 yr-old daughters. I now homeschool my 11 yr-old to protect her mind from gender ideology being pushed in our schools. My 15 yr-old grew up with two girl cousins her age, which we recently learned both now want to be called by boy names. What's happening to our girls is not natural. I am not even sure if parents have all the facts to be able to make decisions that could permanently damage their bodies. I support protecting children from these procedures that could have permanent impact.

Barbara Anderson
GCRW
Allen, TX

Please pass this bill and protect our children.

Jeannie Howell
Self
Denton, TX

Children do not have the full mental capabilities to understand consequences that are permanently damaging. If a child can not drink, drive, and vote , then the certainly can not make these life altering decisions. I think the age of consent , for everything, should be 25.

Ruth Pledger, Atty retired
Self
Mason, TX

For bill
Protect our children until they are of age18

Patricia Guess
Self
Rusk, TX

Children are born in the sovereign God’s given body!

Susan Junco, Mrs
Self
Tomball, TX

I am against procedures on children to change their gender. I am against public money or assistance of any kind. Please use common sense. We are born with xx chromosomes for female and xy chromosomes for male. These can not be altered.

cindy cash
Cedar Park
Cedar Park, TX

We are asking you, NOT to vote on this bill. We the people are saying we do not want this done for our children. Please ask yourself, would you allow this for your own children or grandchildren, nieces or nephew's? Think hard and long on this. Praying you make the right decision! Sincerely Cindy Cash

Dion Rebstock
Personal
Canyon, TX

I SUPPORT this bill!!!
This is not about freedom of speech - it is about TRUTH and safety for children and for generations to come

Irela Torres, Miss
Self/ hm health care/ tutor
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. As a tutor for many yrs I have worked with all ages.im also a parent & grandparent. Minors change their minds several times throughout the years about many things. Therefore, they are not ready to make permanent decisions that can't be reversed & many times cause irreversable physical pain & problems.

Travis Hundley
Self contractor
Cedar Creek, TX

No child is born in the wrong body

Melody Allen
Self - Logistics Manager
Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Holly Townsend
Self
Austin, TX

I do not believe a minor (a person under the age of 18) should make these decisions. I do not believe this category of procedure should be allowed before age 18. Minors change constantly during puberty and even into their 20's changing their minds on how they feel and what they think. But we do have the age of 18 as the age of independence and these types of medical procedures should not happen before legal adulthood.

Patricia Guess
Self
Rusk, TX

No mistake on birth gender!

John Landwermeyer
Precinct 390 Chair, TCRP
Cedar Park, TX

Stop the insanity. Trans is an irreversible lie. Please protect Texas children from this agenda and industry.

Monica McCrory
Self
Georgetown, TX

1. There can be no bill that violates the Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of Texas.
2. Using public money or public assistance to provide potentially harmful treatments violates the Hypocratic Oath, to first do no harm.
3. Secondly, it violates people's right to not have to pay for medical procedures that violate their conscience, religious beliefs or moral ethics.

Dan Graf
Citizens against gender reassignment
Grapevine, TX

I am adamantly opposed to any medical procedure or medication for gender modification of any kind, period! I will campaign against anyone who supports such measures!

Cari Miller
Self
Melissa, TX

For

Jeanne Sheets
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I have friends who have transgender children. This will force them to move out of texas in order to protect their children. As a voter in Texas, I implore you to strike down this bill.

Matt Cawthon, Retired
Self
China Spring, TX

I support HB1686 as it is written. No child should be subject to this abuse and no public monies should be spent towards that abuse

Renee Deaver, Mrs.
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please vote for HB 1686. Please
help stop the mutilation and the sterilization of our children. They are our greatest assets, and they depend on us to protect them. The evil agenda coming against them needs to be stopped right now. For our children. For our country.
Thank you.
Renee Deaver
Amarillo, TX
806-433-3353

Eve Raine
Self, Texas public school teacher (retired)
Temple, TX

Please vote IN SUPPORT OF HB 1686. God created them male and female.

Sophia Wozniak, Ms.
NAMI El Paso
El Paso, TX

Chairwoman Klick and Members of the Texas House Public Health Committee:

NAMI El Paso is the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on ensuring access to care and other protective factors for those in our community living with a mental health condition. We respectfully ask the committee to oppose H.B. 1686, which would adversely affect the mental health outcomes of an already vulnerable population. Recent studies on the current mental health climate for youth in the United States indicate that young people are a population which is experiencing rising mental health conditions and struggles. Transgender youth are a uniquely vulnerable population: According to the National Education Association, over 50% of transgender students seriously considered suicide in 2021.

Numerous medical groups including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the Pediatric Endocrine Society support gender-affirming care for transgender youth. By restricting access to this avenue of care for young transgender Texans, our state would only be further isolating and ostracizing an already-marginalized group of people. These actions of isolation and ostracization would further contribute to the risk factors of young people already vulnerable to mental health concerns.

By opposing H.B. 1686, NAMI El Paso believes that Texas youth identifying as transgender will have better mental health outcomes. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our Mental Health Policy Fellow, Sophia Wozniak, at swozniak@namiep.org

Thank you.

Tedra Fuller
Self
Granbury, TX

I am encouraging you to please protect our children and vote FOR this bill prohibiting funding.

Paula Anz
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Children under 18 should not be treated with life altering drugs or procedures. I am a registered nurse and see the impact of these terrible decisions. How can we treat a mental illness with plastic surgery ? How can we allow drugs that can cause permanent health issues to be given to children who are confused. This has to be stopped now! This is child abuse

jessica brookshire
self, clinical social worker
dallas, TX

Hi! I am a middle school counselor and man alive I love the kids I work with. That includes kids who are gay, trans, Christian, refugees, only children, bilingual, children of immigrants, and more. The one thing these kids have in common is they are learning how to express themselves and understand themselves. Adolescence is a time when kids are trying to figure out who they are and for so many of the kids I work with, this includes questioning and better understanding their gender identity and sexuality. Some explore using a different name at school, or consider what it feels like to use different pronouns that feel better for them. Others know in their heart of hearts that the body they are in does not feel right for them and identify as trans. For these kids, it is crucial that others respect and affirm their identity in order for them to feel valued, heard, and loved. To do otherwise is to discredit their right to self-determination (a tenet of social work!) and to harm their psyche. The US is still reeling from the mental health crisis that resulted from COVID and I see the effects of this every day at work. I provide mental health counseling in a school every day and can tell you that the kids I see that struggle the most with their mental health and well-being are those whose communities, families, and friends do not affirm their needs. Children whose communities and families of origin are understanding of mental health needs have more positive outcomes regarding the success of mental health treatment and are less likely to use drugs, struggle with abusive cycles in the future, or find themselves struggling with the variety of crises that come from not addressing mental health needs.
I am so concerned that this bill will cause more of a crisis than already exists for LGBT children - this bill tells them that they are wrong for existing, that they do not have the right to make choices for their bodies, and that they are less valued than others because they are different. This bill has the potential to cause a huge mental health crisis for trans children as we know that gender affirming care (which does NOT include surgery for minors) is one of the best things a child can do to feel improvement in their mood and overall well-being. Mental health outcomes are better when trans kids are able to make these choices for themselves.
A huge part of my job includes assessing students for suicidal ideation and self harm. A huge number of the kids that I assess for suicide risk happen to be LGBT - they are suicidal because people that are supposed to care about them do not affirm them, and it is a confusing and difficult journey to go on alone when you're trying to figure out your identity as trans. Please do not pass this bill which will no doubt give us more dead trans children. I am tired of having these conversations with children and telling them they are valued, loved, and cherished when their families and our legislation says otherwise.

Shannon Hill
Self
San Angelo, TX

For

Rita Hughes
Self
Rockwall, TX

Against any gender treatments for minor.

Glenn Moore, Mr
Self
Rockwall, TX

I am for this bill !

Pamela Laird
CCDF
Groves, TX

Stop this craziness now! Parents should have complete control over their children.

Anne Barger
Self
Leander, TX

Please prohibit child genital mutilation!

Susan Dominic
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please protect our kids

Penny Hebert
Self
Georgetown, TX

None.....

Gayle Scott
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please please please do not allow our taxes asTexas citizens to go to any such actions! God made us as we are and children have no ability to make such decisions ! God protect these United States of America

Patricia Evers
Self
Leakey, TX

I am AGAINST children undergoing treatments for gender transitioning, either through public money or public assistance.

LASZLO KISH
self
College Station, TX

I support this bill because it is in line with Christian principles.

Cassandra Crowe, Self
Self
Conroe, TX

Strongly SUPPORT!

Nicholas Lopez
Self
Austin, TX

It’s not the state or anyone else’s business what people do with their bodies. Stay the hell out of everyone’s business and healthcare.

Trish Grafton
Self - teacher
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill! We must not pay for or promote permanent physical, not to mention psychological damage to anyone under 18! I have MUCH more to say, but suffice it to say FOR this bill!

Brenda Jones
Self
Llano, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

I support HB1686.

Rebecca Forest, President
Women On The Wall
Austin, TX

Gender modification surgical treatments should not be performed on anyone under the age of 18 years of age - period. Also NO form of medication or hormone treatment should be given to anyone under 18 years of age to initiate any sort of gender transitioning/re-assignment treatments. Parents, guardians, doctors, school counselors/teachers/administrators or ANY person involved in a child’s custody and/or care should be prosecuted & punished for CHILD ABUSE if that person participates/initiates/assists in/with any procedure or treatment intended to change a chid’s gender by any means. The only exception should be for newborns born with both male & female sexual organs - when advised by a surgeon that a medical procedure to transition the baby to either a male or female whichever doctor advises would be easier surgically for the child & in agreement with parents.
Stop the mutilation of Texas children!

Julie Van Scoy
Self
Leander, TX

For/ Support the bill!!!

Sheryl Boyd
Self
Austin, TX

Please support bill 1686!! We need this to pass-

Teresa Schmidt, Mrs
Self
Pecan Hill, TX

This is horrible, allow children to be children. This is a stain on this generation that will create a future dysfunctional society.

Abigail Brown
Self
Duncanville, TX

These children’s frontal lobes aren’t even fully formed. They do not need to be making such huge, life altering decisions. I do NOT support the use of my tax money to support this butchering of children.

Victoria Velisek
Self RN
McKinney, TX

Support this Bill!

Katy Hessel
Self
Leander, TX

Leave our children ALONE!

Shelly Payne
Self
Humble, TX

Please protect the innocence of our minor children by supporting this bill. Minors can’t purchase alcohol, buy cigarettes, enter the military, or vote. Certainly if we don’t feel they’re mature enough to make decisions such as these, we absolutely should not allow them to make lifelong, irreversible decisions that scar them emotionally and physically. Aside from a moral and ethical standpoint, it’s a fact that the reasoning, rational decision making part of the human brain is not fully developed at this age.

Delana Greenwood, Mrs
Self
Mansfield, TX

FOR

Shannon Hill
Self/Freedom Fellowship
San Angelo, TX

FOR

Natalie Becker, Mrs
Self/teacher
Austin, TX

Decisions to receive treatment for gender transitioning should not be made
For minors or by minors. These are changes that can’t be undone. Public money should never be used for reassignment.

Donald Allen
Self - Sales Rep
Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Nicole Brack, Mrs
N/a
Vidor, TX

For not using tax payer money for gender related treatments on children

Martha Clark
Self, Registered Nurse
Buda, TX

I'm an RN who worked 8 yrs in pediatrics in Austin. Transitioning children does nothing but create a lifetime patient who will need specialty care for a lifetime (urology, surgery, etc). I support this bill as it's been proven that the majority of children outgrow any "gender dysphoria". We must protect these innocents.

Manuel Junco, Mr
Self
Tomball, TX

I am in favor of this bill to prohibit child sex change and against public funding

TRACEY DEAN
Myself
Wimberley, TX

No child is born as the wrong gender. There is no way that anyone short of the age on an adult should be allowed to undergo gender changing surgery or treatments. Its absurd. It's child abuse. Its demoic.

Lana Allred
Self
Leonard, TX

No one is born in the wrong body. I support this bill.

Lauren Chambliss
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am For this bill.

Katherine Maxwell-McDonald
Self
Tyler, TX

I support the complete prohibition of pediatric gender modification. No child should be mutilated by greedy doctors.

Linda Randall
Self. Retired
Austin, TX

Please protect our children and vote FOR HB 1686.

Tina Myers
N/a
Austin, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. I SUPPORT that every child is born the proper gender and we should do no harm by offering Any gender changing services to a minority who is under the age of minority to be able to govern their own decisions.

Delana Greenwood, Mrs
Self
Mansfield, TX

Against

Scott Bettis
Self
Plano, TX

I support
Males are males, females are females. Follow the science.

William Ely
NA
Cypress, TX

I am FOR this bill

Tamecia Dutton
Self, secretary
Nolanville, TX

For

Alisa Pappas
Self
Lakeway, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. Irreversible actions should not be taken with children.

Don Carlaon
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please support! Protect our kids

Cameron Evans
Self
Anna, TX

Gender theory harms everyone, but it harms our children the most. Our kids deserve to live in a world where they are not preyed upon by nefarious actors. Protect children’s rights!

kelly merritt
self/housewife
San Antonio, TX

against this bill

Rebecca Estill
Williamson County Republican CEC and Leander Area Republican Women
Liberty Hill, TX

I support prohibitions on any gender transitioning or reassignment and of any procedures for such to be paid with public money or assistance.

Cassandra Chang
self physical therapist
Round Rock, TX

This is a gross violation of human rights that bars people from healthcare. We force gender roles, cisnormativity and heteronormativity on children far before they are able to conceive themselves. Access to gender affirming health care means a lot more children will grow up happy and comfortable with themselves. Less kids will find themselves in dark places. They will grow up with greater self confidence. They will not have to reverse a puberty they did not want. I am against this bill and all it stands for. We could be protecting Trans children and people.

William r Mahaffey, Retired
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill

Diana Saldana
self
san antonio, TX

Against this bill

Delores Miles
Republican Women of Greater North Tx
McKinney, TX

God made man and He made woman . We as a state can not defy the creations of God. We must protect our precious children who will be the leaders and adults of Texas and our nation in the future . Do not vote for this . God’s Will is not this !

Joyane Burger, Mrs.
self-retired nurse practitioner
Dallas, TX

Honorable Representatives, thank you so much for all you do for our great state of Texas. As a school nurse for decades, I have a great concern for the protection of all children. I am in wholehearted support of HB 1686. Let us protect our precious Texas kids from sex change operations, mutilations and permanent sterilization. God bless you!
Respectfully,
Mrs. Joyanne Burger

Louvain Guiomard
Self
Waxahachie, TX

For

Jodie Dover
Self; mama bear
Lakeway, TX

Fully in support of this proposed bill; we must protect the gender one is born with and not reassign sex with unnecessary surgeries but get patients the mental health treatment they need instead

Gwen Baird
self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Stacey Bailey
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I'm registering support FOR this bill. As a licensed professional counselor and a mother of three I'm very concerned about the mutilation both psychologically and physically being done to children over gender related issues. Children need reasonable and responsible adults to protect them from this madness.

Jaymie Richards
Self
Austin, TX

In support of this bill. We need to protect the children of Texas from making decisions when they are too young to understand the full implications.

Leslie Bendele
self
Spring Branch, TX

FOR this bill

Pat Herring
Self
Austin, TX

I support 1686. Children must be protected. These are permanent unalterable changes made on a child’s body. Children ARE NOT old enough to make that kind of life altering decision. They can’t get a tattoo, they can’t drink or smoke. These are not decisions children can make, and they must be protected from adults who would destroy their futures

Edwin Schroeter, Mr
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am most certainly for protecting our children from sex change, mutilation and gender questioning. How about letting kids be kids instead of trying to work them into the sex system

Theresa Wilson
Self
Georgetown, TX

I’m against this bill. Under no circumstances should any child be offered this kind of mutilation.

Benjamin Montoya
Self, Registered Behavior Technician
McKinney, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body

Maelisa Rydholm
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am in support of this bill. I believe that no children should receive chemical treatments and/or surgery to change their gender before the age of 18. As it is a life impacting surgery, I believe that a child is not emotionally mature enough to make these types of decisions.

Stewart Ford
Self
Eastland, TX

Pass this bill ASAP! Texans will not stand for these types of procedures to be administered!

Rhonda Shumake
Self
Midland, TX

It’s child abuse & wrong!

Norma Alonzo, Mrs
Self retired teacher
Arlington, TX

I am in favor of this bill prohibiting use of public funds for gender transitioning procedure/treatments/gender dysphoria. Pls help to protect our children!

Rebecca Mahaffey, Retired
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill.

mike merritt
self
san antonio, TX

for this bill

Beverly Bailey, Mrs
CONSERVATIVE PATRIOTS 4 TRXAS
Amarillo, TX

We need to pass a Bill that stops the sec change operations and hormones treatments on our children under the age of 18 !

Lou Ann Dunn
Self
Leander, TX

I support this Bill 1686, children are not born in the wrong bodies. It is a lie.

Lashelle Scott
Self
Houston, TX

I hear Texans scream all lives matter but it seems to be a statement meant for certain groups and classes. All lives matter especially kids. It should not matter their identifying sex. Choices of types of procedures etc are best left to parents and not groups created to on hate while quoting Bible scriptures. The Bible teaches to love one another. What bible are these bills being written from? If all lives matter and the teachings of Jesus are being taught, bills like this are a threat to everything he stood for. We have more pressing issues. Stop trampling kids and their families choices. Kill this bill

Nicholas Smith
SELF/ Teacher
Houston, TX

Mutilation of the genitalia of children is an abomination. The concept that it could be masquerading as a needed medical procedure is beyond offensive, this is mutilation and child abuse. Doctors who preform such acts are guilty of Crimes Against Humanity, no different than other " doctors" who have experimented on people by mutilating their bodies. A child who cannot consent to Sex cannot possibly consent to the removal and or destruction of their sex organs. Please prohibit this blatant and horrific abuse of children in the strongest manner possible.

Tracy Bradshaw
Self, homemaker
Austin, TX

Please do not use public money, or even allow, minors to be chemically and or physically mutilated.

Carolyn Nini, Ms
Self
Conroe, TX

I support HB 1686

madison merritt
self
Austin, TX

FOR this bill

Bret Dahl
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am for this bill. We should not do harm to minors by mutilating their bodies. This is child abuse at the worst levels. Please pass this bill.

robert saldana
self
san antonio, TX

FOR this bill

Ruth Wing
Self
Houston, TX

I vote FOR this bill!

Madron Hartley
Self
Plano, TX

For

Jeff Mears
Self
Leander, TX

I support this bill!

Amy Hopkins, Physical Therapist/ Mother
Self
Austin, TX

We have age limits on children for drinking to protect them from making decisions they will later regret. Children are impressionable and vulnerable. Allowing them to make irreversible health decisions occurs as abusive. Please protect our children. Thy hypocratic oath is to first " do no harm." Please keep these key ethical pillars in place and vote for 1686.

Alexandra Dixon
Self
Watauga, TX

Passing this bill would do more damage to our youth than help. I oppose HB 1686.

Caitlin Bailey
Self
Bonham, TX

FOR the bill

Jay Ordway, Mr
Self
Leander, TX

Gender transitioning is an obscene practice. It should not be permitted let alone funded pay tax payer dollars. These people are mentally ill and should be given the help they need, not encouraged in their delusions.

Marie Moffett
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686

Krystal T
Self - Mother
Mineral Wells, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Trans youth are more likely to attempt or commit suicide when not provided with the resources needed to live life comfortably. I believe that as Republicans, y'all should vote to keep our government OUT of the personal lives of children and their parents. Only the parent knows what is best for their child, and these parents are honestly just trying to keep their children from the same fate of many other trans kids. If y'all are so worried about children, why don't you focus on the amount of school shootings, molestation in churches, and actual physical abuse that's going on instead of messing with things you do not understand. I was abused as a child. I know what it's like to be neglected and mistreated. I would have given anything to have a parent that cared enough to actually seek the care I needed instead of ignoring the fact that I needed help. The fact that this is being referred to as child abuse is laughable compared to what I and many other Texas children have endured at the hands of their "Conservative Christian" parents. Listen to these poor babies. Don't deny them the chance to live their life as they see fit. It breaks my heart to see this issue so politicized when all they want is a chance to feel comfortable in their own skin. Shame on anyone who votes in favor of this horrendous bill. I am an ACTUAL abuse survivor and a mother. My child will always be free to explore who she is as a person and it's only right that other children can too.

Amy Lauer
self
Austin, TX

Procedures that permanently alter a child's gender cause incredible harm. Children are fickle by nature (teenagers more so) and they should not be allowed to undergo a permanent procedure until they are adults preferably in their 20s. We have rules about their judgment on driving, drinking, getting tattoos, enlisting--absolutely we should have a rule but it needs to err on the side of PROTECTING the child from undue harm. And absolutely any such procedure is elective and should NOT be at taxpayers expense.

Jessica Sutton, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill

Jolie Dearman
Texas Public Health
Arlington, TX

I support this bill! Gender modifications should not be done until the legal age of 21, if they still desire!

Clayton Hardwick
Self Retired
Allen, TX

This is child abuse please vote For HB-1686.

Elizabeth Bradburn, Mrs
Vera Vita
Austin, TX

Please protect Texas' children, pass this bill!

Randy Bellomy, Ellis County Republican Party Chairman
Ellis County Republican Party and myself
Ovilla, TX

I support this bill we have no business changing what God has created.

Shannon Maddalena
Self
Austin, TX

FOR

Wendy Sherman, Mrs.
Self
Longview, TX

I am definitely in favor of this bill. Children are not mature enough to make those life changing decisions at such an early age. God did not create us to change our sex. He has a beautiful purpose and plan at the sex that he or she is created to be!

Claire Barnes
Self
Waxahachie, TX

There are NO mistakes at birth. There are 2 genders: male and female. All the butchering of a child to change its gender doesn't change the DNA. Children have to be taught right from wrong. Until they are of legal age, they don't really know what's best for them and a decision to have its gender changed at a young age could so easily have disastrous consequences. Long -term studies of sex changes have not been done. Even Bruce Jenner has regrets. Please please do not let gender changes be lawful in Texas. Please do not go aling with the corruption of socialism making evil good and good evil. Keep our Texas morals and values.

Rebecca Dierke
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am for this bill

Greg Swanger
self
cost, TX

The right to informed consent must be up held. A minor can not give informed consent. Please pass this bill to save the children of Texas from this horrid life altering event!

Amy Hesse
Self
Spicewood, TX

Thank God I was 10 in 1985 and not today. I was an Uber Tom boy that played football, beat up bullys and had everything He Man or Star Wars. I wanted to be a boy so bad I'd cry - life was so unfair. If an adult in my school asked me if I wanted to be a boy I would have said HELL YES. If that was today I'd be down a destructive path of alterating my body when actually all I needed was a few years to grow into a beautiful young lady. I love being a woman! I love being a mom and the best memories I have are breastfeeding in the quiet of night. Just me and my daughter. I wonder how many people are taking this opportunity away from children by forever altering their bodies. This abuse is the most disturbing. I'm an advocate for adults to be their authentic self and make decisions as ADULTS! ADULTS WHO CAN MAKE JUDGMENTS FOR THEMSELVES. CHILDREN RELY ON ADULTS TO NOT HARM THEM. HOWEVER, THERE ADULTS WHO SEEK NOTHING BUT TO EXPLOITE AND ABUSE CHILDREN! SHAME ON ANYONE WHO IS ASSOCIATED WITH HARMING CHILDREN.

Amanda Williams
Self
Rusk, TX

#DoNoHarm I am FOR this bill. No minor should have gender modifications!

Megan Walker
Self
West Lake Hills, TX

This opens the door to harmful gender surgeries for profit - irreversible. Should never be considered for minors.

Linda Townson
Self
Celina, TX

I am FOR this bill

Daniel Porzio
Self
McKinney, TX

Very simply put, no minor child should have any gender affirming or gender changing surgery. It is my opinion that right now all of this gender confusion and dysphoria is a fad based largely upon social media sites and children are easily swayed. No public funds should be used for any of this surgery! It is just plain wrong for children to be confused in order for sexualization to be thrust upon them. Minor children are simply not capable of understanding the seriousness of gender modification, which is an adult decision and adolescents should not be corrupted by this.

Wesley Basinger
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

I strongly support this bill. No minor, guardian, or physician should be able to make life altering decisions that contradict the purpose of medicine. This rapid advancement of insanity must be halted.

Robert McCharen
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote For this bill to save our next generation! Very important!!

Sarah Kinsey
Residents
Austin, TX

FOR/SUPPORT

Mariah Cuellar Miller
Self
The Woodlands, TX

FOR the Bill

Daniel Green, Pastor
Skybreak Church
College Station, TX

I support this bill

Robert Gaston
Self owner AirCare
Hurst, TX

Child gender modification is child abuse! Please pass HB 1686!

Heather Palamidessi
Self
Prosper, TX

Children can’t vote, drink, but a gun, or see a rated R movie. They should absolutely not be able to make a life threatening decision to change their gender due to a mental health crisis.

Patricia Chalupa
Self/ Retired RN
Leander, TX

Please support this Bill to protect our Children! Our Children.....let that sink in. Those young lives, minds and bodies must be protected from radical, irreversible surgical procedures and damaging hormones and drugs. What are we thinking to think Children have the maturity and life experience to make that choice! I do not want my tax dollars funding this insane mutilation of our Children.
Please vote to PROHIBIT this Child Abuse.
Support HB 1686

Nathan Johnson, Mr
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I agree and am totally for.

Sharon Bell
Self
Cedar Park, TX

This must pass

Roger Van Scoy, Mr
Self
Leander, TX

Let’s assume a 5’4” 12 year old girl weighing 80lbs goes to the doctor and tells him/her she’s fat and shows the symptoms of anorexia. Because she identifies as fat should the doctor place her in obesity protocol?

Of course not.

Minors should be treated to help them honor their bodies and learn to appreciate how they were created. In no instance should hormonal treatments be administered or body deformation be administered because there is no evidence these can be reverted. Lifelong scars can easily be inflicted upon a mere confused child.

If at adulthood these desires persist, they are free to follow a path of change; but never before adulthood.

Please stand up against a cultural phenomenon that only perpetuates confusion and hurts our innocent children by permitting gender transitioning.

Brooke Dierke
Self
Burleson, TX

FOR THIS BILL

Christine Hischar
Self retired educator
Soicewood, TX

Please vote in SUPPORT of this bill.

Bethany Kibor
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686

Paula Bender, Mrs
Self, Retired
College Station, TX

No minor child should be allowed sex change modification in any form.

Diana Young
Self
Ravenna, TX

No child should ever be placed in a position to make decisions that will alter a child's body permanently or even if it's not consider permanent. There is a reason children are called minors. Let them grow up before making life altering decisions that even ADULTS would have a hard time doing.
God tells us in many scriptures to PROTECT the children, HIS children made in HIS image.
I am FOR this bill to protect children from being mutilated in the name of body image issues.

Nathanael Navarrete
Ector County precinct Chair (301)
Odessa, TX

We must absolutely protect our children. From those who would seek to benefit from doing them, and from them harming themselves. Children ought to be protected from long term decisions, which they might be convinced to make. But we ought to also protect the future adult version of themselves from the decisions of a child, which could have irrevocable effects.

Michael Matos
Self
McKinney, TX

Stop child mutilation

Jo Ellen Pierce
self
Houston, TX

For the bill. There is a need to put an end to this practice.

ERAL SUTTON
SELF
KINGWOOD, TX

PASS THIS BILL

Angelica Gomez
Buda
Buda, TX

I am against gender transitioning ans gender reassignment surgery, procedures, and treatments being done to children. I think that it should be illegal that these method of treating gender dysphoria are done in this manner. There is evidence that this harms children and many children and adults that go through with reassignment procedures, regret it and attempt to reverse it.

Stephanie Lopez
Self
Tomball, TX

For HB 1686

Amy Bundgus
Self
Lantana, TX

I support this bill. Protect Texas kids!!

Gwen Zambito
Self/teacher
Austin, TX

For/support the bill

Susan Elwood, Dr.
Self - educator
Corpus christi, TX

Vote FOR
Please keep perspective on the overly liberal Austin, TX representation in comparison to the conservative state of TX.
Let them grow! Those are decisions for adults, not kids.

Merry Brand
Self
Austin, TX

Please, please pass HB 1686. We can't risk our children to this false ideology. Please!

Mike Montes
Self
Argyle, TX

This is a public health issue that need to be addressed with therapy and not surgery! By no means should the state of Texas be using tax payers money to mutilate and harm children.

No child is born into the wrong body! I'm am in full support of this bill!

Jameen Jacoby, Mrs
Self
Dallas, TX

Stop this insane mutilation to children!

Robert King
Self, retired
New Braunfels, TX

I have no problem whatsoever about an adult being given medical assistance, hormonally or surgically. As adults, they can do as they please with their bodies, and as long as I am not paying for it with my taxes, good luck and God bless.

This however does not apply to a minor, who is deemed unable to consent in a myriad of other circumstances. Texas should not permit physicians to undertake such treatments or surgeries on minors regardless of parental consent. These are life altering decisions that can ONLY be made by an individual of majority age ABOUT THEMSELF.

They should, however, get all the mental health counseling they can.

I support the goals of HB 1686.

Eliza Duncan, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

Voting For The Bill!!

Sue Lawson
Self
Dallas, TX

You are born a girl or boy no cross overs

Wendy Mattingly
Self
Blue Ridge, TX

Please vote FOR. Children should not be mutilated and/or given hormone blockers and certainly not funded by public taxpayer money. There is absolutely no good reason either morally, ethically or scientifically to vote against this bill. Our children in Texas are depending on you to do the right thing.
Thank you.

Lauri Armstrong, Functional Nutritionist
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

Every individual deserves the right to decide theiir gender after age 18/21. NO child under age 18 should be sexually mutilated.

Diana Matos
Self
McKinney, TX

Stop child mutilation

Troy Matthys
Self
Wharton, TX

For

karen steele
Myself
spicewood, TX

I shouldn’t even have to comment on this it doesn’t even make common sense

Cammy Oney
Self
Longview, TX

For/support NO money toward gender changes.

Heather Stahlman
Self
Conroe, TX

I support this bill! Thank you for authoring this bill, Mr. Oliverson and team.

Sherry Johnson
Self - registered nurse
Oak Leaf, TX

I am FOR this bill and encourage my representatives to support it. I do not support gender transitioning of children and certainly do not support public funding or these treatments. Of note, I am a pediatric nurse and would never, under any circumstance advocate for these treatments for my patients.

Jacqueline Pena
Self
Shamrock, TX

Please pass this bill out of committe and let's get it passed to protect our children from gender modifying drugs and procedures. Our kids aren't equipped to make the life altering decisions yet and their parents shouldn't be making them for them. There's time enough for this when they get grown.
Thank you

Steve Johnson
Self - quality engineer
Oak Leaf, TX

I support this bill and encourage my representatives to support this bill.

VICKI CARROLL
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am agsinst public money or public assistance for transgender procedures and treatments.

Donna Nichols
Self
Clifton, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

David Lunt
Self/electrical engineer
Katy, TX

Children are being manipulated by scheming adults and clueless parents into believing they can "BE" another gender. Children aren't old enough to own a gun yet evil forces claim they can be held accountable for mutilating their gender specific organs before they've come off age. Let them grow up and make their own decisions when they reach adulthood (18 yrs).

Michael Henderson Jr, Mr
Self - Corporate Finance
Wylie, TX

I support continuing the conservative value of man and women, especially as a minor is growing to understand life, emotions, mentality, negative influences and negative thematic experiences.

Kasundra Brown Corbin
Self
Duncanville, TX

Please stop mutilating Texas Children. Minors are not allowed to enter into legal and binding contracts because we as a society know they do not have the intellect, intelligence and or experience to make business decisions. So how on earth do we expect them to make permanent life altering decisions under the age of 18? How is it that we prohibit minors from getting tattoos which are permanent, but pretty much harmless, yet want to encourage gender modification treatments which are internal and cannot be undone? I'm now seeing more and more people on social media who regret making permanent changes like breast and penis removal. Please pass this Bill so that children in this state will have to wait until they are adults to make this adults only decision.

Tammy Rios, Mrs
Self
Springtown, TX

Boys are boys and girls are girls. There are only two genders. Prove me wrong.

Greg McClelland
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please protect the children and our society. Children should not be allowed to be permanently changed when they aren't even old enough to vote or purchase alcohol. They are not mature enough to make those decisions.

Amanda Rios
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to pass HB 1686. As a mother of two children I cannot imagine taking away their childhood by putting through so much agony and pain instead of accepting how God made them to be beautiful just as they are born. There are so many children that don't have door, basic necessities and even health insurance, this kind of spending needs to be on helping children access basic healthcare necessities. Education is also a top priority. Let's give our children of Texas the basic necessities they need like education, basic healthcare before we invest in something that will harm our children.

Beverly Knaus
self-retired
Tyler, TX

For passage

Ben Schmidt
Self
Red oak, TX

For

Ivy Chatwin
Self
Somerville, TX

Please, leave these decisions up to the individual children and their families. I support using public funding to provide vital healthcare for trans children.

Pam Moore
Texas Republican
Waxahachie, TX

I support this Bill! Please vote yes for our Texas kids!

Michelle Garland
Self, teacher
Coppell, TX

For prohibition of "gender transition " and certainly prohibit public funds toward this

Gabby Cedillo
Self
NRH, TX

Against!

Lynn Powalisz
Citizen
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body!!

Chris Donofrio
Self / Research Scientist
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686 and demand you let it die in committee.
Today we are fighting against a bill that is a set of bills intended to dehumanize and erase trans individuals. HB 1686 targets those most vulnerable in any society. Children.
How much trauma even contemplating passage of this bill is already happening to trans children, their parents, the doctors, nurses, psychologists and others trained to provide the well-proven and safe gender-affirming care these kids need?
HB 1686, not gender-affirming care, represents willful child abuse. Of the worst possible magnitude.
I cry tears of joy knowing that gender-affirming care gives trans children the ability to live as themselves in a loving, supportive environment. A safe space that may make it just a little easier to experience all the good life holds for them. Something they deserve given the social cards currently stacked against them.
I cry tears of sorrow and pain as I see bills like HB 1686 being introduced, over and over again, and seriously put forth as the way to address an issue that is extremely private and personal. Even more so when such bills are cruel to those they target. Their authors and supporters seem to want to cause pain and trauma needlessly. Trust me, trans people already have enough pain and trauma to go around.
I cry tears of anger at the hypocrisy with which legislators want to have it both ways. On the one hand, parents should have the final say in issues such as the books their minor children read at school. On this hand, HB 1686, the state and not the parents shall have the final say in perhaps the most significant set of medical decisions made for their child.
I find it ironic that the “Texas Family Code, Section 151.001: Rights and Duties of Parent” bestow both sets of decisions as legally mandated rights.
Books: 151.001.a.1
Education: 151.001.a.10
Section 151.001.a.6 contravenes this bill. “The right to consent to the child’s marriage, enlistment in the armed forces of the United States, medical and dental care, and psychiatric, psychological, and surgical treatment.”
HB 1686 addresses no pressing public issue. It inserts the state into what is by law a duty of a parent. It criminalizes safe and effective medical best practices. It will result in severe physical, psychological, and emotional harm to trans children.
It disgusts me that even today there are those who wish complete groups of human beings should cease to exist. It disgusts me that anyone would even consider a bill like HB 1686, let alone strongly support it. It disgusts me that such legislation can be introduced on behalf of all Texans when a large majority of us do not support it in scientific survey after scientific survey. Finally, it disgusts and sickens me that politicians would stoke hatred against, and fear of, children as a winning strategy to stay in office. Children.

Lacey Riley
myself
Flower Mound, TX

The state of Texas should not allow children to be physically mutilated or chemically castrated. I am in total disbelief that this has been allowed to happen in the great state of Texas. I feel like we have gone back to the days of old when people with psychiatric conditions were given electric shock treatments until they were brain dead or given lobotomies. The medical profession appears to be generating major profits on this activity. Body dysmorphia is a mental condition and it should be treated as a mental condition with psychotherapy. Not by mutilation or castration especially when dealing with children who do not have the capacity to make a decision that will materially alter their lives forever. PASS THE BILL!!!

Steve Pancoast
Self
Cedar Park, TX

We are against the use of any state funds for any Gender transformation. A child is not born into the wrong body. God does not make mistakes.

Dave Augustus
Self
Argyle, TX

I oppose this bill. Humans do not develop their full identity until around 20 or so. We should protect our children until they are adults and sometimes that means saying no. Also, the potential for exploitation without restraint within Texas is enormous. The love of money is the root of all evil.God created people as male and female- not gender fluid. Thank you.

Brian Shindler, Mr
Myself
Sadler, TX

As a Texas resident, my comment is FOR HB1686. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender reassignment/modification for minor children.

Pamela Culley
Self
Frisco, TX

Children’s brains are not developed to make life altering potentially sterilizing mutilations on their bodies. Our culture is being manipulated heavily in media, at school, on tv, in music and online. Right now children are confused. In the past, before this became such a heavy influence in society, many of the people who transitioned while young are now very regretful and have transitioned back to the best they can.

Never EVER should the mutilation of children ever be permitted and regardless of the reason this is pure evil. Parents who are fighting for this have been manipulated by a societal agenda that they cannot see thru.

A school tried to convince my kid that he had different genders within his body 7 years ago and failed him on an assignment for saying he is only a male. Again that was 7 years ago. Imagine all those kids who would fail if they said they were only their gender from birth. How many were manipulated into believing that they are something else. This was CAUSED by outside influence.

Anyone who votes to allow gender mutilation of children is clearly under a spell of misguidance. Stop harming the children please. Enough is enough!

As for government funds to pay for this, NO! If you’re looking for ways to spend money on gender procedures, if you start with mutating genitalia whether that be surgically or with medication, will you also be doing that for the adults who wish to change their appearance that help them identify with their “better” self? Breast implants, Botox, fillers, testosterone for bodybuilding, etc. if this seems insane to you, but you are considering voting for sex change surgery to be funded, please take a step back and ask yourself what you are doing and why.

Please stop turning this state into an even WORSE version of Sodom and Gomorrah. Please stop allowing intentional harm on children. God save our children and may God have mercy on your souls.

Debbie Papageorge
Self
Houston, TX

Xx

Lily Whyman
Citizen of Victoria Texas
Victoria, TX

I believe God creation is good & perfect as is. Therefore the children won't be born in the wrong body. HB1686 should be defeated. Please vote against HB1686.

Thank you for following the will of your citizens.

Tim MacCartney
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686

Susan Bean
Self - self employed
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686

Doug Reed, Mr
Every American with common sense
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Jim Moore
self / IT consultant
Lakeway, TX

HB 1686. I want to express my support of this legislation. Our children are under attack. They do not have the maturity as children to make irreversible decisions about the removal or modification of their genitals. They are being attacked through their schools the social media they interact with a constant barrage of propaganda intended to add to the normal confusion teens experience. Please support this vote any way you can and vote yes.

Maria West
Individual
Waxahachie, TX

God will judge all of those allowing children to be mutilated. We must stand up for the innocent and absolutely prohibit any transgender surgery and hormones/meds for this purpose for all minor children. Thank you for standing for what is right!

A.D. Smoot, Pastor
Self Pastor
San Antonio, TX

A person is born of this particular gender as God predestined.

Debirah Zahn
Memorial West Republican Women's Club
Houston, TX

Please vote for this, wait until they are older to make that decision.

Virginia Choate
self, retired
Denton, TX

My family and I SUPPORT HB1686. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. Gender modification CANNOT be reversed. It renders the child/adult sterile. Children CANNOT make this type of decision. Please support HB1686 and do not allow gender modification. No child should be administered cancer-causing hormones for life. No child should be allowed to surgically change their body - it is not reversible & does not change anyone's gender. Dangerous hormones & disfiguring surgery do NOT change DNA, so there is no change in gender. DNA can NOT be changed. If you are born a man, you will always be a man, no matter what hormones or surgery you have. Same for females. These individuals need mental health care, they don't need permanent physical alterations that cannot be reversed. 99% of children with gender dysmorphia grow out of it. Nearly all young persons that have taken hormones & had surgery regret it because it does not give them what they need - mental health care. We need mental health care for these children. Please support HB1686. Our future depends on a happy, healthy younger generation, not a mentally ill, physically damaged, regretful generation.

Joseph Brookshire, SFC
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686. There should be no question that this bill needs to be passed.

Justin Reed
Self
Missouri City, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Reba Griesinger
Self
Palmer, TX

I support this bill!

Dane Fuller, PhD, Colonel (Ret.) USAF
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Vote FOR the bill. Stop enslaving children to sexual deviancy. Lead others to freedom in truth. Free them from these chains of enslavement that bring childlessness, suicide, disease, depression, poverty, and marginal sexual fulfillment. Be bold and uphold God's design for sexuality.

Toni Brookshire, Mrs.
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686. Please vote in favor of this bill.

Joseph Leatherwood, Mr.
Bexar Conservatives
San Antonio, TX

Do no harm to children. Children are born male and female, not confused except for the deranged adults around them. Protect our children! We dare defend our rights…

Tim Blachowski
Self
Prosper, TX

I support HB 1686!

Christopher Senior
Self
Leander, TX

Children should absolutely not be subjected to irreversible gender procedures, treatments or surgeries and public money should not be spent on like treatments, procedures and surgeries for adults either.

Debbie Shindler
Self
Sadler, TX

I oppose

Debbie Adair
Self
Lancaster, TX

I am for this bill!

Lisa Caples
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Tim Shinogle
Self
Arlington, TX

I urge all members of the House Public Health Committee to support and vote in favor of HB 1686, for the protection of innocent children from the risk of permanent physical, emotional and mental injury caused by gender transition treatments. Children should not be experimented on and should not be subjected to emotional pressure to make any permanent physical changes. Children do not have the mental maturity to make such a major decision before the age of 18. Despite the media attempting to stifle news on the subject, many individuals who have gone through transition surgery, regret the "Change", and are devastated that they no longer have functional body parts. They also felt pressure by counseling and medical professionals that did not have the child's total health as the primary focus.

Sincerely,

Tim Shinogle

Teresa Schmidt, Mrs
Self
Pecan Hill, TX

For

Colin Senior
The sane people of Texas
Richmond, TX

I can’t believe the representatives of we the people have allowed us to get to this. I never thought I’d see the day where I had to do such a thing to prevent this cruel disgusting behavior!

William Russell
Self/Student
Austin, TX

This bill is of vital importance. People who have these mutilating surgeries regret them. People under the age of 18 who are confused as to their sex should not make such a life changing decision as this. Stop mutilating children and vote yes on this bill.

Carly Mazur
Self
Austin, TX

This must end now, protect our children

Ashley Forbes
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill. This bill is unfortunately needed to protect innocent children from irreparable harm.

Lisa Marie Hill/ Sauvageau
Self
Leander, TX

Our children are made as is. No mistakes. Children do not have any idea, how changing their bodies can possibly ruin their lives. Our children need to be well over 18 (imo) to take any sort of measures. None of this is acceptable. It's being taught to our children. It must stop. Kids go through changes all the time, that's normal. (Fades or the current, (cool thing to do) then change their minds. NONE OF THIS, CAN BE CHANGED. This is hurting our children, not helping.

Maria MacCartney
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686

Robin Perez
Hardin Co. Republicans
KOUNTZE, TX, TX

Please support this bill to protect children.

Melissa Kling
The sane people of Texas
Katy, TX

Stop this bill

JIMMY PYEATT, Texan, 6th gen
SELF, RETIRED, CPA, DUNCANVILLE CITY COUNCIL 3 TERMS
WAXAHACHIE, TX

I support HB1686. Necessary to establish justice.

Mark Cuellar
Self
The Woodlands, TX

This mental and/or abusive (by the adult) issue has taken our country captive by the leftist media, big tech oligarchs and pharma from the religion is scientism and humanism in a pluralistic subjective view of truth or right and wrong. We know there is big money to be made for every child being transitioned and a steady stream thereafter along with pain and deformation for the life is the child. This is and will always be child abuse in the darkest cruelest form of torture physically, mentally and ultimately spiritually. As a Christian and one who holds to absolute truth from a Creator whom designed male and female. It is the job of the elected representatives to stand upon truth over political correctness and give the people protection of our children by passing this bill HR1686.

Matthew 18:2-7
He called a child, had him stand among them, and said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn around and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven! Whoever then humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a child like this in my name welcomes me.

“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a huge millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the open sea. Woe to the world because of stumbling blocks! It is necessary that stumbling blocks come, but woe to the person through whom they come.

Stacy Alexander
Self
Sherman, TX

Please vote for 1686 and protect our children from gender modification!

Sharon Crittenden
Self Retired
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686

Michael James
Self
Red Oak, TX

I support HB1686.

Elfleda Reyes
Self
Odessa, TX

I am not okay with the transgender surgeries

Rob Alexander
Self
Sherman, TX

Please vote for 1686!

Norman Lopez
Self
Belton, TX

Underage children in Texas do not have the right to buy alcohol, cigarettes, or drive a vehicle. And why should they have the right to alter their body because of some woke agenda. This bill should pass and be signed into Texas law.

Natasha Sanchez
self - student
Cypress, TX

Children aren't old enough to make life-altering decisions. Science has shown that their brain is not fully developed until even after 18. If a child told someone they wanted their hand cut off, nobody in their right mind would cut off their perfectly functional hand. The same principle should apply to genitalia. Political agenda should not take priority over ethics.

Valerie Breaux
Greyson County Republicans
Montgomery, TX

i support HB 1686

Deborah Malouff
Self nurse
Cedar Park, TX

My husband and I support this bill!

Bettie Gray, N/A
Precinct chair
Waxahachie, TX

Please pass this bill. Children should not be subjected to these type of decisions or procedures. Additionally, public money or public assistance should not be allowed for life changing decisions that are made for or allowed by child decisions. Children are not capable of making life decisions as minors. Parents should not be allowed to transition or reassign a child's gender. These decisions are to be made by adults and only for themselves.
My personal belief is that gender transitioning and gender reassignment are wrong. The belief that humans know more than GOD is absolute arrogance.

John Breaux
Greyson County Republicans
Montgomery, TX

i support HB 1686

Kellye Justice
Self Real Estate
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686!

Addison Winters
Self
Round Rock, TX

FOR

Darren Kling
Sane people of texas
Katy, TX

Stop this from passing

Nancy Corder
The sane people of Texas
Katy, TX

I would like to register my support for HB 1686 to prevent doctors from mutilating children's sexual organs in Texas.

Mark Szyman, Director
COS
Cypress, TX

I support Dr Oliverson's bill

Susan Wright
Self
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686, please vote FOR this bill.

Diane Hazeltine, Mrs.
self Retired
Red Oak, TX

Common sense.

Kit O'Hallaron
Self, Self-employed
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. This is a discriminatory and harmful bill that disregards the recommendations of multiple national medical associations, scientific research that clearly shows that gender-affirming healthcare saves lives, and the state's moral responsibility to care for all of its citizens. Removing access to this care for trans youth is inhumane, dehumanizing, and will put trans youth at immense risk. Trans people deserve equal rights and autonomy in healthcare. I urge you to protect trans Texas youth by voting against this bill.

Clifton Sims
Self/ Paramedic
Maypearl, TX

I support HB1686

John Ed Justice
Self Real Estate
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686

Pamela Shinogle
Self
Arlington, TX

I urge all members of the House Public Health Committee to support and vote in favor of HB 1686, for the protection of innocent children from permanent physical, emotional and mental injury caused by gender transition treatments/surgeries of any kind. As a pediatric/adolescent nurse for over 40 years, I know children should not be experimented on and should not be subjected to emotional pressure to make any permanent physical changes. Children do not have the capacity to make such a major decision before the age of 18, or later. Despite the media attempting to stifle news on the subject, many individuals who have gone through transition surgery, regret the "Change", and are devastated that they no longer have functional body parts, will be on expensive medications the rest of their lives, and are left at high risk for cancers and other diseases and disorders. They often feel betrayed by counseling and medical professionals that do not have the child's best interests at heart. How could any thinking adult push this tragedy on another person? Where is the discernment, wisdom, insight, or just common sense in the mutilation madness you are contemplating? Please strongly support HB 1686! It is the only humane thing to do!

Sincerely, Pam Shinogle RN BSN

renee sullins
self, Life Coach for Teens/Young Adults
New Ulm, TX

As someone who has worked with hundreds of teens/college students as both a volunteer mentor for 17 years, and also as a professional Life Coach, I see uncertainty in decisions in many areas of their lives. Assuming or stating that a child has a full realization or confidence in gender at an early age goes against everything I've seen. Young people evolve as the world, experiences and other things shape who they choose to be freely (as consenting adults). I totally support this bill to prohibit underage children from making life-altering choices. I support the prohibition of any public money or assistance for such things as well. This issue has not been studied clinically for a great number of years to see what long-term effects are physically, emotionally, mentally.

Phyllis Phillips
Self
Bonham, TX

I believe that’s a child is born the gender that it should be. I do not want my tax money going towards gender change. I don’t be any child should be allowed to have a gender change even if the parents approve. They are not mentally able to make that kind of decision. Please vote for the bill

youlander Fulton
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am against public money and assistance being used to provide procedures and treatments for this bill

George Newton
self
Hollywood Park, TX

I support the outright bans of gender modification surgeries and puberty blockers for minors. Anyone convicted of performing such procedures or administering such drugs for these purposes should be punished with fine and imprisonment by law.

Hope Catchpole
Self - insurance
Prosper, TX

This is criminal and should be stopped immediately in Texas

Karen Rashid
Self
McKinney, TX

I believe any of these issues should be dealt with only by adults for adults. No children should be transitioned. It needs to be prohibited.

Sandra Kimball
Self
Austin, TX

We do not allow children to get tattoos. We do not allow children to get nose piercings. We don't allow them to drive cars. Why? Because we know that children are not mentally prepared to make life-altering decisions. We know they cannot begin to comprehend the magnitude of their actions. That's why they gave parents to guide them through confusing topics. Suddenly, we have a whole subset of our culture who push their woke ideology on babies who can't even tie their shoes yet.

We've seen thousands of testimonies from folks whose parents allowed them to mutilate their bodies as children who are in now perpetual pain. We've heard their cries. We've seen many detransition to the degree that they can.

The most thorough follow-up of sex-reassigned people—extending over 30 years and conducted in Sweden, where the culture is strongly supportive of the transgendered—documents their lifelong mental unrest. Ten to 15 years after surgical reassignment, the suicide rate of those who had undergone sex-reassignment surgery rose to 20 times that of comparable peers. Other studies have shown similar results. The argument that states that these kids will fall into suicide if they can't transition is simply not backed by the data from around the globe.

I don't know why this community is so determined to sexualize children, but we need to take a hard stand against anyone who is forcing their agenda on innocent kids.

Let kids be kids. If they still want to change their gender when they are 18, no one is stopping them.

Johnathan Smith, Mr
Self, public teacher
Midland, TX

Dear Texas Congress,
It is my zealous desire not to see gender MUTILATION darken our state, nor be supported by one cent of public money.
The US is one of only a handful of countries on the entire globe still allowing this barbarism to take place. Why??
•Because MILLIONS of people elsewhere in the world have wised up to the atrocities happening years, months, and even just days after these misleading surgeries are performed on people- such a high percentage of these patients want to end their lives altogether! And those against this elsewhere, citizens/doctors/medical boards, don't even live in the most free country ever- they're standing up in places darker than ours has become- because they won't stand for the cost, especially emotionally, it has on their citizens any longer.
•Because it's an attempt to physically treat a mental condition. Hello?! That is lunacy, and beyond- it's also deliberate!
No thank you to that evil scourge, neatly packaged under the cheap paper wrapping of "mental health care"!!
That practice is NOT a health service. It is mad science, in the open, preying on the vulnerable that have not yet been encouraged to be comfortable in their own God-breathed skin.
We dare not touch that door, which millions of others have limped back out of to merely try to tell the world, "I made the most horrific mistake this side of eternity, let my error be a very important message to the world not to do the same."
We SHALL NOT ignore the myriad of "horses' mouths" publicly discussing their personal experiences in this nightmare.
And why throw legal and common decency out to the trash for just this one barbarism to receive the green light to prey upon minors, of all things?!
You do not want, and I do not want for you, to be complicit in allowing such a ravaging of our culture, with so much evidence to guide our state safely through this battle.

There is a God that won't forget, whether for this choice is for against what is right, for millions of Texans.

God bless you and God bless our great state!!
Johnathan Smith

Tracy Hanes
Families Engaged for Effective Education/Self
Victoria, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686! In the 2022 March Texas Republican Primary, 92.6% of voters supported a ban on gender modification of children. Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed. Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

No child is born in the wrong body! No more child abuse to Texas children! PLEASE END THIS NOW! PROTECT THE INNOCENCE OF CHILDREN!

maureen Firle
None
Kingt, TX

For

Charles Taylor, Dr.
Myself, an individual. Retired Economist
Montgomery, TX

Please do not permit the political manipulation of the natural distribution of gender. God has and will destroy those societies that harm the innocent. Fear God, not man.

Chris Phillips
Self
Bonham, TX

Vote yes for the bill

Loraine Kruczek
Self
Austin, TX

I Approve of this measure to protect our vulnerable children.

Brian Reed
Self
College station, TX

I look back at the things my six year old self wanted and the thought of where I would be in life terrifies me if even some of those immature desires had been granted. Most of my friends in their 20s barely know who they are. The idea that somehow young children positively know is absurd. Every person can remember back when their parents tried to force them to achieve some goal or enter an occupation that this said person really didn’t want to do. Parents telling their kids to go through a sexual transition is the most evil form of this. As a society, we must protect the most innocent of mind. “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matthew 18:6

Jonathan Cooper
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I support this.

Bronston Carroll, Mr.
US Citizen and Texas Resident
Dallas, TX

Public/Tax payer money should not be used to support the mangling/mutilating of young children. Instead it should be used for the psychological support/treatment theses children may need.

Wesley Tryon, Mr
Self/ Insurance
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill. No parent should decide what sex a child should be. This is common sense and this is only setting Texas and America up for the worst when they change their minds.

John Miles, Dr.
Self
Paris, TX

Public money should not be used for gender modification. These children are our future and their mutilation only confuses the issue.
Dr. John Miles

Donna Reynolds
Yahweh
Round Rock, TX

FOR THIS BILL

George Dodson, Councilman
Colleyville City
Colleyville, TX

Please support this bill. It’s criminal to do this to children!

Blakeney McGee
Self/artist
Katy, TX

I strongly support this bill

Jerry Donaldson
Self
Austin, TX

Support!

Janik Dale, Mr
Self
Sugar Land, TX

No funds should be used for these procedures. Totally immoral!

Peter Senior
Self
Katy, TX

Support this bill

Allison Balthrop
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill. Please protect children from being overly sexualized and brain washed at a young age. They need stability and truth. They are born male and female and that is good. Nothing else needs to make them x question the make up of their genes. We make them unstable in all areas of their life when we tear a part the basic foundations of who they are for ideas that have know sound reasoning and scientific fact. It drives them to suicidal thoughts and future regret.

Jerry Ockman
Self
Round Rock, TX

Gender reassignment in children should not be unless allowed of laws are changed and children the same age are also allowed to purchase cigarettes, purchase alcohol, sign rental contracts, obtain a moter vehicle license, join the military and obtain a job and pay for their own health insurance. If a child isn't allowed to make those decisions they should not be allowed to make a decision that alters their body or brain.

Angela Walsh
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support this legislation.

Jason Southerland
Self / project manager
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. We need to protect our children from those who would use them and steal their futures to advance their wicked agenda.

Susan Griffith
True Texas Project - Satelite Development Coordinator
Corinth, TX

PLEASE for the love of GOD pass this bill and put a STOP to gender modification and mutilation on Texas Children!! It's abhorrent that we even have to ask for this! Completely absurd.

Matt Simpson
ACLU of Texas
Austin, TX

As Senior Government Affairs Director for the ACLU of Texas, I have spoken publicly about many policy issues. Today, I am speaking under a different title, Dad. I am the proud father of a 6 and a 10 year old. And their experience last summer helps me understand just how wrong-headed and damaging legislation targeting trans youth can be.

My children went to a summer camp with a trans 9 year old last summer. Here is what I learned, my kids don't care. It was perfectly normal to them for their campmate and soon-to-be friend to use they pronouns. And my boys have pretty long hair, so they have gotten a little taste of the power of gender norms when people assume they are little girls. More importantly, they just didn't have an issue accepting their new friend for who they are.

This school year, our kids have regularly lobbied for a return to the same summer camp and their friends. If these anti-trans bills pass this session, my kids' friend may not be there because they may have to move to another state - just to exist.

My kids know kids that are non-binary and trans through school and through summer camp. And they celebrate Pride with a complete understanding of what they are talking about. These issues are not really that complicated to either of them, or quite frankly to me. They have inspired me to remember to meet people where they are and to be more accepting and empathetic.

I am thankful for the accepting and sweet nature of my children, no doubt a product of their mother, but I also am thankful that my children would never have to feel alone and isolated and confused if they ended up being trans. Thank goodness my kids know that some people are trans and, if that ends up being their path, they will have community and they will be loved. And they will be loved by me.

Donna Winters
Self
Cleveland, TX

Please protect our children

Michael Turner, Mr.
Self - Director, Sales
Prosper, TX

I am FOR House Bill 1686. Children must not be subjected to life-altering procedures and treatments. Children do not have the maturity to make an informed decision and, more importantly, may go through phases that are transitional in nature. Gender disphoria is a mental disorder and gender reassignment is the wrong treatment. Studies have shown that those who transition are more likely to suffer from depression and suicidal tendencies.

Monica Bosan
Self, Marketing
Lakeway, TX

I support this bill. Permanent medical intervention like body altering surgery or the giving of puberty blockers should be done once a child is a legal adult.

Corey Stutes
Selt Route salesman
Conroe, TX

I believe that Trans people have a right to health care, and deserve the same safety that is granted to all other people.

Juanita Garza
Citizen
San Antonio, TX

No child modification

William Owens
Self
Austin, TX

I favor a bill that protects children from being subjected to gender transitions, reassignment or dysphoria. Tax dollars should not be used for these things. I'm in support of HB 1686.

Jenny Zarate
Self
Aledo, TX

I Support the prohibition of gender modification procedures.

Sharon Newman
Self
Garland, TX

I am FOR banning transition care for minors.

Linda Abraham
Self
Smithville, TX

For

April Hart
Self
Conroe, TX

For the bill

Thurman Griffith
Self
Corinth, TX

I'm for it

BJ Nelson, Mrs
Self business owner
Victoria, TX

God didn't make a mistake when he made each child. I'm for this bill.

Tim Abel
Self
Austin, TX

I am for this Bill prohibiting gender modification of minors. 50 years of experience in youth education and in ministry. I am a retired pastor

Inna Shanahan
Self / ophthalmic technician
Round Rock, TX

Against children getting treatments for changing gender

Jaye Price
Self teacher
Georgetown, TX

Please vote for this bill! Do not let gender reassignment become law in Texas! Protect our children please!
Jaye Price

Mia Boom Ibes
Self / IT security
Burleson, TX

no child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm to our children and let them grow.

Barbara Colvin
Self
Georgetown, TX

For

Orville Cross
We The People
Milford, TX

"I support HB1686"

Michele Surplus
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

For

Christin Bentley
Republican Party of Texas, Senate District 1
Flint, TX

I strongly support HB 1686. Children with gender dysphoria need mental health services, not hormone therapies that arrest their development and cause life-long physical problems, including infertility, osteoporosis, and heart disease (to name a few). Developing children are too young to have surgeries that remove healthy tissue and body parts. These surgeries are irreversible. This type of treatment should never be done on children who may recover from their dysphoria, as we know they often do. Please protect Texas children and pass HB 1686.

Bernadette Cashman
Self
Prosper, TX

I support HB 1686! Protect Texas kids!

Alex Jabourian, Dr
Self, attending physician
Prosper, TX

For the bill

Jeremy Lampier
Self Regional Coordinator
Red Oak, TX

2560 against the bill
89 for the bill

Joni Lawrence
JJ Quilts
Bedford, TX

I support the passing of this bill

McKenzie Holmes
Self, Communications Specialist
Waxahachie, TX

Thank you for using your position to protect our children. It's important that we support children and adolescents and speak over them their true identity as sons and daughters of God, instead of allowing culture to instill doubt, and the government to authorize it. My heart breaks for the ones who are searching for who they are and being told by society that they have to change their bodies to like themselves or to be their authentic selves. We have to celebrate children, teens, and young adults for who they were created to be, not reserve affirmation for after they seek to change themselves surgically. Studies show that, for most transgender-identifying youth, it is a phase they grow out of. Medically changing their bodies is something these ones will come to grievously regret. As adults, they are more apt to make sound judgments, and if they choose to undergo surgeries of their own volition, being told the costs and risks associated with it, so be it. But there are a growing number of detransitioners who underwent hormones and surgeries as minors and feel they have ruined their bodies permanently -- and were not warned of the severity of outcomes "gender reassignment" procedures produce. For real stories, please visit iwf.org/identity-crisis. Again, thank you for standing for God-given identity and the protection of the next generation.

Cindy Keefe, Mrs
Self/Administration Assistant
Liberty Hill, TX

Children need to be children and not making adult decisions.

Leslie Kuhlman
NA
Prosper, TX

I support bill HB1686

Nancy Lunceford
Self; Homemaker
Dallas,, TX

I SUPPORT passage of HB 1686!

Clare Venegas
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB1686– please vote for it!

Melinda Stone
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686

Sonja Tripodi-Peterson
Self
Frisco, TX

Please pass this legislation to protect our children from the evil being perpetrated on them by the misguided, life altering procedures currently available. These permanent decisions made at a time of confusion and vulnerability should not be allowed and only by making them illegal can we save more innocents from the horror so many have already experienced.

Tina Beaver
Self
Rockwall, TX

FOR HB 1686 - to ban child gender modification.
Let the kids be kids and enjoy their childhood. If they are too young to drive, drink, smoke, and vote, they are too young to make a life-altering decision.

Karen Adams
Self / self employed
Bee Cave, TX

Support

Scott Stebbins, LtCol
Marion County Republican Party
Jefferson, TX

Please vote to support 1686.

Orion Shanahan
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am against providing gender transitioning or gender reassignment procedures for children.

Brendan Albracht
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please protect kids!

Lori Phillips
Self
Greenville, TX

I would like to encourage the Committee to pass this bill banning gender modification for minors. It is barbaric to surgically alter or medicate children for what is a temporary psychological disorder.

Alexis Smith
Self
Abilene, TX

For this bill

Teddy Staggs
Owner
Midlothian, TX

N/A

Arvind Kini
self
Austin, TX

Please allow minors to grow up to be full adults first before handing them over life decisions. They must be living independently earning their own money first - before beginning to make decisions that have many consequences on their caretaker's lives let alone the financial burdens.

Nina Jabourian, Dr
Self, attending physician
Prosper, TX

For the bill

Terese Powers
Self
Dallas, TX

Prohibit children who are too young to decide on gender change……
And the schools have no business in these matters
They need to return to teaching the intellectual knowledge etc, so society can be educated and earn a living, be happy and enjoy their own families.

Walter Green
Self
Waxahachie, TX

FOR

Greg Bentley
self
Flint, TX

I support HB 1686. Children are too young to undergo gender modification, which is the most extreme example of genital mutilation imaginable. Please pass HB 1686!

Cindy Juengling
Self
Prosper, TX

I support HB1686. Children should not be transitioned to another gender. They are not capable of understanding the consequences and risks. They should be an adult before making life altering changes to their bodies.

Regina Holden
Self
Georgetown, TX

Vote yes

Amber Prigg
Self
Midlothian, TX

FOR

Abram Kuhlman
N/a
Prosper, TX

I support HB1686

Cynthia Shaw
Myself
Austin, TX

I am a senior from Austin, Texas who is strongly opposed HB 1686 because I care about Texas children.

According to The Trevor Project's 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, 52 percent of young people who identified as transgender or nonbinary reported having seriously considered suicide that year, and 41 percent have made an attempt to end their lives.

The American Medical Association investigated changes in mental health over the first 12 months of receiving gender-affirming care. They found that, over those first 12 months, youth who received this care—including puberty blockers and gender-affirming hormones—were 60% less likely to have moderate or severe depression and 73% less likely to experience suicidality than youth who did not get such medications.

These numbers, as well as those of numerous organizations, show the positive impact that gender affirming care has on minors across the country. Simply put, gender affirming health care saves and improves the lives of children.

I cannot speak from personal experience, but I can tell the members of the committee that I have seen first hand the positive effect that gender affirming care has had on my friends an peers, and it is because of them, because I want to keep kids safe, that I am here today. I have watched my friends become happier, healthier, and safer because of gender affirming care. I have seen families choose to leave Texas to keep their children safe from this bill.

By passing this bill, you force hundreds of children all over the state to go without care that, in many cases, would save their lives, care that would allow them to grow up to be happy and proud of who they are, their deaths are on your hands. The pain and tears that their families will feel when they are unable to support their children because of HB 1686, will be on your hands.

On behalf of my friends and peers, and on behalf of every queer kid in the state of texas, please. This bill should not pass the committee.
Please do not pass this bill. Please help keep every child in Texas safe. ?Thank you.

Terrence Brachmanski
Self - Business Development Manager
Dripping Springs, TX

Please pass this bill and prevent more incidents like the one in Nashville today. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and needs to be treated as one.

Robin Harger, Mrs.
Self
Georgetown, TX

I fear for anyone who would pit themselves against the Creator. The Bible clearly states , "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful."

Penelope Pantages, Ms.
In my own right.
Carrollton, TX

I am totally opposed to gender mutilation of children.

Karen Nelson
myself
Georgetown, TX

Children must NOT be allowed to go through what is being called gender reassignmnet

Rebecca Carter
None
Waxahachie, TX

I am firmly in support of this bill. State has a responsibility to protect children .

Bonnie Walters
Self
Longview, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 to ban pediatric modification in the state of Texas.

Kristi Payton
Self: Speech Language Pathologist in public schools
Kingsland, TX

These treatments and procedures should be outlawed! Children who are not age of consent are not old enough to make life altering decisions. They have no idea the ramifications these permanent and irreversible decisions will have on their bodies, lives, and emotional wellbeing. Providing counseling services that will help them understand and deal with the body dysmorphia they are experiencing would be the only acceptable treatment for these very young, very innocent, very confused, and very impressionable children!

Torrey Peterson
Self. Spirit Airlines Captain
Ennis, TX

I absolutely support HB 1686.
Performing transgender surgery on a child is criminal child abuse.

Don Tipps
Self
Amarillo, TX

Thank you for proposing this bill. We must protect our children from having the ability to make life altering decisions they do not understand.

Marco Roberts
Texas Conservative Liberty Forum
Houston, TX

There are few issues of greater controversy than the growing concern of the application of highly consequential medical procedures on minors, ranging from the administration of puberty blockers and hormone therapy to major surgery, for the purpose of anatomical alteration of the body so that it more closely corresponds with a minor's self-declared identification with the opposite sex. The plain fact of the matter is that to date, there is no clear scientific understanding of the cause of gender dysphoria or transsexuality, nor the value of current drastic procedures as applied to minors – notwithstanding the claims made by Gender Ideology activists, and regardless of the media's uncritical repetition of those claims. To be absolutely clear: there are no proper scientific studies that confirm the value of the medical transitioning of minors, nor the effect of such care on the rates of suicide among minors self-diagnosing as needing this type of medical care – period. Any examination of such claims will reveal advocacy groups with stated lobbying goals conducting surveys or studies in which little is done beyond simply having individuals voluntarily self-report, with no control groups or other standard scientific protocols in place to justify their claims.

Meanwhile, the scientific evidence is beginning to show three things: 1) the dramatic and alarming increase of minors self-diagnosing as needing these medical procedures; 2) the reality of irreversible and often damaging effects resulting from these procedures; and 3) the growing numbers of individuals reaching adulthood regretting their childhood decision to transition. Many of these are young persons reporting they were led by caregivers to conclude they were 'trans' only to later conclude they were simply not heterosexual, or merely not conforming to gender or sex stereotypes of behavior or appearance.

The concept of "affirmative care" has been a development in medicine unlike any other in history. There is no other area of medicine where the patient, let alone a child, is given full discretion to self-diagnose, and to then prescribe his or her own treatment. In fact, "affirmative care" is literally the replacement of what should properly be "diagnostic care."

The question before the legislature is not one about discrimination. It is about true informed consent and our obligation to protect children from the consequences of things they cannot understand or account for. For that reason, the Texas Conservative Liberty Forum SUPPORTS the passage of Texas Senate Bill 14 and House Bill 1686.

Recommendations (not dependent on support):

Remove/revise Section 2, Sec 161.702,
SUBCHAPTER X. GENDER TRANSITIONING AND GENDER REASSIGNMENT
PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN
Possible replacement:
SUBCHAPTER X. GENDER OR SEX TRANSITIONING AND SEX-REASSIGNMENT
PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN

James Buntrock, Pastor
Glorious Way Church
Tomball, TX

For HB1686

Georgianna Stebbins, Mrs.
Precinct 9 Chairperson Marion County TX
Jefferson, TX

Please vote to support HB 1686

Jalisa Thomas
Self
Lubbock, TX

Absolutely No!

Lori Johanson
Self- retired elem school teacher
Victoria, TX

I am registering my Comments in favor of this bill- NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit the medicalization of minor children and ban child gender modification.

Please protect our children .

Valerie Clark
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please PASS this important bill. We must protect our children!

Judab Ross
Self
Bastrop, TX

Stop wasting our time and money on this. Focus on what matters to Texans. Good jobs, affordability and infrastructure.

Stop playing games and let people live their own lives.

Kent McElroy
San Antonio
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Donald Hoover
Self
Midlothian, TX

If we fail to protect our children from the ideology that they can magic themselves into something they are not we will fail as a country and a species. Stop the mental and physical torture of children with this trans agenda.

Erika Browning
True Texas Project
Duncanville, TX

This bill is important to pass! Our children are being mutilated before they are even old enough to know what they're doing. These are barbaric practices that I do not support using public money for.

Paula Lee
Self
Blue Ridge, TX

Please vote YES for HB2686

Bree Clay
Families engaged
Weatherford, TX

There is only male and female nothing else. Do not bring this into the schools. My kids are in school to read write and learn history and math. Not be taught things that should be discussed at home. This isn't your right.

Nancy Davis
Self/retired state HHSC employee
Winters, TX

I am writing to voice my support for this bill. We cannot allow gender modification surgery and hormones/puberty blockers for Texas children. We rightly do not allow them to smoke, drink, or get piercings and tattoos, and gender modification treatments are so much more serious. Children and young adults are constantly evolving and discovering their true selves and cannot make a life-changing decision like this at such a young age, or at any age really since no medical intervention can actually change their gender. This is akin to treating anorexia with a prescription for extreme dieting and aggressive liposuction. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and should be treated as such, not with extreme medications and mutilating surgeries. We owe it to our children to protect them, even from themselves when they think they need these medical procedures and medications. If your child felt like they were really a one-legged person born by mistake with two legs would you authorize an amputation, or get them the psychiatric care that they needed? Gender "affirming" care is actually not affirming at all, it is denying their actual gender and reinforcing harmful stereotypes of how to be a male or female. It is barbaric and leaves many people with lifelong complications. The trans cult is loud and often drowns out the voices of the rest of us, and goes to extremes to brainwash parents and kids and force their cult behavior on society, but be assured we are here and we will do all we can to stop the mutilation of our children and grandchildren and even kids we've never met. Listen to de-transitioners who are now speaking out about how they were pushed and even coerced into this and how they now regret it. And remember the mantra "first, do no harm" and vote to stop these so-called treatments in Texas.

Keith Shull
Individual
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686

Carol Hightower
Self
Ennis, TX

No one under 18 should be encouraged or allowed to have surgery that will permanently change their bodies and lives.

Kathryn Schabel
Self/retired
Waxahachie, TX

I cannot comprehend surgically altering any child or person under at least a minimum of age 21 in order to cause them to appear to be of a different sex than they are biologically. I was forced to have a mastectomy because of cancer. This is irreversible and I don't think a child has any understanding of what it means to have your body drastically altered. Even young adults barely know themselves well enough to make such an important and permanent decision. I am completely against allowing medical procedures and treatments to treat gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria not only using public money or public assistance, but using any type of funding whatsoever, for any child under the age of 21. There is not enough information given to children or their parents and there is too little research into the long term effects. Please vote against not only allowing funding for such treatment, but against allowing it period!

John Curran, SFC (R)
Self/Investigator
Whitehouse, TX

I am for this bill. No child should be subjected to this type of mutilation.

Shelley Dollins
Self
Powderly, TX

Please vote for HB 1686.

Lindsay Espejel
self
Austin, TX

I am in opposition of HB 1686.

First and foremost, families should be making healthcare decisions not the government. If you are a legislator how would you feel if someone told your child what healthcare you as their most knowledgeable advocate could or could not receive.

Secondly, anyone who prescribes and understands these hormone therapies knows that they allow for a delay in puberty. Therefore, legislators are missing the point of how transition-related health care helps trans people. Deliberately misconstruing information to target an already marginalized group of people is cruel and immoral.

There's an abundance of research indicating transition-related care improves the mental health and well-being of transgender youth and adults. Puberty blockers and hormone therapies — transitition-related surgery involving sex organs is almost never performed on children — are aimed at improving the mental health of trans kids, who are far more likely to be depressed and attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. A 2015 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality found 40% of the roughly 27,000 transgender people surveyed had attempted suicide — almost nine times the average rate in the country.

I vehemently oppose HB 1686.

Sincerely,
Dr Lindsay Espejel, DNP, RN

Julie Blasingame, Mrs.
Self
Mesquite, TX

Public money should not be used to butcher kids bodies and to chemically castrate them.

Joan Leach
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am FOR HB1686 minors need to wait until they're 19 years old to make irreversible medical changes to their body I.e. removing breasts or penises permanently as minor children which they may regret as they get older.

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

FOR 1686
Public money and public assistance is absolutely not to be used for gender change based services. The people who wish to pursue gender transition should do so on their own dime when they are age 21 or up. Imagine providing public assistance to those (straight or queer) who want breast implants or some other plastic surgery to enhance their appearance. It is unthinkable. Please pass 1686. Thank you.

Karla Briggs
Rockwall County Republican Women
Rockwall, TX

HB 1686

Amanda Persaus
Self
Cedar Park, TX

For the bill. I don't believe that any child is born in the "wrong" body. Please pass this bill!!

Diana Hollar
self
Burnet, TX

I DO NOT support gender modification treatments, drugs, or procedures for children. NO CHILD is born in the wrong body.

Kristy Kelson
Self
Southlake, TX

I support this Bill. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Valerie Groh
Self - piano teacher
Austin, TX

For

Brett Guillory, Mr
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill by Dr. Tom Oliverson, gender modification of children should be banned!!

Nathan Brown, Pastor
Self - Pastor
Liberty Hill, TX

This bill is absolutely crucial to pass. Disrupting the natural biological process of puberty is devastatingly dangerous on a physical and psychological basis. Altering the gender or gender related natural development of minors should be prohibited in all circumstances, but in no circumstance should state funded tax dollars be used to harm our children in this way.

Carolyn Brooks, Ms
Simply Divine Commumications
Euless, TX

Grudome and inhuman!

Janine Chapa
Self- Retired
Georgetown, TX

Vote No on this Bill! Children should not be subjected to this evil. Why is it that all of a sudden all children are seeking this treatment??? They aren't! Someone is is confusing our kids and this has to STOP! Leave our children ALONE!!

Peggy Hurley
Self..retired school teacher
Lubbock, TX

Please protect our children and vote yes on this bill

Jason Vaughn
Self - Consultant
Houston, TX

Telling children that they need drugs and surgery to be who they are is extremely dangerous. There is a lot of talk about suicidality when it comes to trans people. Is there any wonder that is increasing when you constantly are telling people they are suicidal over and over again and that if they do not get the surgery and change their body rapidly that they are likely to commit suicide? We put it in peoples heads as a society. One of the greatest evils towards gay and trans. People are not bills like this that protect children, it is a political agenda that tells us to live in fear because half of the country wants to commit genocide against us. This lie and rhetoric is deplorable.
I grew up a fat gay kid. Learning to except myself, and my body has been a constant challenge. And yes, there was a time I was suicidal. Having people constantly tell me I was suicidal, and that everyone was out to get me would not have actually helped my mental health. We should be teaching children to love their bodies, to love themselves, and that they are loved.
I have several trans friends that I deeply cherish. They suffer from gender dysphoria, and tried everything possible to find assistance and help and then finally transitioned after trying everything else. It was their way to deal with their dysphoria and I respect and appreciate what they had to go through. But they did it as adults.
Today, saying, you even need gender dysphoria to transition is considered a slur. It's called trans medicalism. Many in the trans movement today, say you should be able to transition just based on a feeling. This is why gender affirming care can be so dangerous. You're not even allowed to question or see if this is the right thing for someone because that would be considered gatekeeping.
Yes, there is at least one study showing that many of these children that seem to suffer from gender dysphoria would eventually just become gay adults. Why are we trying to erase them from existence? Why are we pushing so hard and so strong for medical solutions to mental challenges?
I realize that there are some people that just hate the idea of trans people. I am certainly not one of them. I think these are real problems that real people have that should be addressed with compassion and love. But saying someone should wait until being an adult for drastic changes to their body, which often come with many medical issues for life, especially with bottom surgery, is it important thing to say and does not mean I am anti-trans.
A few years ago I was diagnosed with low testosterone. The doctor quickly wanted to fix this because if your hormones are out of whack, it can cause cancer, heart disease, and a myriad of other issues. Honestly, it's an embarrassing thing to talk about but I believe it's important because it's more common than we realize. Why do we not consider this when dealing with drastically changing a child's hormones? We must do better.

James Bujnoch
Self
Houston, TX

We need laws to forbid gender modification surgeries and medications for children in Texas. Children can not legally consent and do not know who they are yet. The hormones damage their bones and the surgeries permanently disfigure and sterilize them. It’s evil!

Cheryl Hamill
Self
Ennis, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL!

Donalyn Larson
MFA
Bastrop, TX

For/Support this important Bill.
No child is born in the wrong body.

Patrick Madden
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please pass this bill and prevent the mutilation of children

Jessie Hopgood
Self retired RN
Waxahachie, TX

FOR this bill

Donna Pryor
Self
Lancaster, TX

I am for this bill.

Celeste Grabowski, Mrs.
Self- former teacher, Mother
Spring, TX

I am for this bill. Please protect these minors from life altering surgeries. The statistics are clear on the harm done. Thank you.

Diane Rogers, Lt (Ret)
Self
Lewisville, TX

All medical treatments for gender reassignment should be illegal in Texas until age 18. I have been a nurse for over 20 years and know what terrible side effects these hormonal medications have on people.

Children are not mature enough to decide on changing genders until they are at least over 18 years old. No parent should have the right to decide that a child transition genders. It is mutilation of the childs body and should be illegal.

I do not agree with any of my tax dollars going to the mutilation and subsequent abuse of children for “gender transitioning”. Please pass HB 1686.

Martha Gonzalez
Myself concerned voter
San Antonio,, TX

For/ support bill

Jose Buitureira
Self retired
Brownsville, TX

As a Christian I can not support gender transitioning. Science says that there is only men and women we are playing with Gods creation a d we can see the damage that it is doing g to these kids and when they can think for themselves.

Ana Bernal, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Children are regretting their transitioning. Please pass this bill. It is child abuse

Monica Dumke
Self
Justin, TX

All gender modification procedures/pharmaceuticals should be banned

Janice Millikan, Dr
self
Tyler, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 by Rep. Oliverson. Children are not only unable to fully understand the irreversible nature of such procedures but the taxpayer's money should not be used to pay for these medically unnecessary procedures. If a child feels strongly that they want to attempt to change genders, they can pursue it on their own as an adult after they turn 18.

Gelderloos Julianna
Self
Joshua, TX

Allowing children to permanently disfigure their bodies is shameful! The fact that is is even as issue speaks to the grotesquely low level our society has fallen to. These various “procedures” and “treatments” are nothing more than adults playing out their disgusting fetishes and satisfying immense needs for greed and power. If you do not believe in prohibition of such practices, which protects our children, you are a child abuser.

Veronica Livar
Self/ housewife
San Antonio, TX

There’s an abundance of research indicating transition-related care improves the mental health and wellbeing of transgender youth and adults. The science is clear about the mental health benefits of medical interventions, including puberty blockers and hormone treatments for transgender youth. This legislation will harm children as opposed to helping them. Stop this bill!!!

Alayna Speight
Self
Midland, TX

do not make this gender reassignment legal in Texas. Protect our children!

Don Babcock
Retired
Amarillo, TX

Gender is determined by God and God alone, period!

Martha Cobble, Dr
Self
Plano, TX

Decisions for children under age should be protected by their parents and supported by the laws of Texas. Schools should keep parents informed of issues affecting the health and well being of their children.

denise hays
We the people
Cypress, TX

Yes. I am for the bill !
no to gender modification
Let children be children
When they are adults they can decide what to do with their bodies

Gina Milligan, Mrs.
Self SAHM
Austin, TX

My family and I passionately support this bill!!! Please pass this ban!!!

Don Huskins
Myself
Palmer, TX

No child should be subjected to any trans surgery until well after puberty, and never without parental knowledge am consent. Children are to be protected not mutilated. Children’s righted should always be protected.

Clifford Gritis
Self, retired
Georgetown, TX

Against sex changes

John Steele
self
Georgetown, TX

PASS THIS BILL! It is shameful that Texas even has to consider legalizing child abuse and mutilation.

Melissa Pardue
Austin Independent School District employee
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill! Our children are worthy of protection and should not be experimented on. Gender dysphoria is mental health crisis and children should not be chemically or surgically castrated to treat it.

TERRY TODD, MS.
ELLIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
OVILLA, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686. MINORS SHOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAVE PERMANENT REMOVALOF BODY PARTS, UNLESS THE PART (S) ARE DISEASED! AND PARENTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE INFORMED BEFORE ANY SUCH PROCEDURES, INCLUDING HORMONE MEDICATIONS BEING PRESCRIBED AND PROVIDED TO MINORS. THIS IS A TRAVESTY. IT HAS BEEN DOCUMENTED THAT MANY OF THOSE WHO ELECTED TO HAVE THIS RADICAL SEX CHANGE SURGERY, HAVE LATER REGRETTED DOING SO, AND ARE DOOMED TO SEVERE LIFELONG DEPRESSION AND EVEN SUICIDE.

Carol Ottmers
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

No minor child should undergo ANY treatment or procedure for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. If that child still wants this kind of treatment they can make their OWN decisions about this when they are of legal age. The thought that someone would vote for this is horrifying! They are CHILDREN! This is child abuse. Anyone who's votes for this will NEVER get my vote. And you want public money or public assistance to pay for it? That means tax dollars. NO! Just say NO to HB 1686!

Michele Nuckolls
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Allowing children to make this kind of decision is abuse and we should NOT allow it!

Rod Keefe, Mr.
Self claim Manager
Liberty Hill, TX

For the HB 1686

Cynthia McDonald
Self; retired
Red Oak, TX

I agree and am for this bill. For all minors!

MaryAnn LaVoie
First Colony Church of Christ
Wharton, TX

So wrong. Children need to grow up not knowing about this.

Janice Peterson
Self. House wife, mother and grandmother.
Ennis, TX

I am the mother of 3 and grandmother of 12. The notion of surgically altering the gender of one of these precious children is abhorrent.
How could any of you consider endorsing such an evil?

Claire Buntrock
Myself
Tomball, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Transgender ideology is a fallacy that harms the long term health of children and adults.

Ashley Rubli
Self, CPA
spring, TX

For

Michael Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

No child is born in the "wrong body". Unfortunately, there are persons trying to convince impressionable children that this is the case. For this reason, I am registering my SUPPORT for this bill.

GLENDA WINDHAM
Self
SUGAR LAND, TX

There should be prohibitions on provision to children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments

Jeanette Koch
Self
Euless, TX

Protect our innocent children from this evil

Margaret Lopez
Self
Belton, TX

I support the bill cuz children r too young to be Guinea pigs… it’s mutilation & prevents them from becoming the biological sex that God intended them to be! They should at least b an adult to make a serious decision like this! It’s heartbreaking to hear the transition stories & know that they can’t have their bodies bk!!! God doesn’t support this bill & neither do I!!! God Bless Texas!!!

Jason Rubli
Self, Electrical Engineer
spring, TX

For

Daniel O'Toole, Sr
Red Oak
Red Oak, TX

I do not support this

Flora Davis
Self
Cypress, TX

Voting to prohibit any gender procedures and treatments.??

Alicia Rivet
Self - Teacher
HUTTO, TX

Thank you! I support this bill!

Pete Hanegan, Mr
Self aircraft maintenance
Pearland, TX

This bill needs to PASS

Rayeanne Owen
Self/retired
Georgetown, TX

For

Mark Lopez
Self
Jonestown, TX

FOR

Vicky Ratliff
Self/Retired
Midlothian, TX

I totally support passing HB 1686.

Dennis Robbins
Self
The Woodlands, TX

This bill need to pass as children do not have full mental capabilities and if they receive gender changing surgery it is the parents wishes to mutilate a healthy child to fulfill there warped sense of reality.

Donna Shaw
Self
Ferris, TX

Vote YES. Inadvertently submitted the wrong choice previously. I am for this bill.

Derralee Johnson
Self
Killeen, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Raymond Rivet
Self - Tech Support Manager
HUTTO, TX

I support HB 1686.

MICHAEL PALMQUIST, Harris County Precinct Chair #0633
Self
SPRING, TX

How dare you not pass this Bill.

David Butler
Self real estate broker
spring, TX

For

Kristy Becker
Self, SAHM
Round Rock, TX

This is my testimony in support of HB 1686:

Sadly in this time in our country, children are so confused about their identity and so hungry for an identity that they are willing to mutilate their bodies. As sound-minded adults who know the truth, we need to save them from this confusion and hunger for identity in other ways besides gender modifying procedures that permanently harms the child. Please do not allow children to have life-altering procedures to change their God-given gender. It was never meant to be changed. We need to affirm these children that they are made in the image of God and that they are meant to be their biological gender for a wonderful purpose.

Kathryn Sartor
Self
Austin, TX

There is no greater expression of hatred and hostility towards women than to try to erase our existence as a category of people and to minimize us to being a construction of anyone’s imagination.

Debra Wolgemuth
County GOP Election Integrity Coordinator
Waco TX, TX

Please protect all Texas minors from ALL gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Children and Minors going through puberty NEED to be protected from being shamed, coerced or bullied into questioning their genders. We NEED to protect them from out-of-control parents, educators and medical professionals with a social agenda. Allow minors to grow into early adulthood without this adult-agenda social coercion. Gender transitioning and reassignment cannot be undone, so please cancel all general altering drugs and medical procedures to all children under 18 years.

I support HB 1686.

Donna Shaw
Self
Ferris, TX

Vote NO.

Stacy Rush
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR THE BILL

Richard Rozier
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass legislation to stop the torture and mutilation of our Texas Children. Transgender alteration of children is abuse, plain and simple.

Thank you,
Richard Rozier

Nicole Ma
https://woorijuntos.org/
Houston, TX

My name is Nicole and I am the Organizing and Policy Associate at Woori Juntos, and a proud ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

To me, holistically loving one's neighbor, as a Christian, is to be slow to speak and quick to listen. I cannot speak on behalf of anyone but myself as I identify as biologically female my whole life.

I recognize the confusion and anger one may harbor on this topic for those who are in support of HB1686. However, I want to urge and emphasize that no one should have to come in defense of themselves to reach full agency and have to protect their dignity and freedom of expression to who they are.

To me, the premise of transitioning from an outside perspective and ally is to find full agency and identity in who they are to express their full selves. It takes courage, even more so to stand at the starting line and enter the arena for those who know that before even stepping in begin their vulnerability journey, to already make assumptions and allude hate towards them.

For me, it is important that I stand here today in solidarity, with open arms and listening ear, in defense against discrimination that the LGBTQ+ communities continue to face. I urge you to strongly oppose HB 1686 and any discriminatory actions that limit the protection and expression of any individual.

It is not a crime to seek an expression of one's full self.

Evan Christie
Self insurance broker
Forney, TX

This bill is a solid step in the right direction to protect children in our state.

Mark Lopez
Self
Jonestown, TX

No child of God is born in the wrong body. I am FOR this bill.

Jorge Flores
Self
Houston, TX

This is a crime please stop an charge all who are apart of this gender reassignment on children

Constance Liwen
Self
Austin, TX

For this bill

Wei-Chung Pan
self
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686 and am commenting FOR this bill. Gender transition/reassignment procedures, including gender modification surgeries and puberty blockers, should be prohibited in minors. No public money/assistance should be provided for those procedures and treatments. Thank you, Rep. Oliverson, for sponsoring this very important bill to protect the health and wellbeing of children in Texas. To the House Committee, please support and vote for this bill. Thank you very much.

Melissa Carneiro
Self
Cypress, TX

I vote in favor of the bill

Jennifer Brown
MFA
Elgin, TX

No child is born the wrong gender! Do no harm!

Felicia Stanley
Self/ Retired
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this Bill.

Stan Donaldson
Love Force Ministries
Montgomery, TX

This is a necessary affirmation of parental and specifically children's rights to maintain the identity that was given to them by their Creator, the God of this universe!

william carver
self
bullard, TX

SUPPORT.

Robert Bueker, Precinct Chair
Robert W Bueker, CPA
Justin, TX

Can we please protect Texas citizens. And it starts by protecting the children. They are too young to make those decisions and should not be talked into such things by any government official or government subsidized adult. They can make their own decision when they are college age and when they can do their own research (if they get a proper and complete education - see below.) and make their own decision.

Further, schools are supposed to be teaching the academic basics. Until our student scores ALL reflect merit scholar achievement, can we please postpone the advancement of politics and social policy.

Erwin Mic, Mr.
Williamson County GOP Pct Chair 257
Leander, TX

I support this bill. Protect children who are too young for such decisions and from misguided parents.

Mary Lowe
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Colleyville, TX

As a country and state of great respect. It is unconscionable to mutilate a child's body. For any reason. I know plastic surgeons whom refuse to do ear flap surgery until adulthood, simple because of risk associated with elective surgery.

Please pass HB1686
Stop funding Planned Parenthood via tax dollars and at the expense of children.

Gina Rokas
Self
Ennis, TX

FOR the bill

Brian Hays
Self
Cypress, TX

Do not use public funds or resources for gender modification

Susan Gibson
Self
Elgin, TX

Children shouldn’t being these things. God does NOT make mistakes. This is a trick of the devil

Rita Hail
Citizens of Steve’s and the wotld
Buda, TX

Leave our children alone.

Toni Villarreal
Self
Austin, TX

No child born is in the wrong body

Stephanie Herbert
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Stop pushing trans surgeries and meds on children. Tax money should not be used for these medical procedures.

April Jordan
Self/teacher
Longview, TX

I am in support of HB1686 which bans pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas. Currently as a teacher in this great state, a grandmother, and mother, I cannot imagine this state, which is struggling to educate students in basic curriculum has the ability to oversee or allow this kind of surgery. IF someone desires something like gender modification that should be addressed as an adult, not as a child. We don't want it. We don't need it. I do not want my tax dollars going to this in the least bit. It is not like a tattoo that you can get altered later if you change your mind. The implications and responsibilities connected to this are huge. We do not even know the long-term consequences on young adults. We are talking about children. This cannot be. This bill must be supported today, now, and permanently .

J. Douglas Davis
Self/Retired
Milford, TX

I am in support of HB 1686

Samantha Kinsey
Self
Victoria, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1686 by Oliverson. Public money or public assistance should not be used for any procedures or treatments relating to gender dysphoria no matter the age of the patient. I believe these procedures and treatments are harmful and we as citizens should not be forced to foot the bill.

Isabella Shanahan
Self
Round Rock, TX

I agree that we shouldn't give money for these treatments and that they should be stopped.

Emily May
Self
Gunter, TX

Support for HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

Karen Halsema
self . Retired
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686.

Bertina Schreiber, Mrs
Self - Realtor
Rockport, TX

No minor child should ever feel pressure to change who they are. No public assistance or funds should be given to mutilate children!

Jerry LaVoie, Mr
First Colony Churcj of Christ
Wharton, TX

Please do not put our children into jeopardy by allowing misguided people to force there views of gender assignment on them.

Anita Ersch
Christians
Sherman, TX

Relating to trans gender mutilation on children

CE1 Farnsley
Self plus millions of parents.
Leander, TX

The drinking age is 21 because it is understood that under the age of 21, poor decisions are more commonly made regarding the use of alcohol on the body. The underage use of alcohol more commonly results in damage to self and others. So it is with underage decisions of mutilating ones body. It is not in the social contract to provide funds taken from those who do not give consent to mutilate children or others for that matter.

Angela Bruce, Mrs
Self
Italy, TX

Please support!

Caroline Demmons
Self
Austin, TX

I am For HR 1686.

Katherine Dotsey
SELF/RETIRED
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Lene Briseno
Self/ Realtor
Prosper, TX

I support HB 1686

James Ward
Self
Saginaw, TX

Children are off limits. We know all to well that these young minds are being coerced and this cancer spreads among them just to fit in. The absolute last thing we should allow is altering CHILDREN'S hormones much worse mutilation!!! PASS this bill please!!

Kristin Braun, Rev

St. David's Episcopal Church, Episcopal Diocese of Texas

Austin, TX

Monday, March 27, 2023

House Committee on Public Health (HB 1686)
Witness Testimony
I am here in opposition to HB 1686. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak.
By prohibiting treatments that support gender affirming care, you are inserting yourself into the doctor-patient RELATIONSHIP, and causing harm to my PARISHIONERS who seek spiritual guidance for aligning their god-given souls with to their earthly bodies, and the very desires of the spirit that God created within THEM. Deciding what is best for the souls and bodies of these kids is not your place, any more than it is my place to write LEGISLATION.
What I am here to tell you is that god loves every single one of god's children, regardless of their birth-assigned or expressed GENDER.
In the same way that Jesus argued circumcision should not be a barrier to the temple, I argue that gender should not be a barrier to care, to love, or to justice.
DO NOT create such barriers because you think that your legislation of their care is more IMPORTANT than the love and care that their physicians & pastors are PROVIDING.
It is not your place to dictate to a family the what is right for a TRANS-child in their good CARE. If the community of people caring for a child discerns that more time is needed, and that to delay puberty for the express purpose of TAKING THAT TIME TO understand their hearts and their place in this world BETTER, then I fully support hormone blockers and any other therapies that will allow them to become the people that god intends for them TO BE. these therapies allow trans-kids to discern who they are and how they will GLORIFY god with the body that god knit together in the womb for the briefest moment that is their ONE LIFETIME.
As you discern this piece of legislation, I ask you to be generous in your hearts. Offer these children and their families the time and WISDOM that their care teams help to CREATE. Allow their doctors the autonomy and authority that they have earned as the EXPERTS they are. Trust them to do what is right for their PATIENTS. Know that the Episcopal Church supports and loves each of YOU, just as we support and love each and every one of the constituents you AGREED to SERVE.
We are praying that you walk in the WAY of LOVE as you consider each of god's children with EQUITY in the eyes of the LAW. I will leave you the legislation of this state and the management of those who reside within its BOUNDARIES. Please leave the mental and physical well being of our TRANS-YOUTH to the physicians and clinical professionals who CARE FOR THEM. We, the clergy, who came out in DROVES today, will care for the souls and spirits of all our kids, ALL OF THEM. You can TRUST us to teach them about god's ABIDING love and to help them express ALL the RICHNESS that god inspires in these BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL BEINGS.
Thank you.

Stephanie Ramsey

Self

Leander, TX

This is taking the gender at birth and make it something else our Sovereign God NEVER intended it to become. I am FOR prohibiting any public money or assistance to provide gender transition or reassigning a gender or gender dysphoria.

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

Grassroots America - We the People PAC, a statewide organization instituted in 2009, strongly supports HB 1686 | Oliverson.

Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse. There are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized, losing the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts.

If those are not enough reasons to protect children, consider the nature of a child that any reasonable person can understand.

Have you ever met a child tired of being too short or being too tall?

We adults reassure the child, telling them that time changes things, through growth spurts or peers catching up to them. We comfort them and tell them that they are wonderful, just as they are.

What we don't do is take an emotional 12-year-old to the doctor to see about surgically adding leg extensions or seek a doctor who will remove sections of their limbs to achieve the height that feels better to the child.

That's a ludicrous and horrendous idea! Just as it's ludicrous and horrendous to take an emotional child to the doctor to remove or alter their sexual organs.

But Texas allows this practice to happen. We believe it is better termed "malpractice."

Texas must ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, genital mutilation, bodily alteration surgery, psychological/social transitioning, and any other methods applied to or performed on children.

Why? Researchers have found that social pressure drives increased cases of gender dysphoria. Do we want to let social pressure become the catalyst for permanent changes in children's bodies?

Retired Navy SEAL Chris Beck, who came out as transgender a decade ago, is now "de-transitioning" along with many others. He is sounding the alarm, urging caution, and telling parents and doctors to slow down. Since these procedures sterilize children, that is more than wise advice.

We tell our children as they mature that they have plenty of time to choose a career. No one expects a child to pick their lifelong career while they are a teenager. Why? Because few things in life are as important as what we choose as a profession. That choice defines our income, our daily way of life, our associations.

It's not uncommon to see young adults change a major at least a few times while in college. But what if we forced them to stick with their first choice? Many would consider that cruel.

So why would we ever allow a child to make such an irreversible choice by altering their body or its chemistry when they will likely change their mind later? Once altered, there is no return to normal development.

Texas cannot be a state that allows irreversible cruelty to any child. Pass HB 1686!

Tina Hernandez
Self- Mother, Homeowner/maker, Evangelist
Conroe, TX

I support this bill as I believe no child should be subjected to identity altering surgeries for the profit of the medical industry and the inadvertent, irreversible, harm to themselves. Gender altering surgeries should be allotted, if at all, to only well informed adults.

Wilson Carneiro
Self
Cypress, TX

I vote in favor of this bill.

Catherine Bly
Self - marketing account manager
Houston, TX

I am for this bill. The children need to geow up and then decide to make body changing decisions. This bill needs to move forward

Nicolle Wareham
Myself
Smithville, TX

For/Support the bill

Ashley Reed
Self
Missouri city, TX

It is absolutely absurd this bill is necessary however I urge all members to vote in favor of protecting our children from elective medical procedures they cannot in full knowledge consent to.

Megan Shannon
Self
Round Rock, TX

Pass this

Bruce Larson
MFA
Bastrop, TX

I am FOR/Support HB1686
#DoNoHarm

Valerie Meandro
Self
Austin, TX

No child has been born in the wrong body. Please prevent gender modification in minor children. Gender dysphoria should not be treated by altering child's body to match his confused mind. He needs counseling and patience. Much of what is happening in this area is being pushed by people with an agenda. Sometimes it's as simple as greed on the part of those doing the medical "treatments " and surgeries. Please advocate for the children. They are too young to make this type of decision snd it's not worth what often happens— later the children are filled with regret, but it's too late. They've lost there fertility and gender specific organs they were born with. Do no harm!

Holden Sykora
Slef
Plainview, TX

Please stop treating transgenderism differently than every other mental disorder.

Lynda Smith
Self
Troup, TX

This needs to be passed to protect our Texas children.

Teresa Aguilar, Mrs
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support this bill.

Emily Oliver
Self. Therapeutic riding instructor
Waxahachie, TX

Please do not allow children to make decisions to change their gender from their birth DNA gender. They are not old enough to make a decision that is irreversible and will have possible side effects for the rest of their lives. This transition has not been scientifically studied long enough to share the results with those wanting a gender change. Their brains have not had the time required to mature enough to make lifelong decisions such as this.
Public money should Certainly not be allocated. I personally do not want to be a party to giving money for this type of medical procedure.

Kathleen Dowe, Ms
Self
Georgetown, TX

Vote for this bill to protect our children.

Connor McGrath
Self
Lewisville, TX

Children are innocent and should not have such procedures done at such a young age. Children should be protected and taxpayer money should be prohibited from being used for these abusive procedures and treatments.

Sylvia Garay
Self
Houston, TX

For
No child should be mutilated!

Richard Ewers
Self
Waxahachie, TX

We need to stop this now I’m saying no to gender reassignment God made male and female you can not change what God has done

Sherry Sheldon
Selt / retired
Spring, TX

Totally against any transgender anything!
There is no such thing. You are either male or female. PERIOD!
If a person thinks they are not what they were born as, they have a mental illness.
ADDRESS THAT!

Elizabeth Dempsey, Mrs.
Self-Sales
Shenandoah, TX

I completely support this bill. In the past I worked in the transportation department for Katy ISD & Conroe ISD for 16 years altogether. Children are precious & the future of our nation. They should remain free to be who they were born to be & not be a scientific experiment for anyone. The transgender idea is not part of a healthy functioning society & should be stopped now. Please SUPPORT HB1686.

Charles Huskins
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am in favor of any and all legal restrictions stopping any and all procedures and or treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria to include the use of public money or assistance providing for those treatments / procedures under any circumstance!!!

Rosemarie Knorr
Self
Austin, TX

I am thoroughly AGAINST this bill. Children are children and this is child abuse by adults pushing a political policy. Why aren’t you pushing smoking or drugs for children? Because you know it is wrong and this is a billion times worse! You all know better, I know you do. Don’t bow to this woke god !

Stephen Kujawa, SFC
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686

Jerry Allen
Allen woodworks
Winnsboro, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill to:
-Prohibit ALL treatments for gender modification.
- Prohibit ALL Gender reassignment.
- Prohibit All uses of public monies and assistance.

Teresa Mashue, Mrs.
Self retired
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill!

Maria Falcon
Republican
San Antonio, TX

SUPPORT

Vickie Scearce
God
Haltom City, TX

Children should be allowed to grow as God made them. They are being pushed to do something they are not mature enough to understand. They are being pushed to believe something they are not old enough to understand. Gender confusion comes through things done to them or being convinced by someone they look up to. These treatments should not be allowed and certainly not paid for by tax money. People who push these treatments should pay for it out of their own pockets not mine

Cherri McIlheran
Self housewife
Leander, TX

FOR the bill

Alma Jackson
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill must be passed for the sake of protecting our children who cannot defend themselves due to their immaturity & lack of knowledge on this topic. Please vote yes on HB 1686.

David Rhine II
All children
Mesquite, TX

I want NO child to have gender reassignment or transitioning until such a time they are of adult age

Gayle Robertson, Ms
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please pass this Bill. Our children are at stake. We are loosing our babies to this insanity.

Ronald Mashue, Mr.
Self retired
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill!

Sylvia Dendy
Self
Coppell, TX

DONOHARM

Kenneth Crouse
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Support!!!!!!!!

Sheri Ten Hagen
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686

Elva Mendoza
Self; Public Health Social Worker
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Once again, Texas lawmakers are inserting themselves between doctors and patients. If the bill authors are concerned with child welfare, they might want to address the number one cause of death for children and teens in our state/country (gun violence), as opposed to attacking the tiny fraction of Texas youth who identify as trans/non-binary.

Dorothy Hartsfield
Self/retired
Manor, TX

I am in support of this bill

Bernice Messina-Gates, Mrs
Self, retired
Fate, TX

I stand in support of HB1686. We prohibit Texans under 21 from exercising their 2nd amendment rights under Texas Permitless Carry Law. Prohibit buying tobacco, alcohol, or handguns.These laws are in place to protect minors from harming themselves. We MUST protect children from doing much more serious, potentially permanent injuries. I ask you to raise the age on HB1686 to 21. It is a moral issue to protect the confused. Thank you.

Janice Henson, Self
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support prohibiting these procedures.

Heidi Schuttger
Self, retail associate
Austin, TX

This Bill MUST pass. I am commenting FOR the bill. Children are never born into the wrong body. The government has no right over children’s bodies and must not support these heinous acts

Cheryl Devore
GracePoint Fellowship Church
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill!

Teri Hefner
Hefner Anesthesia Services
HOUSTON, TX

Children cannot consent for themselves. This is terrible. Gender transitioning, gender reassignment should be prohibited on children who are not mature to make this decision.

Mary Mauldin, Mrs
self retired educator
Spicewood, TX

Please vote FOR

Adam Huggins
myself
New Boston, TX

I am writing to dispute the person's claim that a study must be peer reviewed to have credibility. If EVERYone thinks the same way, we'll never develop anything new. Anyone can do research, and although it may not be published, if it makes logical sense to a group of people, without bias, that should determine credibility.

I believe those who have identity issues need to find their Creator and seek answers from Him.

Christal Albert
Self/ MA
Pflugerville, TX

For the bill

Victor Estrada
Self
Poteet, TX

This is wrong. If they can't get a driver's license, vote, buy liquor or a firearm how can they make a decision that will change their life forever. 18 or over they can decide and pay for it themselves. If monies are available let's start using it to assist those that made sacrifices for our country, those that truly need it and would benefit.

M. Doeing
Self
McKinney, TX

Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital and its current Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry, said that transgenderism is a “mental disorder” that merits treatment, that sex change is “biologically impossible,” and that people who promote sexual reassignment surgery are collaborating with and promoting a mental disorder.

Dr. McHugh, the author of six books and at least 125 peer-reviewed medical articles, made his remarks in a recent commentary in the Wall Street Journal, where he explained that transgender surgery is not the solution for people who suffer a “disorder of ‘assumption’” – the notion that their maleness or femaleness is different than what nature assigned to them biologically.

He also reported on a new study showing that the suicide rate among transgendered people who had reassignment surgery is 20 times higher than the suicide rate among non-transgender people. Dr. McHugh further noted studies from Vanderbilt University and London’s Portman Clinic of children who had expressed transgender feelings but for whom, over time, 70%-80% “spontaneously lost those feelings.”

While the Obama administration, Hollywood, and major media such as Time magazine promote transgenderism as normal, said Dr. McHugh, these “policy makers and the media are doing no favors either to the public or the transgendered by treating their confusions as a right in need of defending rather than as a mental disorder that deserves understanding, treatment and prevention.”

“This intensely felt sense of being transgendered constitutes a mental disorder in two respects. The first is that the idea of sex misalignment is simply mistaken – it does not correspond with physical reality. The second is that it can lead to grim psychological outcomes.”

The transgendered person’s disorder, said Dr. McHugh, is in the person’s “assumption” that they are different than the physical reality of their body, their maleness or femaleness, as assigned by nature. It is a disorder similar to a “dangerously thin” person suffering anorexia who looks in the mirror and thinks they are “overweight,” said McHugh.

This assumption, that one’s gender is only in the mind regardless of anatomical reality, has led some transgendered people to push for social acceptance and affirmation of their own subjective “personal truth,” said Dr. McHugh. As a result, some states – California, New Jersey, and Massachusetts – have passed laws barring psychiatrists, “even with parental permission, from striving to restore natural gender feelings to a transgender minor,” he said.

The pro-transgender advocates do not want to know, said McHugh, that studies show between 70% and 80% of children who express transgender feelings “spontaneously lose those feelings” over time. Also, for those who had sexual reassignment surgery, most said they were “satisfied” with the operation “but their subsequent psycho-social adjustments were no better.

Brenda Villanueva
Tx resident
WEBBERVILLE, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #Do not harm our children

Carroll Wright
Self/Retired
Burleson, TX

Please vote for HB 1686– protect our children from militating their bodies— this practice is child abuse!! Texans have voted to protect our children! Do the right thing!!

Heather Spencer
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill. Minors should never receive any surgery, medical procedures, and/or medication with the goal of transitioning from one gender to another.

Deborah Green
Self
Forreston, TX

For

Dimitri Nichols
WilCo citizens
Cedar Park, TX

Please note and represent my support for HB 1686 to prevent doctors from mutilating children's sexual organs in Texas.

Allison Gephardt
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

FOR the bill

David Valliant
Self
Farmersville, TX

Please support this bill prohibiting any procedures which promote gender transitioning, gender reassignment and dysphoria and public money or assistance for same.

Leigh Gibson
Self
Kerrville, TX

ban then mutilation of children. Honestly, need I say more?

Wilma Ezell
Retired
AUSTIN, TX

I completely support HB 1686 because no one under the age of 18 should undergo any sort of sex change surgery or hormone/drug treatments for gender transitioning or reassignment. The doctors, parents, guardians or anyone else exercising control or influence over a child under 18 years old who initiates or facilitates or performs any such sex change surgeries, mutilations or drug/hormone treatments should be prosecuted and punished for child abuse. The only exception should be for newborn babies who are born with both male & female sex organs or who have none of either and that should only be the parents decision after consulting with the child's physician. And I definitely don't want our hard-earned tax dollars to pay for any of this insanity either especially for abortions unless the mother's life is in imminent danger.

Jennifer Fitzgerald
Self
Argyle, TX

I support this bill. Please protect minors by voting in favor of it.

Shirley Means
self
Yoakum, TX

Please care about our Texas children!

Grace Hutchison, Mrs
Self retired
San Antonio, TX

Stop this monstrous practice of mutilating confused children. These children need our protection from Social Experimentation. Please support HB 1686

Jeremy Jones
Self/ IT Manager
Alice, TX

I fully support this bill to stop mutilation of children.

Victor Estrada
Self
Poteet, TX

Vote yes. No one under 18 should be making these kind of decisions. Taxpayers should not be having to pay for this. If they want it they should pay for it. Any monies available for this should be set aside for those that have sacrificed for this country.

Eugene Schulze
Self
Leakey Texas, TX

There shouldn't be any voting God made man and woman there is no in-between my way it should be treated as a mental health problem

Agustin Quinones
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please dear God stop this insanity! NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit the medicalization of minor children. Stop it for God's sake!

#DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow

Dawn Crouse
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Support!

Carolyn McClugage
Self
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686!!

Marjorie Rodgers
Self
Grapevine, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. I oppose using government funds to mutiliate any child’s body by changing their gender.

Ana Brown
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686 sponsored by Rep. Tom Oliverson. We need to protect our children from these types of permanent, life altering procedures. I believe such procedures are a form of child abuse & it is unconscionable to perform these procedures on minors. No child is born in the wrong body and we must allow them to grow & do them no harm.

Gwen Bullock
Self
Houston, TX

Transgender modification is horrific for the future of anyone but especially children who have no say in their future physically or emotionally. They will be in constant physical debilitation, and probably suicidal. Say No to these horrific crimes against children.

Jennifer Morris
Self- High School History Teacher
Corinth, TX

I’m FOR this bill!

Melinda Roberts
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for banning children reassignment, etc. Children aren't capable of making decisions that will affect them the rest of their life.

Jennifer Curtiss
Self
Austin, TX

Stop gender modification in children!

Cindy Nick
Self
Tyler, TX

Please support this bill and protect our children!

Karen Souter
Self
Houston, TX

We are either male or female. Children are often confused on many issues while growing up. To allow medical procedures on children who are not equipped to understand all of the consequences is unconscionable.

Ryan Scott
Self
Leander, TX

God only created two genders, he does not make mistakes

Julia Beazer
Self, retired teacher
College Station, TX

Please support this bill.
Thank you
JS Beazer

Tracy Shannon
Self and MassResistance TX
Kingwood, TX

I want to be sure that the committee knows that surgeries involving the genitals of minors do happen in TX. We called a surgeon in Austin to confirm he does orchiectomies for 16 yrs old. Here is the recording.

https://rumble.com/vv7qzc-texas-transgender-surgery-center-confirms-operations-for-minors..html

Margie Huskins
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am I favor of this bill with any and all prohibitions on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. I am against any use of public money or assistance to provide any / all procedures or treatments in relation to the same

Suzanne Carmona
Self
houston, TX

Life altering or body altering drugs, treatment, surgeries should not be given to minor undeveloped children. If once the person is at legal consenting age (18yrs) they can make their own decisions on their own funds. Public money or people that cannot support themselves or their family should not be supplemented with tax dollars. If you decide to identify or change your physiology you should do this on your own and not by public funding or taxes.

Sandra Amason
Self/home maker
Austin, TX

In favor of this bill. Please protect the children.

Karola Sajuns
Self
Celina, TX

Any body altering/gender development changing procedure on a minor must be prohibited. Once they turn 21, they should be allowed to do whatever they choose with their body and get the support needed, but not before. We don't allow kids to drink until 21. Why would we allow them, or even worse - others to influence them, to alter their gender? These are major procedures with long-term impact. The laws need to ensure that such significant procedures are not done until the individual has matured and makes such a decision free of the influence of others. These kind of procedures on minors are no different than what Mengele did in Germany.

Ellen Schukar
Self retired
Elgin, TX

I strongly urge you to vote for the bill.

Brandon Johnson
Self
Mineral Wells, TX

How can the state allow children or their parents to permanently alter children's bodies under the age of 18? This is currently happening in Texas.

If this is going to take place then it is equally logical to allow children to decide if they want to go to school or not, if they want to do drugs or consume alcohol. Why not? All of these things a child could recover from.

However, cutting off a penis is a different story. Humpty Dumpty couldn't be put together again. Trying to get a penis to function, or a fake vagina sounds like an even taller order with less optimist results. Regardless if it's chemical or physical castration, the mutilation will never be fully reversed.

And what if it's a young girl? Yes she may be able to get fake breasts in the future, but reversing a pin on penis brings to mind Eeyore's tail from Winnie the Pooh.

Eeyore was a sad pessimist. Maybe he had something to offer this situation. Maybe some of these kids are sad and depressed. Maybe they think mutilating themselves is the answer. Maybe they need adults to step in and protect them from themselves instead of encouraging and protecting their ability to mutilate themselves.

A famous book talks about nations/societies being led by children are destined for destruction. Unless the adults in this State and Nation find it wits and common sense we will soon meet the fate that has surely been prophesied.

Please find it within you to forget about the money you have been paid to push this sadistic agenda to destroy our youth, turn from your wicked ways, and do the right thing by passing legislation to end child mutilation.

Nicole Alex
Self
McKinney, TX

For this. Thank you Mr. Oliverson.

Terry Turner
Self
Rockwall, TX

For Banning

Tori Keith
Self attorney
Austin, TX

For-support

Kimberly Leighty
Self
Argyle, TX

This child sex change thing is medical and psychological abuse and needs to be stopped! Children are not capable of understanding the ramifications of this. When I was a child I "wanted to be a boy" cuz I liked doing things like climbing trees, rather than playing with dolls. But I can assure you I am glad no one made that decision to "change" me. I was simply a tom boy that grew up to be a perfectly happy female. What has been happening in this country to our children is simply atrocious!!!

Wesley Gunter
Self
Georgetown, TX

Support this bill!

Jenifer White
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I am commenting with support FOR HB 1686. Texas children need protection from predatory medical practices and experimental hormone medications. My own daughter tried hard to convince parents and counselors and teachers that she was really a male. We resisted her (very peer and social media influenced) ideas and made her wait. She is now the happy mother two children. These children and her child bearing abilities could have been destroyed if these treatments were applied before she had time to mature emotionally and physically. Please protect these children!

Myrna Hughes, Mrs
Self
Canton, TX

Please do not allow a bill to be passed allowing sex transitioning in children.

Debbie Winfrey
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR 1686

Ronald Mann
Self
Salado, TX

I am FOR the bill

Susan Ruther
Self/accountant
San Antonio, TX

I am strongly in favor of/support this bill.

Amy Russo
Self—Human Resources Manager
Tyler, TX

Please accept as my support for HB1686 which BANS pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas.

Elijah Jones
Self Electrician
ALICE, TX

I support this bill because children shouldn't be allowed to make irreversible changes to their bodies when their brains arent even fully developed.

Heather Gmur, Mother
Gmur household
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care IS healthcare!

Aaron Clark
Self
Leander, TX

Please protect the next generation from this opportunists that are capitalizing on this social contagion! The therapists, hospitals, surgeons are maximizing their profits on what for their gain and at their victims peril.

Vickie Holmes
Self-school counselor
Waxahachie, TX

Please consider prohibiting gender related changes of any kind for children. As a school counselor for over 20 years, I can attest to the regular changes in thinking and opinions of children (from who their friends are to their clothes' style to their gender preferences). Their opinions and what they believe is right for them are unfairly being influenced by propaganda and television. Allowing unnecessary and permanent (medical) changes to a child's body based on the child's, parent's, counselor's or doctor's opinion should be considered abuse. These procedures permanently alter the child's future ability to have children. The mental health of those who have had changes does not statistically improve after the first 1-5 years. It doesn't solve any root mental health or identity issue and often makes it worse. Has society become so deceived and "politically correct" that we believe that we can choose gender without consequences, as if we are God?

Mario Martinez
Self
San Angelo, TX

For

Shana Fuller
Self - Domestic Engineer
Corpus Christi, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Texas minors deserve the chance to reach adulthood before making life-altering decisions regarding sex transitioning and surgical sex modifications to their bodies. Keep this bill moving forward. I SUPPORT HB 1686. #LetThemGrowUp #HappyANDHealthyTexansChildren

Melody Moody
Self Banker
Midlothian, TX

Please protect whatever children you can from these butchers.

Don’t you dare use my tax money to cut off healthy body parts. Children are not capable of making these decisions more so when adults deliberately confuse them!

Just like you wouldn’t give diet pills to an anorexic or throw out a window a three year old who insists he’s a bird, do not allow delusional people convince anyone, especially a child, to cut off healthy body parts or sterilize themselves!

Philip Butcher, President
George E. Anderson Co. Inc.
MIDLOTHIAN, TX

I fully support HB 1686

Arthur Brown, Mr
Self Bexar Precinct chairman 4073 , COS DC HD118
San Antonio, TX

For No Child is born in wrong body, God Bless!
We must prohibit medicalization of minors

Margo Rhodes
Independent
Pflugerville, TX

Save our children. Their brains are not yet developed enough to understand long-range and permanent consequences. They should not receive body-changing procedures until they are at least 21.

Sofia Trantham
self, barista
Austin, TX

I believe that children should not be given the chance to have these surgeries because 1) Their bodies have not been fully developed 2) Ultimately the parents make the final decision 3) Children are too young to make these choices

Royce Salinas
Self, intern coordinator
Corpus Christi, TX

It is not right for public tax payers money to be used for the reassignment of gender, especially for minors. Especially since anyone under 18 isn’t even considered an adult, can’t even vote, can’t even join the military, nothing. It’s not right for anyone under 18 to be given that choice.

Reina Zuckerman
Self. Real estate management
The colony, TX

No child is born the warring body. Stop gender dysphoria and mutilation of children!!

Madyson Russell
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill because all children and individuals deserve access to care that support them and their needs. By limiting healthcare access to trans children and classifying it as abuse we will only see the suicide rate go up. This will do so much harm.

Steve Adams
Self/self employed
Bee Cave, TX

For

Audra Butler
Self
Abilene, TX

Please… protect the children!

Karen Treadwell, Mrs.
House hold
Desoto, TX

Save our children at least till they are 18!

Susan Dantzler
Self
Harper, TX

Texas must stand for children. It is beyond insane that we even need a bill to stop the chemical and surgical destruction of children. I'm thankful that my parents didn't assume I wanted to be a boy just because I played with my brothers Tonka trucks or liking to hang out with my dad while he worked on our cars. This evil mafia of LBGT activists must be stopped. Protect Texas' children or may God bring his wrath.

Judy Tully, Ms
Self Realtor
NB, TX

Feel strongly treatments should not be provided by use of public money or public assistance to provide procedures or treatment

John Elliott
Family
Austin, TX

It’s absurd to use taxpayer money to fund anything having to do with altering a child’s sex - it’s absurd for this even to be legal prior to people becoming adults and can make their own decision, but to enable kids to do this is appalling.

Barbara Daly, Mrs
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB 1686

Melanie Greene
Self, tech consultant
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Healthcare should be between a patient, their family and their doctor. If legislators care so much about the welfare of Texas children, they should focus on the number one cause of death for children & teens - gun violence. Instead you are picking on a tiny minority that is already marginalized and ostracized. It’s evil.

Stacy Mayfield
Self Retired
Midlothian, TX

Gender Mutilation MUST STOP! Protect the children of Texas!!!

Lisa Turner
Self
Rockwall, TX

For banning

Gary Vineyard, Mr
Midlothian ISD
Midlothian, TX

There should not be any funding assistance to assist in gender mutilation of a minor.

Ella Crouse
Self - Student
Cedar Park, TX

FOR

DARRYL SWANN
Self. Construction Superintendent
Ferris, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass this bill.

Roxane Roelse
Self
Pflugerville, TX

These procedures should not be done!

Torrie VanOs
Self- self employed
Stonewall, TX

I support HB 1686. Children (and their guardians) should not be allowed to make a medical decision for a non-life threatening condition that involves genitalia mutilation. Chloe Cole is a brave child abuse survivor who explains how her life was ruined by the decisions that doctors and adults allowed her to make at a juvenile age. She is now maimed for life.

Kelly Braun
First Colony Church of Christ
Missouri City, TX

I am FOR the bill!

Joe Aguilar
Self
Midlothian, TX

I am in full support of HB1686. I am a Texas resident and support protection of children.

Kristin Pitts
Self
Lindale, TX

I strongly support HB 1686! Texas children need the safety to grow up free from the risk of being led toward gender modification before they are old enough to understand the ramifications of such choices. Of children are not old enough to consent to sex, they certainly are not old enough to consent to the altering of their gender medically. Additionally, no public funds should be used for such controversial treatments.

Tonya Vertucci
Self retired
Garland, TX

Absolutely Against

Julie ann Law
Self. Artist and minister
Waxahachie, TX

Pass this bill!!! We need to protect our children!!!! No more publicly funded gender reassignment!!!!! No funding or procedures for the children !!!!!

Steven Drake
Self, Graduate Student
Austin, TX

I submit testimony today to urge you to oppose HB 1686 (Oliverson). This legislation will restrict access to life-saving healthcare for transgender youth in Texas. As an LGBT+ Texan, born and raised in this state, it pains me to see the most vulnerable in my community targeted by this legislation. So much so, to the point where parents must decide if they should leave the state to protect their children. I know that my mother would have done anything in her power to ensure that I was taken care of and protected and the same goes for parents of transgender kids. These healthcare decisions are important, private decisions made with great deliberation and cooperation between doctors and families. Historically, we have respected and held to a high regard the doctor-patient confidentiality relationship and that should not be any different here.

Gender-affirming healthcare is safe and well studied. These treatments are supported by every major medical association in the country, including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Psychological Association and Texas Pediatric Society - associations that we trust to set guidelines and standards for all of our medical needs so why is this the exception? Gender-affirming care is life-saving, don't deny trans children their right to life.

Public debate on discriminatory bills like HB 1686 will cause harm to transgender youth. According to a recent poll conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of The Trevor Project, 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth — and two-thirds of all LGBTQ youth (66%) — say recent debates about state laws restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health. I feel this pressure on my mental health as well. Knowing that my community and myself are not always safe in this state is crushing and it restricts my sense of freedom. How can we as a state champion freedom, strength, and perseverance when we deny basic rights to our citizens?

Please, respect healthcare providers' knowledge, families' right to privacy and raising their children, and trans children's right to live and thrive in our state. They cannot do so with the passing of this bill. Again, I urge you to stand up for every Texan as a duly elected representative of this state and oppose HB 1686 (Oliverson)

Victor Goff
Self
Wolfforth, TX

I support this bill as it bans gender modification surgeries in children . Also baning any use of public monies for such procedures .

Karen Hsieh
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686.

Karen Ogg
myself
Katy, TX

FOR

Sherry Simpson
Self
Llano, TX

Vote “NO” on HB 1686- protect our minor children from the abuse of gender identity. They have an entire life ahead of them to discover who they are.

Jennifer Roberts
Self
Amarillo, TX

I oppose.

Leslie Bailey
Self, housewife
Corpus Christi, TX

I support this bill because I believe children should have the opportunity to grow up before making life altering decisions. I believe that children should not be influenced in to thinking there is something wrong with the gender they were born as. We need to protect the vulnerable and gender reassignment is child abuse.

Sherry Eller, Mrs.
Self
Temple, TX

Please Support HB 1686

In the 2022 March Texas Republican Primary, 92.6% of voters supported a ban on gender modification of children.

Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

Please support this important child protecting bill.

Douglas White
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I am commenting support FOR passing this bill to protect children and tax payers.

Ciara Lindley
Self, SAHM
Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill.

Dianne Sanford
Self
WAXAHACHIE, TX

I support HB 1686!

Karen Roettele
Self retired and grandmother of 8
Allen, TX

Please support HB 1686 and end gender modification surgery for kids under 18. Reports and testimonies from those who have had these surgeries are describing horrific mutilation and damage to their bodies and many are regretting their decisions and are suing those doctors involved. They reveal a lack of therapy prior to surgeries as well as a lack of understanding of the extent of the damage that cannot be repaired. Under 18 they cannot enter into a contract, they can't vote, cannot rent a car, etc and do not have the capacity to make such life-altering decisions. It should be treated as child abuse. Please take action now to save these confused and vulnerable children from their parents, surgeons, doctors, and pharmaceutical companies. Please require extensive therapy by trained psychologists before any actions are taken after the age of 18. Thank you.

Angela Swann
Self, Admin for PT offices.
Ferris, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass this bill.

Addie Gomez
Self
Austin, TX

I am a 5th generation Texan, a Christian, and a mother. I urge you to oppose HB 1686 and ensure it does not advance from this committee. We did not elect you to be our physicians and pediatricians and priests. You are elected to represent your constituents and listen to policy experts. Polls show time and again that Texans do not support legislators spending their limited time at the Texas Capitol on this bill and bills like it. Respectfully, leave trans kids and adults alone. This is the exact opposite of limited government.

Tracy Forester
Self
Prairie Lea, TX

I strongly urge the passage of this bill. Child "sex change" is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial "transition" and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT "transgender" medical industry destroys children's bodies.

Maribel Clutter
JEWISH WAR VETERANS
Belton, TX

As a Jewish Wife of a Jewish War Veteran I support this bill

Violet Mcilheran
Self, office manager
Leander, TX

FOR

Vickie McGovern
Self
Denton, TX

I am in support of this Bill. No child, nor parent or legal guardian should be making this choice for a child. While I believe God made two genders, adults are free to do what they want to their own bodies but this should not be allowed for children

John Garrott
Self
McKinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. I am vehemently opposed to any gender modification of a child, and especially the use of public funds to do so.

daniel geurkink
Self
Austin, TX

The age of accountability in Texas is 17 years of age. Until then, individuals are considered minors under the care & protection of their parents or legal guardian. The State, by extension, has an interest & responsibility to protect minors & or their parents from making decisions, or taking life altering action which will affect or alter the minor child's development for the rest of their lives.

There are many ways in which the State accomplishes this, such as; prohibiting alcohol consumption, prohibiting minor children from entering establishments which the state has deemed unacceptable because of sexual materials or activities which are not conducive to the healthy development of the minors.

Thus I believe that the state must not be involved in payment for services which permanently alter the sexual orientation of a minor.. Please vote yes to bill 1686.

Peter Haley, Mr.
Self/Software Trainer
Austin, TX

The creator and supporters of this bill are perverted bullies. There is no other way to define them. There are a million things threatening the safety of our children, gun violence, nationally low education levels, hunger, adult perverts and bullies controlling them just because they can...what's not threatening them is giving them access and support to be themselves fully. It's dumbfounding that conservative Texas adults are so blatantly and publicly obsessed with our children's genetalia. That alone is a bigger threat than medically necessary and supported procedures. What a wild time we live in where instead of protecting our kids from these filthy perverts, we are gaslit into thinking we're the perverts instead. The cognitive dissonance that it takes for someone to get to this point...Jesus. The creator and supporters are disgusting, vile, perverts and bullies and should be locked up for good.

Connie Ratisseau, Leadership Team
True Texas Project - Bay Area
Friendswood, TX

I support this bill. Protect our children.

Matthew Vaughan
Self
Bedford, TX

I do not support the legal genital mutilation of minors with gender dysphoria and furthermore am against the use of hormones to prevent normal development of sexual characteristics in minors. I am against public funding of these procedures.

Joseph Murray
Self Police Detective
Round Rock, TX

FOR this bill! Protect the children

Caleb Clutter
JEWISH WAR VETERANS
Belton, TX

As the son of a Jewish War Veteran I support this bill

Michelle Ready
Self, retired law enforcement officer
Avinger, TX

I support HB 1686! The radical agenda has no place in a realistic, rational society. Stop letting adults with mental health issues themselves allow such dangerous, life altering decisions to be made by children! Once someone is an adult they may do whatever they wish. Children should not be mutilated by mentally ill adults.

Marty Rhymes
Self
White Oak, TX

Please protect our children!

Tom Glass
self
Hockley, TX

I support HB 1686. Because I care about children, I want to insure that adults in their lives do not enable their mental illness in a way that forever sterilizes and mutilates them. I oppose the destructive lie that one can change one's gender because I care about people's happiness. Enabling mental illness is not a way to produce happiness. It perpetuates unhappiness. "Transitioning" is sterilization and mutilation. I oppose adults doing that to children.

Kim Caywood
Self
Conroe, TX

I pray in Jesus name for the protection of our children. May your vote honor God & not self.

Lynette Criddle, Mrs.
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

Please support this bill. Let out children reach adulthood before making a decision for life altering surgery.

Erich R Roeder
Self
Celina, TX

These sex change surgeries and puberty blocker drug should not be given to minors. It is irreversible and gives the child no way to to change mind as an adult. These procedures are criminal and akin to Nazi surgeries on children. If an adult wants to destroy their bodies, that's fine, but children's body need to develop naturally and give them time to make an informed personal decision. Children CANNOT make life changing decisions, and their parents should not be allowed to make that unnecessary surgery choice for them. The troubled kids need counseling, not surgery. You don't give a child with anorexia (a person who is skinny but identifies as fat) lipo suction, and you don't mutilate gender confused child either. Has this world gone mad???

Sandra Smith
Self
Dallas, TX

I completely agree to prohibiting any procedure or treatment related to gender transition of any minor. And no public funds should be used for this. This craziness has to stop. Crazy parents and society are ruining the minds of innocent children. Social contagion is driving children to believe in ideas that are not true and are harmful.

Susan Peabody
Self
Grapevine, TX

Please protect our children! Gender mutilation is horrible and should be against the law.

Terry Smith
Self
Lake Kiowa, TX

I support this bill!

Richard Long
N/A
San Marcos, TX

FOR THE BILL

Virginia Shilts
Self
Llano, TX

I support this bill.

Connie Lein
Swlf
Robstown, TX

The thought of such procedures is not understandable to me. God made us as we are and you can't change DNA. We should not be using tax payer money for this. It's ironic that today this occurred in another state:
Nashville school shooter Audrey Hale: Who is 28-year-old transgender woman who opened fire at Covenant school

We need to protect our children! To me this bill is a step in the right direction and needs to be passed ASAP!

Mika Ryan
Self/Retired
Southlake, TX

I support this bill!

Naomi Specht
Self
Del Valle, TX

I am in support of this bill. I believe children should be protected from potentially life-altering decisions until they are an adult.

Whitney Coulter
Self, Analyst
Leander, TX

Please leave parenting to parents. The villianizing of trans people is the new satanic panic. It’s not very Texan or very Christian to take action that will result in higher suicide rates!

Leah Blalock
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

No child can decide on permanent life altering decisions like puberty blockers and surgeries. Help children love themselves, their bodies from birth and to grow in acceptance instead of ruining their reproductive abilities and sabotaging self love.

Shawn Clutter
JEWISH WAR VETERANS
Belton, TX

As a Fort Hood Texas area resident & veteran I support this bill

Trista Parks, Parks
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am in support of the bill. Please support HB 1686

Mari-Anne Gordon
Self
Richmond, TX

Our family is FOR HB 1686 prohibitions of surgery that would change a child's gender. We believe that a child is born into the gender they're meant to have. Politicians have no right to take this away from them.

Patti Gallen
self
Austin, TX

I started getting involved in groups that advocate for my children's religious liberty when I saw the harmful effects of teaching kids about lbgtq, gender identity, and crt. In the last 2 years that I have been involved and researching, I have found instances where the material that is being taught to children in public schools has only gotten worse. I am writing to express support of HB1686. There is evidence that medically transitioning a child does not reduce the rate of suicide. As a matter of fact, it has been documented that the suicide rate increases 7-10 years following an individual's transition. We also know that an individual's brain has not fully developed until around the age of 25. Children are not capable of making these decisions or allowing others to make it for them. Additionally, the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender reassignment surgeries result in permanent and harmful side effects including gynecomastia in men, chemical sterilization, osteoporosis, pulmonary micro embolism, vaginal atrophy, risk of hypertension, diabetes, permanent loss of normal sexual function and further mental health decline. I ask for your support of HB1686 for the health of our children. Please don't harm our children for the sake of an ideological agenda.

Roxane Roelse
Self
Pflugerville, TX

For

Hope Mayfield
Citizen self
Ennis, TX

Protect our children. I back no procedures or treatment for gender transition. Absolutely no public money!!!

Julia Ayers
Self, Health Insurance Broker
Tyler, TX

These procedures irreversibly maim children who are not at an age to make such life-altering decisions.

Debra Barron
Self
Granbury, TX

I am asking that you support HB 1686. Please protect our children!!! They need to be protected. In most cases they have no idea the consequences of this type of decision. Please STOP the absolute craziness.

Jeffrey Ochoa
Self plumber
Round Rock, TX

This absolutely cannot be passed. Children are not mature enough to make life altering decisions like this. Do not pass Heb 1686!

Mark Garrett
Self - Engineer
Tomball, TX

Pass this bill. This bill is needed to protect children

Julie Rhymes
Self
Richardson, TX

Genesis 1:7 God Created man and woman. Our identity comes from our Creator, it is inherent and un changeable.

Cindy Simpson
Self
Pearland, TX

I support HB1686. I believe that child sex change is medical and psychological child abuse and needs to be stopped. Please pass HB1686.

Neil Broesche
Self
Spring, TX

For

Stacey Nobles, Pastor
Llano Cowboy Church
Llano, TX

We are totally in favor of this bill. It is a shame that a bill is required for common sense. Our holy Creator does NOT make mistakes. In trying to impress God with our intelligence and wisdom, we prove our foolishness. If someone wants these types of procedures, then the cost for the same is all on them. No public money should be used. We expect our elected officials to be GOOD stewards of our monies and not waste is follies of a few. If this is that important to the individual desiring these procedures, then they will find a way to pay for them. We always find the funds for what we desire, and public funds for so many should not be used for the few. Stand strong on Biblical statues and teachings. Pass this bill.

Robert Fuller, Pct Chair
Self
Spring, TX

Anyone under the age of 18 had not the sound mind to make a decision concerning there gender

Ilse Anderson
Self - Mother
Diana, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Eric Inman
Self and everyone else I associate with
Ponder, TX

I strongly support this Bill, and those like it.

Linda Long
N/A
San Marcos, TX

For the bill

James Schwane
Self
Whitehouse, TX

Protecting children. I strongly support this bill.

Lisa Webb
self - Public School Educator
Spicewood, TX

Why are we wasting our time on bills like this? Why are we legislating what people can do with their bodies? I thought the GOP was the party of limited government. I strongly oppose this bill. As a public school educator, I see the struggles of our public education students. They need public education to be properly funded, not HB 1686. They need more mental health services in schools, not HB 1686. They need protection against mass shootings, not HB 1686. All Texans need to be loved and accepted for who they are even if you disagree with their lifestyle.

Tessa Grant, RN
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

Texas needs to ban gender transitions for minors. It’s a highly unethical and abusive practice and our tax dollars do not need to be supporting this in any way.

Debra Campoamor, Ms
Self
Claude, TX

Genital mutilation and drug experimentation is the truth of what these so called transitions are. It is appalling that our society is catering to an agenda of some elites to destroy our society. Genetics are factual. We cannot bend to fringe perverts and foolish sheep who follow any new trend and cause a generation of young people to suffer. This is an atrocity. If your bones are dug up a hundred years from now, your sex would be clear. So, we cannot be fools and allow young people to be victimized. Stop abuse of our children with transgender medical experimentation.

Randy Lein
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

These types of procedures are egregious and the use of public funds for such is outlandish. We are in a sad state that we even have to ask for this bill to pass. Mental health treatment is the answer.

Celia Ault
Self
McKinney, TX

I have yet to see any convincing scientific or anecdotal evidence that children who transition between sexes are benefitting from such drastic changes to their bodies. It is a well known trait of the human condition to embrace radical change in order to combat intense, personal emotional distress. Children, who have not yet had the opportunity to fully understand their own emotional ranges, are especially vulnerable to making errors in judgement regarding radical change.
By contrast, doctors have a combination of lived experience and extensive schooling to inform their decisions. Their licensure grants them power that the majority of society does not have. Because of that power, we, as a society, expect them to act with the highest ethics. The significant number of patients claiming they were rushed into these radical changes demonstrates that this branch of medicine is not acting ethically. I support this effort to protect people not yet old enough to understand the permanence of these changes.

Courtney Reed
Self
Farmers Branch, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. These are children, who deserve to be protected until capable of making such important decisions. I strongly support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686. because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Denise Pratt, Honorable
Self/Attorney
BAYTOWN, TX

I support this bill, as do most people. You should also.

Donna Seery
Ellis County GOP
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686

Sarah Moffitt
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR this Bill! Today showed that this transgender movement is dangerous and should not be allowed for children! This is child abuse! Please protect our kids and pass this bill!

Joan Kaderli, Mrs.
Self/homemaker
Austin, TX

Vote for the ban on gender modification in children

Leslie Stapleton
Self
Salado, TX

We are for this bill! If a child identified as anorexic we wouldn't starve them; thusly, a child with gender dysphoria should not be encouraged further into confusion and torment by the government paying for life damaging procedures.

Travis May
Self / Tech
Gunter, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

Mark McIlheran
Self/ Engineer
Leander, TX

Vote yes. Stop the travesty of gender reassignment. Children's lives are being destroyed by activists

Daniel Martin
Self/in school
Crane, TX

I support this bill because I don't believe children should be able to make life-changing decisions that they may regret in life when older. This decision should only be made when they are a adult and they are able to make their own choices.

Cynthia Scorzelli
Self
Goodrich, TX

I am against HB 1686. We have to speak up to protect our children . Stop this bill.!

Sal Armstrong, Teachers
297 woodlands drive
Bastrop, TX

For

Lisa McElroy
Self/house cleaner
San Antonio, TX

These treatments should not be provided through public funds nor should they be done at all. This is child abuse!!

Andy Greene
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It's government overreach. It's antithetical to the GOP cornerstone of small government. It's a bullshit dog whistle and a distraction from working on actual good governance.

Jessica Rodriguez
Self
Midlothian, TX

We absolutely should put a stop to the gender mutilation in all of the state of Texas!! It's abuse and far too many young people have been harmed by it, then grow on to completely regret it as adults! They'll never live a normal life again, or bear children. It's absolutely disgusting we would allow this in our state for anyone that is under the age of legal adult, to choose for themselves. The doctor that testified today that men can get pregnant and she could not define what a woman is, is that who you're going to take advice from?! People like her are on the wrong side of history and are forgetting their oath to do no harm! Just look at how miserable "Jazz" from the TLC show "I am Jazz" is. Transitioned at a young adult & is now a miserable & depressed young adult. She was abused. Outlaw this in the state of Texas, now!

Angela LaToof
Self
De Kalb, TX

I totally support this bill. It is outrageous that you have show support to ban procedures and treatments for children for sex change. This should be common sense no such treatment should even be allowed to be considered until they are at least 21.

Charles Harrisberger
self
Austin, TX

we must protect our children from gender transitioning, reassignment treatments...NO CHILD IS BORN IN THE WRONG BODY! To believe that is cultural suicide.

Janice Miller, Mrs.
Self, teacher, mother, grandmother
Gatesville, TX

Children are born a male or female. Keep them the way God created them.

Marcia Solmes
Self
Keene, TX

Procedures and treatment for gender reassignment is criminal. The use of public funds for that is thievery of the taxpayer. Other countries have been down this road and seen the destruction and are backing off, we need to abort this notion. This activity on our part will lead to punishment from our creator. Matthew 18:6 TLV Whoever causes one of these little ones who trust in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck and to be sunk in the depth of the sea.

Gary Hazelip, Mr.
Self Engineer
Frisco, TX

I am for a provision against using any government funding to provide ANY form of gender transition, change or mutilation.

Texas, being a state relying on God for its very existence and continuation, shall only derive such benefit by clearly acknowledging that anything that runs counter to Gods very creation shall incur due penalty of error. In Gods very word He created them male and female. Throughout all of human history any body exhumed can be identified as either male or female by genetics and bone structure. Within each gender there is great variety which is to be celebrated and cherished. Anything less is evil and quite frankly against my religion.

Susan Cerday
Self
Wimberley, TX

I strongly support this bill for the protection of the children of the State of Texas.

David Curtiss
Self, Software Engineer
Austin, TX

Protect our children. Pass HB 1686. Don't let any more children be sterilized and their healthy body parts cut off.

Nicole Martin
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Children are not born in the wrong body. They are convinced that there is something wrong with them. To put the idea that they are not who they should be and that they should be something else is a perverted misuse of power. We are grooming children at a young age into a sick form of peer pressure; that's it's cool or hip to be different. But we have pushed so hard that to express themselves through hair color isn't enough. What is in a child's pants isn't something we should be discussing much less trying to convince that thier parts are not accurate. A fish only knows fish, until you introduce it to a bird. Administrators need to stop pushing these ridiculous thoughts and traumatizing ideas and stick to teaching. Keep your minds out of my children's pants, and worry about your lack of bus drivers and positive community figures.

Taylor Prinsen
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not block or ban these very necessary and lifesaving procedures and treatments. VOTE NO.

Lynden Kosub
Self
San Antonio, TX

I absolutely oppose gender modification of children. So I support HB 1686 to prohibit procedures and treatments for gender reassignment or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Kelley Martin
Self
Spring, TX

I am for this bill. I won't know public monies used to mutilate children.

Kay Dunn
Self-retired
Waxahachie, TX

Please support this and vote for its passage out of committee.

Thank you!!!

Scott Green
Self
Forreston, TX

For

James Forgey
self
Aledo, TX

In support of HB 1686: Please move HB 1686 forward in order to stop the abuse and destruction of our children and grandchildren and family members.

Haleigh Sides
Self
Mansfield, TX

I support this bill!

Kimberly Craig
Self
Corinth, TX

Please protect children by prohibiting gender modification of minors.

Mary Beth Lawson
First Ladies Republican Women's Club and Associates of Garland/Mesquite
Garland, TX

It is past time to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN from this ghastly "gender modification" aka child abuse/gender mutilation!!! PASS HB1686 this session!!! Join Tennessee and other states who are banning sex change surgeries, mutilation, sterilization, drag queen story hours! DO THE RIGHT THING!!

Jon Spiers
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.
Jon Spiers MD JD
Houston, TX

Tony Sieli
Me
Spring Branch, TX

No

Tiffany Labrecque, Dr
Self
N.richland hills, TX

For

Lorelei von Schilling
Self
Fort Worth, TX

No child is born in the wrong body ! And those who believe so are mentally ill.

Suzanne Shedd
Self
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Paula Sabrsula
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Prohibit gender treatments on innocent children! Prohibit gender treatments on innocent kids

Anna Wylie
Self
Denison, TX

I support this bill. No child is born in the wrong body.

Ben Head
Self
Burleson, TX

I am FOR this bill! Save our kids!

Vernon Eastepp
self, Retired Chemistry Teacher in White Oak ISD
Buna, TX

Please support this bill. Too many youth of this type of treatment. end up needing mental medical help or try suicide.

Carla Thompson
Self
Abilene, TX

Protect our children from any treatments or procedures, state funded or otherwise, that would change or alter their gender or encourage gender reassignment or gender dysphoria.

Betty McGinty
Freedoms Fire Ministry
Lockhart, TX

I am for this bill.

Winnie Hoover
Parents
Irving, TX

gender modification in children is abuse and should be criminalized

Jacquelynn Cherico
self- ministry
LLano, TX

I mam for HB 1686

Maria Stuart
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686!

Suzy Dudich
Myself
SA Antonio, TX

FOR

Elizabeth Hopkins
Little Elm Precinct 1035
Little Elm, TX

I totally am IN SUPPORT of this bill as it is necessary to protect our children from being exposed to and undergoing medical alterations to their bodies, which still are in development stages. Although it is against God's supreme design as proven when He created us, He did give us to the freedom to make our own decisions for our lives (including our bodies). As Americans, there are laws with age requirements that mandate we be certain age before we can drive, vote, drink alcohol, etc. How is it that something this serious in nature (which permits a permanent life altering change to one's physical body) would even be a consideration for and provided to those who have yet to realize their true potentials. There already are documented cases of those who have made these drastic decisions and now are regretting it. On top of that it is even more absurd to even consider that MY tax dollars are going to be spent on something that my core being, my very soul knows is WRONG! PLEASE VOTE FOR HB 1686 since you know that the majority of Texans would want you to. It is only the loudest evil-mongers who are out to destroy our state with every means possible who are making this something to talk about. Thank you!

Terry Senne
Self. Retired
Denton, TX

Vote Yes!!

Calvin Williams
Self
Houston, TX

Pass this bill please

Rhonda Wright
Self - nurse
Texarkana, TX

I strongly support this bill regarding pediatric gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of any public money or public assistance. Children should NOT be subjected to any of the above treatments. Studies show if left alone, the overwhelming majority of gender dysphoric children will return to their birth gender. It is mutilation to do let children "be coherced" into gender reassignment prior to at least 18 years of age.
Thank you Rep. Oliverson

Robert Jeter, Precinct Chair, Caucus Chair SD11
Harris County Republican Party Senate District 11
Pasadena, TX

I support leaving kids alone. Democrat mutilationists are monsters

Aaron Brooks
Self- Administration Assistant
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR HB 1686

Selina Sauter
Self
Pearland, TX

I am 100% in support of this bill. Therr are so many decisions that we do not allow children to make for themselves. There are also laws prohibiting parents/ guardians to make ill advised decisons on behalf of their children.

This is no different. In the best interest of the child to make a decision when they are at an age that they are mentally capable to understand the implications and NOT allow a parent or guardian to usurp the autonomy of the child and so so on their behalf.

Protecting children is always the right thing to so even against themselves or their parents/ guardians.

Robert Wallace
retired; self
LLANO, TX

I am in complete SUPPORT of this bill. We MUST stop mutilating our children.

Douglas Prather, Mr.
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686. Please vote FOR HB 1686 - please stop the destruction of children - in the name of the Jesus.

Thank you

Ramona Steele
Oliverson
Longview, TX

This procedure goes totally against the Bible. It goes against everything that God stands for. When we were born we knew if we were a boy or a girl. This should be against the law that children could be able to make that decision to change their gender with the use of public money and assistance. I need help paying for certain medication’s that I don’t get help for free. Please in the name of Jesus pass this BILL

tiffany martin

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

Erroll Ivery

Self / Deputy Tax Assessor-Collector

Webster, TX

Hello Texas House Committee on Public Health,

Thank you for your support of HB 1686. Vulnerable children , under-age minors, and teens who ha deceived by transgender propaganda need to they’ve be protected from life destabilize surgeries that thtoo young and immature to decide in favor of. There are two genders, male (XY chromosomes) and female (XX chromosomes). You are whatever chromosome set you are born with and these irreversible surgeries do not change your chromosomes. In the extremely rare instance where the gender is undetectable via chromosome examination (hermaphroditism), an adult may tend to have feelings and emotions that tend male or female, but where chromosomes are clearly defined minor children must be protected from unscrupulous surgeons. I am cutting this short because this tool does not edit very well. Please support HB 1686. Thank you.

Colleen Headley

None

Argyle, TX

Kids are not born in the wrong bodies. They are fearfully and wonderfully made in God’s eyes. Gender reassignment must be stopped in children. No public money should be used for anything of this nature.

Ephraim Goff

None

Merkel, TX

I support this bill because children are sovereign individuals and should not have elective body modifying surgeries pushed on them by mentally ill and confused parents. A child should have the right to live their natural life including, but not limited to, living their life as the biological sex they were born as, in so much as it is an undeniable scientific fact and inalienable right that is endowed to that child at the moment of birth. This right to live without bodily mutilation should be vehemently upheld and protected by the State of Texas.

Regan Licciardello

student representing self

College Station, TX

Please SUPPORT this bill to stop gender craziness. I am a student at Texas A&M and things are completely insane in society. We need to stop focusing on craziness and start focusing on the basics of education. Children will be grown up someday and they are going to hate what we have allowed to be done to them.

Karleen Mauldin
Family of 4 voters
Conroe, TX

We support this bill! NO gender transitions on children in Texas!

Maria Doctor
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is a wicked bill that desires to confuse our children, making them doubt themselves and be less the effective citizen they should be.

Christina Bastos
Self
Rockdale, TX

I support HB 1686

Peggy Page
Self / retired
Red Oak, TX

I support this bill entirely - HB 1686. I do NOT want public funds paying for any of this nonsense.

Linda Avila
self
Round Rock, TX

Protect our Children! Our main responsibility as adults is to protect those who can not protect themselves. No public money should go to gender transforming procedures unless it is put on a ballot and voted on by the public. Stand for children! vote FOR HB 1686

margarita Pruski
self
AUSTIN, TX

These procedures and treatments are experimental, carry significant risk and are not reversible. Over the past decade, the medical community has treated cases of gender dysphoria differently than other mind/body disorders. Typically, such disorders are treated by helping the patient reconcile with his or her body. It is only in the case of gender dysphoria that doctors encourage and facilitate expensive chemical and surgical interventions in the name of “gender-affirming care.” Far from alleviating the dysphoria and related mental health problems, these interventions leave the root problems unaddressed. To follow this path with minors is an especially troubling form of social experimentation.

Douglas Reeves, Republican Precinct Chairman
Precinct 235
Plano, TX

I support this bill.

ALLISON Bailey
SELF, SELF-EMPLOYED
Weatherford, TX

I am in favor of these prohibitions. I believe strongly that children are under the influence of political war, cannot make rational decisions about their gender, etc. and should be safeguarded until they are 18, at the very least. If people can't drink, smoke or go to war until they're adults, how can they be trusted to untwist the web of hormones and outside influence to make such grave decisions? Car insurance companies basically believe that girls under 21 don't make the best decisions, and males don't until after 25. How can we say a 6-year-old knows what gender they'll prefer to be or be attracted to at 21 or 25 or when their brain is fully developed?

Lonnie Lyman
Self
Fort worth, TX

I am for this bill.

Nancy Clay
self
Mason, TX

Voting FOR HB 1686. To Ban gender transitioning, gender reassignment transitioning of children..

Thomas Bowe, Mr
N/Sa
Odessa, TX

Steve, please pass this bill 1686 children need to grow up and then make their own decisions

Kevin Pruski
self
AUSTIN, TX

It is reprehensible to provide such experimental and harmful procedures and treatments to our children in Texas. Instead, we ought to focus on the root causes of gender confusion issues and provide effective and and compassionate treatment.

Kim Horton
Myself
Weatherford, TX

Rep Oliverson,

I appreciate your strength and boldness in bringing this bill forward. Thank you thank you!! Please pass HB 1686! I have been listening to this hearing and I am just so appalled and can’t imagine what it must be like to endure certain witnesses. And yet, sodomites are sitting on the committee! I thought that was illegal in Texas!

It is so damaging to children to have psychologist affirm the rejection of Gods creation to them. They should be held accountable! . It is so very very sad. This whole thing is a result of God being kicked out of our public schools and we have allowed all sorts of teaching and ideologies into our schools to destroy children, the family unit and society. We are reaping what we have sown..

Do the right thing as a Christian and you will serve God and Texas well! Thank you so much!!!

Blessings and Prayers,
Kim Horton
Psalm 1

Karen Hudnall
Self / retired nurse
Temple, TX

Gender transitioning is a devestating procedure that permanently changes children's lives forever. They are too young to understand the circumstances and what the results are.

Lola Hurt
True Texas Project
Addison, TX

Child “sex change” is medical & psychological abuse & there is no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female! The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies??

Lori Robertson
Self
Mineola, TX

FOR

Cassie McElroy
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is child abuse. It should be prohibited all together

Linda Eckert
self
Onalaska, TX

This should not be allowed in Texas.

Kristin Kepler
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686

Kenneth Hollingsworth
Retired
Duncanville, TX

HB 1686 only punishes the physician. What about a parent or parents, residents of Texas, who take a child out-of-state to get gender modification? They should be automatically charged with child abuse.

Cindy Leavings
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR/SUPPORT HB1686. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, and procedures on minor children. Children are too young to be making these decisions. #DoNoHarm.

Crystal Banks
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I believe Texas should ban the procedures and treatments for gender reassignment of minors.

Teresa Littlejohn
Citizen of the Great State of Texas!!!
Nacogdoches, TX

No no NO!!!! Absolutely NOT!!!! This should have never even been a question!!! This HAS to stop!!! Parents are the ones who need to seek therapy if they don't like the sex of their child! It should have never been okay to just change the child because you wanted a girl instead of a boy or vice versa!!! Oh the lunacy!!! I'm for funding the mental health agencies in helping these confused people in their struggles NOT for changing genders!!!

Richard Kelley, Dr.
Self Scientist
Palestine, TX

I support this bill in its entirety to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide treatment or other sex changing procedures to children.

Carole Foehner, Retired school administrative assistant
Self - Retired School Administrative Assistant
Elgin, TX

Support/For the Bill HB 1686

Carla Kay
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Jackie Abreu-Hill
Self, safety professional
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! No child should be making life altering decisions to their genitals when they aren't even old enough to buy things like alcohol, tobacco, or drive a vehicle.

No adult, parent, politician, activist, etc. should allow a child to make this decision. A parent is supposed to protect their child, not mutilate them to fit in with people battling mental disorders.

Laura Cook
Self
The Hills, TX

I want to submit my agreement with the prohibition of gender reassignment drugs, and or surgeries on children/minors. These treatments are horrendous and have life changing affects not just on their biological gender, but their ability to reproduce as well as long-term health effects. Frontal lobes aren't even developed until the age of 25. Because these changes are irreversible, they should be banned on any person under the age of 25 years old.

Valene Smith
Self/ homemaker
Sandia, TX

I support this bill because the mutilation of a minor's genitals is child abuse! If it's illegal for minors to have sex, drink alcohol or vote, they certainly are not mature enough to choose an irreversible, life altering surgical procedure.

Len Langman, Tax payer
Self
The Colony, TX

Ban gender modification of minors

Norfilia De Alejandro
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill .. I’m FOR this

Kelsey Goff
Self
Merkel, TX

I support this bill because sick adults should not be allowed to mutilate children based on preference.

Patricia Johnson, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

FOR

Patricia Coriden
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote in favor of this!

Pamela Craven
Self
San Antonio, TX

For

Stuart Nolley
Self
Austin, TX

Please stop the gender madness and pass this bill.

Cyril Charles Young, III
self
Pipe Creek, TX

Gender Dysphoria is a sickness. Turning it into "Transgenderism" and inflicting it on kids is child abuse.

Debbie Nickell
Self, Texas voter!
Midlothian, TX

I support this Bill 1686.

Stephanie Kotara
self
Austin, TX

Please protect children from gender transitioning surgeries.

Leta Mekker
Self
Allen, TX

I'm FOR this bill. Children aren't experiments. Leave this decision for when the child is over 18 and a legal adult and if they still want this, then they can make that decision. Minor children cannot make adult decisions. Why do doctors want this? Greed.

Edika Buckman
Self
Dallas, TX

FOR HB1686. Please Support HB1686.

Elena Rodriguez
Self
Mico, TX

Support!!!! I 100% support this bill! We need to stop this child abuse! The mutilation of children is wrong!

Teresa York
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

How we are born is who we are. Our children are being brainwashed and we need to protect our children. Men are not able to give birth to babies for a reason. They were not created for that purpose. It's causing depression and confusion in our children and many of which are harming themselves and others. It's sad this is what our country has come to today! Stand for what is right and protect our children!

Matt Kepler
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686

Philip Seibert
Phil Seibert
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686!!!!

Charles Frame
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this Bill. God did not make a mistake when He created the ONLY two genders - males and females! He also did not make a male to be a female, nor a female to be a male. Not only is support for “transitioning” genders a mistake, it’s evil and child abuse that should be considered criminal. DO NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS TO FINANCE THIS EVIL.

Mandy Kirkland
Myself
Tennessee Colony, TX

I support HB 1686 as it seeks to protect Texas children. This bill is a common sense approach to the rampant abuse of children by adults who wish to profit off their confusion or wanting to fit in by attempting to change their gender. Studies show that children that transition later grow up to regret the decision in most cases. Any and all ways to protect innocent children MUST be done. I urge you to vote this bill out of committee.

Rachal Hisler
Self
Anahuac, TX

I support this bill, please protect Texas Kids!

Scott Smith, Mr.
Self
Sandia, TX

I support this bill because it is a twisted, sick, evil, demented, depraved practice, taking advantage of innocent children; Which If allowed to continue, will ultimately lead to the just obliteration of a vile nation, by an angry God!

Robert Canright, Mr
Collin County Precinct 34
Plano, TX

I am personally against the mutilation of children’s sex organs. Every one I know is against it. Please vote to protect our children and vote for HB 1686

Nikki Gould
Self photographer
Tomball, TX

FOR

Alexandra Hassell
Myself
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Kathy Bolner
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am against this bill as the government should have no say in the bodily autonomy of its citizens. The child, their parents, and their doctors are the best arbiters of what is required for the best interest of the child.

Denise Bell
Self
Houston, TX

Please protect children from the harmful and permanent effects that can occur from taking puberty blockers, HRT, top surgery, and gender reassignment surgery. These medical procedures and treatments should never be given or performed on minors. The human brain is not fully formed until the early to mid twenties…as such, minors do not have the same critical thinking capabilities that mature adults have. They do not always understand the ramifications and long term consequences of the decisions they make. One long term consequence for both males and females that transition to the opposite sex by using hormones is a permanent loss of fertility. Another long term consequence for females that transition to males is permanent voice alteration and hair loss. It is unacceptable to allow children to make choices that can permanently effect their future. We don’t allow minors to vote or drink alcohol…why would we allow them to change their sex when their are lifelong consequences of that?! Please pass this bill!!

Ruth Amstutz, Mrs.
Self- counselor
San Antonio, TX

I totally support and i am for house bill 1686. No child should undergo trans gender mutilation..

Jo Jack
Self
Hirst, TX

I Support for this bill.

Tama Williamson
Self
Spicewood, TX

A child should never have any type of medical procedure that changes any part of their body or mind, how the child was born or and the child feels it should be altered. A child is not born in the wrong body. A child is born exactly how God created that child and no one has the right to change this.

Leigh Ann Kenyon
Myself
Lakeway, TX

I am strongly for this bill. Please vote yes.

Bethany Clark
Self
Lindale, TX

I support HB 1686.

Deborah O'Brien
Self
Benbrook, TX

Please support HB 1686. As our children need to be protected from this. I am a teacher and I am watching this in my very school and it’s not a good thing for the student involved or the other students around them Thank you!

Kathryn Sanchez
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am FOR this bill

Jeffrey Weeks
Self
Watauga, TX

I agree

Garrett Ray
Self
Cleburne, TX

I agree with this bill and would like to show my support for the passing of the bill. I would like to call on the congressman of the great stat of Texas to vote to approve this bill. We must protect our kids

Roger Mommaerts
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is absolutely essential in order that children be left alone in such an intimate and personal matter as their assigned gender. This is tampering with our created bodies and truly amounts to nothing more than mutilation.

Marcus Meleton
Self
Katy, TX

Think about when these operations are allowed due to a vote against this bill. When that child becomes an adult and decides (as many have) that it was a destructive decision, then it is the legislator's fault more so than the child who asked for the operation. Transgenders may be a fad now but when the dust settles, legislators need to be aware of the long-term decision they are making.

Brenda Anderson
Self - retired
Hillsboro, TX

I am against sex change/transgender operations/procedures and against any use of public funds for those procedures or treatments.

Amy Vertrees
Self
Dallas, TX

Ban all transitioning treatments

Chris Jenkins
Self
Athens, TX

Protect the children, ban child transitioning.

Rebecca Jemison, Mrs
Self
Georgetown, TX

For the bill.

Brandon Cowan
Self
Texarkana, TX

Children should not be subjected to life changing surgeries and treatments that can leave them permanently disfigured. I support this bill that would ban such things in Texas.

Jennifer Bezner
Self
Smithville, TX

I support HB 1686!!

Aline Perry
Self
Woodway, TX

FOR the bill

Teal Scott
Self
Allen, TX

Please pass this bill. It is imperative that we stop mutilating these innocent children. May the Lord have favor on this bill. I pray it passes. ??

Kathy Krauss
Self, homemaker
San Antonio, TX

Please, please pass this bill to protect our children from untold harm - physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Vivian Daugherty
Self
Volente, TX

Children should not have gender changing! They do not know what they may think as an adult, and it should wait until they are the adult to do anything to their bodies

Kerry Martin
Self
Lockhart, TX

I believe that this bill should not become a law because 1) if we have a law that makes it illegal for 18 year olds to drink because they are not mature enough to drink responsibly, then I don't think children are mature enough to make a decision to alter their body. I am a retired teacher and feel that childrens' minds and reasoning are not capable of making life altering decisions. 2) Medicare does not pay for any procedure unless it is medically necessary which includes cosmetic surgery. If the government won't pay for seniors to get eye exams or even an annual physical when their health at their age is so important, why would they pay for a child to get this surgery which is not medically necessary and could be extremely detrimental to the child?

Susan Putz
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR

Monica Haydt
Self
Austin, TX

In support

Ruben Salinas
Self
Roanoke, TX

No child should ever be subjected to such procedures as this constitutes nothing short of an act of child abuse. Such procedures are permanent and no child can make such decisions on their own without a consenting adult and therefore any guardian/parent making this choice for a child would be guilty of child abuse. This is a decision that should be left for an adult above the age 21. Furthermore no public funds should ever be used at any age for such procedures with gender transitioning or gender reassignment. If a consenting adult wants to have such procedures done to themselves then this should be covered by their own personal funding. Also, the use of public funds would violate the religious beliefs of millions of citizens.

Kevin Mattingly
Self
Blue Ridge, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Support and please pass HB 1686

Robbie Anderson
Self - retired
Hillsboro, TX

A child isn’t born in the wrong body. It is wrong to mutilate children by sex change and I am against using public funds for transgender procedures or treatments.

Wendy Elder
Self
Lakeway, TX

FOR

Ruth Amstutz, Mrs.
Self. Counselor
San Antonio, TX

I am four and I support house bill 1686

Jessica Overgoner
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

These types of procedures and treatments should not be made available until the patient is an adult. I would never approve of my tax dollars going toward this program, or any procedures for gender transitioning.

Scientifically, the brain is not fully developed until age 23 years of age, so decisions for major physical changes to a human body should not be acceptable until the person had full understanding of procedure and permanent consequences.

Kathy Childers
Self retired school teacher
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill because these young adults don’t foresee the implications of these decisions that affects them the rest of their lives.

Stacie Burger
Self- Estheticians
Burleson, TX

No child should be able to undergo any gender procedures. No one under the age of 18 can get a tattoo, so why should some one underage be able to do a gender procedure that is permanent?

Tencia Ruiz
Tencia Ruiz, HAS
Carrollton, TX

I think doing this to innocent children is in sane. This bill should not pass. .

Gennifer Hargrove
Self
Hutto, TX

Children should not be able to participate in gender reassignment and /or transitioning. Their brains are not fully developed until 25. The suicide rate in those post transition is a sounding, approx 40%.

Keesha Fly
Self, Teacher
Llano, TX

Please DO NOT allow treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria or ANY OTHER TYPE OF GENDER CHANGE on children. Please DO NOT vote to use public funds to do these treatments. THIS IS CHILD ABUSE and taxpayers should not be forced to support this financially or in any way whatsoever.

Joseph Johnson
Self
San Saba, TX

For
The destruction of these young lives for profit and political posturing must be stopped

Carmen Bowington, A concern citizen
Republican for Ector county
Odessa, TX

Stop!! Transgender to entry our schools! And stop our tax money to go any procedure. We're not paying for any treatments.

Jana Peterman, LVN
Self
Sherman, TX

All gender modification should be withheld until the child is of legal age to consent with full medical knowledge and understanding.

Jeff Kowalski
Self
Allen, TX

Do not allow disfigurement of minors . Do not allow public monies to be used for such things.

Julie Regh
Self
Parker, TX

For this bill

Jake Hassell
Self, Engineer
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
1. Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
2. Despite the false talking point that puberty-blocking drugs merely "pause puberty" and are "completely reversible", the reality is that these experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
3. Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria. Many studies also show that proceeding with these medical procedures actually result in worse mental health of the "patient", rather than supposedly improving mental health outcomes.
4. A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.
Jake Hassell

Natalie R Ibe
self RN
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686 - banning gender modification for minors is necessary. They need go have time to process whatever they are going though at their young age. The stats show that most of them will grow to decide that they are ok with their birth gender if given some time. This ban will protect them from unnecessary procedures and lifelong complications.

Sharon Hill
Self
Lantana, TX

God does not make mistakes and children can’t even decide what to eat or wear, let alone decide about their sexuality.

Candice Green
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Children should not be allowed to under any medical procedures, receive puberty blockers or anything else in relation to gendering transitioning until at a minimum they are 18 years old. The majority of the people pushing this on children are themselves not true trans gender. They are mentally I’ll people seeking attention. Drag shows should be banned for children under 18 as well.

Chris Gooch
Texline
Texarkana, TX

Children should not be mutilated by doctors. This should be medical malpractice.

Erika Henson, FNP-C
self
Cedar Park, TX

I support the prohibition of surgical procedures and treatments for gender transition and reassignment as these procedures are not emotionally or physically beneficial to children, teens, or adults. The pain. trauma, and complications that accompany these procedures and treatments are long lasting for adult patients and will have longer repercussion for young patients. The transition process requires multiple procedures that involve the alteration of multiple body sites to procure tissue to create or recreate genitalia. Patients are exposed to opioid narcotics to deal with pain which does not help minimize the opioid crisis in our country. The chronic use of hormones to alter the naturally occurring levels of hormones the body uses to develop secondary sexual characteristics further affects the homeostasis of other metabolic functions and alter fertility. There is also the issue that there are many persons affected with gender dysphoria that are subject to gender fluidity which means that at any point they can/may desire to transition back. The use of medications and surgical procedures has not shown to help address the more important component which is mental and ideological. There are many patients that have travelled this path with much regret. Please let us spare many young people from having to suffer unnecessarily.

Chris Gibbs
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686

Maegen Tait
Self childrens Pastor
Buda, TX

This breaks my heart that this is even a conversation. It generally takes a child to know them self well later in years. I don't believe they can make decisions or should their parents about this topic until they are an adult and can make their own choices. One day children have a best friend and the next day they're not friends anymore. This will most likely be the same with gender.

Leah Bahrencu, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. HB 1686

SHARON PETERS
Self
Paris, TX

As the parent of a child with a chromosomal abnormality, it's my duty to help her accept it and adapt. Wishing it away, surgeries or any other procedure won't change who she is at a foundational level. XX and XY are part of our foundation; surgeries, pharmaceuticals or different wardrobe can't change that. Texas needs to prohibit procedures and treatments for gender transitioning on CHILDREN.

Dale Tromanhauser
Self
Bedford, TX

Please protect the kids of Texas

Todd Overgoner
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

God created people male or female, people do not have the chose to play God.

Mark Gabrick, Mr
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Melinda Cassidy
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill

Nancy Collins
Self
Elgin, TX

I support this bill.

Thank you for supporting it as well.

Annabeth Jordan
US Citizen
Ferris, TX

There is no way I want my tax dollars paying for gender transitioning for children or adults. They can pay for it on their own!

Stan McElroy
Self
Driftwood, TX

No child is not in the wrong body

Shawn Townsend
Self
Canyon lake, TX

Elective surgeries should be decided by an adult. At least 28 yrs old , if Not 21 yrs of age. ALL elective surgeries should be paid for by that person, NoT insurance or Government Agencies

Pam Uhr
Self
Austin, TX

I am for this bill. No child tax s born in the wrong body

Julie Riddle
Self
San marcos, TX

For the bill!

Keesha Fly
Self, Teacher
Llano, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Daniel Southerland
Self Realtor
Waxahachie, TX

I am in full support of this bill. Please vote yes!

Tim Bowington, Concern citizen
Ector county Republican
Odessa, TX

Against any procedure or treatment and use with our tax money!

Joseph Ortiqeaux
Self, Fabricator
Port Neches, TX

Children being manipulated into a destructive psychosis are in no position to make these decisions, and adults who would choose to go behind the legal parent/guardian's back in order to condition these children should have no power or authority to aid in these so-called treatments. Genital mutilation, drug addictions and the psychological damage caused by these "procedures" is a lifelong scar that growing adolescents - adolescents still learning and understanding the world - should never be subject to.

The protection of our future should not be at the hands of those who would sterilize it for self-righteous clout.

Rhonda Sellers
Myself
DALLAS, TX

I am FOR HB1686!

Andrea James
Self/fitness instructor
Houston, TX

I support this bill because of the following:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Thank you

Travis Peters
Self
Paris, TX

Government ought to be protecting those that cannot protect themselves. Adults, not children, are making these choices that will have life long consequences.

Cilicia Landers
self/caregiver
Austin, TX

I am a parent of a trans son. I am speaking out against this bill because it takes away a young person's right to medical treatment. Before my son came out to us as trans, he was severely depressed. He hurt himself and had suicidal thoughts to the point that he was in IOP, or intensive outpatient therapy. Once he came out, was supported by us, and started living as his authentic self, a change came over him, not just the physical one helped by testosterone, but the emotional one of being recognized by society as who he was. He started to smile again.

When he came out, my husband and I weren't surprised since he had been dressing in masculine clothes for several years at that point, so we knew he was exploring his more masculine side. What I didn't know was that the act of transitioning wasn't so cut and dried. I thought it required complete hormone and surgical alteration. I didn't know that it doesn't have to go beyond identifying as a particular gender. How far transitioning goes depends on each individual. My husband and I both read a lot to educate ourselves. Once our son was out to our extended family, we began the process of educating them as well. For example, my sister didn't understand what it meant to be trans, but after many conversations with her about it, she did agree to respect my son's wishes and refer to him by his chosen name and gender.

While it was an adjustment for us as a family, getting used to using a new name for our child, it was a million times better than the one we would have had to face if he had died by suicide, something that is likely when trans youths are forced to deny their true selves.

Tara Saenz
self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686

Monica Frame
Self, Accountant
Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this Bill. God did not make a mistake when He created the ONLY two genders - males and females! He also did not make a male to be a female, nor a female to be a male. Not only is support for "transitioning" genders a mistake, it's evil and child abuse that should be considered criminal. DO NOT USE PUBLIC FUNDS TO FINANCE THIS EVIL!

Michelle Carnell
Self, homemaker, mother
Willow Park, TX

Please outlaw the barbaric practice of chemically castrating and surgically mutilating children. It is morally reprehensible to create lifelong medical/pharmaceutical patients out perfectly healthy children who are experiencing mental illness. This "gender"madness that has taken hold in our culture is so destructive. These children will face lifelong physical, mental, and emotional issues if they are allowed to be subjected to this experimental treatment. Please take a stand where so many in the medical community and "powers that be" have failed! Make it illegal to experiment on children.

Jeffrey Gray
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill.

Larry Trammell
Self
Cleburne, TX

Strongly in favor of HB1686.

Beth Clegg
Self / stay at home mom
San Antonio, TX

FOR / support the bill

Cindy Patterson
self-
Richardson, TX

I am FOR HB-1686 No child is born in the wrong body. Children are not mature enough to make these lifetime decisions. How many times has a young teenager made a decision and then changed it a year later and regretted the decision they made? The teenage years are so delicate and confusing as is. They do not need to complicate it further. Also, I have met families who have shared horror stories that parents of children with gender disphoria have been bullied to allow their children to take hormone disruptive pills and undergo life altering surgeries that leave their children maimed for life and never able to have children after undergoing modified surgeries. These children usually around the age of 12 to 16 years old who are worse than they were before the surgery. And, now they are forever damaged and can never have children and are forever enslaved to BIG PHARMA. These parents of gender disphoria and their children deserve to hear the whole truth.
Thank you for the opportunity to share my concern and support.

Andrea Arrigunaga
Self
Round Rock, TX

Standing in support and in favor of this bill which prohibits the provision of treatments for gender transition to children

Victoria Mayorga
Self
Lindale, TX

Agree

Susan Navarro
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Children deserve the protection of our government to not be subjected to something so personal as gender reassignment before the age of 18. You can't vote, you can't drink alcohol, but you can have your gender reassigned before you are fully considered an adult? Our children deserve better than that. Your integrity is on the line to protect our kids.

Shannon Graham
Self
Midlothian, TX

In support of prohibiting gender treatment for children.

Annette Magnella
Self
Austin, TX

These heinous mutilations should not be permitted until age 25 with a mandate of therapy, healthy and cognitive understanding of long term consequences and absolutely No government funding

Amanda Holmes
Self
Prosper, TX

Surgeries, hormone, drug therapies and any procedures relating to gender transitioning and reassignment should be prohibited until the person is over the legal age of 18 or 21 where they can make the informed decision on their own and not coerced or influenced by other adults/guardians/peers acting on their behalf. Public money and assistance should not be granted to alter any persons biological gender.

Benjamin Goff
Self/Laborer
Merkel, TX

I am in support of this bill. The state should not have to pay using public funding for these kinds of decisions that are made by private individuals. That and the fact that I believe that children should not be able to make these types of decisions for themselves in these early stages of their lives nor should they be encouraged to do so. It is dangerous to further the agenda that children should be able to decide early on to identify as something different from the sex they were born as. It is not mentally beneficial nor does it benefit them physically to medically mutilate themselves. That being said, the prohibition of procedures that would aid in the furthering of this agenda would be a massive step in the right direction.

Erin Sexton
Self
McKinney, TX

I want the bill to pass. It’s not OK to allow children to do any gender reassignment changes at all! These children regret their decisions later on in life. They are so quickly persuaded by doctors and counselors to go ahead and make changes that they will most likely regret. Science talks about frontal lobe development, not even reaching its potential until the 20s! Why would children be allowed to make decisions for themselves in this way? It’s not OK.

Tammy Hire
Myself
RICHMOND, TX

I oppose any modification to a child of either gender!

Erin Spousta
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR/SUPPORT HB1686 as I believe that children are born into the body they are meant to be born in. Children/Teens/Young Adults do not have the mental maturity level to make such a life-altering decision before the age of 25. Therefore we must prohibit gender modification treatments, hormone therapy and other gender-modifying/affecting procedures on children/teens/young adults! #DoNoHarm

Francis H Tucker, N/A
Self
Eastland, TX

Please respect what is made in the image of & by our Heavenly Creator - he created us as natural beings whether male or female . Please understand this is unnatural & is completely against scripture. It is not our creators will , only he can decide our gender . Thank you

Laura Field
Self - Specialist III
Amarillo, TX

Please pass this bill and save our children!

Char Doonan
Self, Retired
Winnsboro, TX

I strongly support HB1686 in prohibiting gender modification of children.

Grace Bradley
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I completely support this bill! Please Vote YES!!

Lesa Taylor
Self
Buda, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Our children are our most vulnerable citizens and should be protected against bodily harm.

Michelle Ray, Ms
Self
Waxahachie, TX

For

Susan Amos
Self
Denison, TX

I support HB1686/SB14

Madeline Allison
Self, Flight Attendant
Spicewood, TX

This is a mutilation of children’s bodies and being. This inhibits and ignores the underlying mental state of not only the child’s mind, but the environmental upbringing within their home or affiliated community. Our money would be much better used towards mental health aid and support.

Donald Johnson
Self
Austin, TX

This bill should be passed to prohibit such procedures and treatments.

Miranda Rosenhoover
Self-teacher
Willow Park, TX

No minor child should be subject to gender reassignment, hormones or other such mind and body altering chemicals. With their brains not fully developed, they aren't even allowed to have alcohol so under no circumstance should a minor child be allowed to alter their mind or body and certainly not with the assistance of taxpayer money.

Donna Stallone
Self mother- designer
Tomball, TX

I am for this bill. At no time should physicians or adults be allowing children to cut off heathy body tissues as a result of gender dysphoria. These lifelong decisions should be made after much Theraphy and at the age of accountability at 18 or beyond. Children are easily influenced and this agenda has been pushed far beyond limits. The power of influence via social media and the lack of prolonged therapy need to be considered before allowing mutilation.

Isabelle Gilmore
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

FOR THE BILL

Nancy Popiolek, Ms
Self
Allen, TX

I ask you to support this bill. No child should make a decision about a permanent life altering surgery before they are 18. Many of these children change their minds after getting help. These surgeries and drugs are moneymakers.children need protection. Please protect Texas children and support this bill.

Kenneth Blundell
None
Tyler, TX

As a parent, teacher and Christian I strongly agree with this bill. Children are very easily influenced. This is a life changing irreversible procedure. The decision for this procedure should be left for adults only.

Julia Quick, Semi-retired seasoned citizen, youth advocate
Self
Austin, TX

Do you not remember going through your own questioning of the pros & cons of the hand God dealt you, & the victory that came when seeing the challenge to become the BEST VERSION OF YOU beyond your own consideration? That's what is called LIFE! DON'T ROB these next generations that same challenge & personal victory!

Kim Balazs
Self
Spicewood, TX

For the bill

Katie Ball
Self
Lakeway, TX

Not supporting public dollars for transitions for children

JULIE SULLIVAN, Ms
Self - Tutor
Waller, TX

Supporting this bill! These are CHILDREN who are incapable of making these permanent decisions and parents who are being persuaded by medical professionals that they will kill themselves if they don't transition. Read about Chloe Cole. This is wrong. Once over the age of 18, an adult can make their own decision. Please protect minors.

Paula Buckhalt
Self
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill

Danny Lampe
Myself / Parent /Texan
Waxahachie, TX

89

Bob Bonner
Self - self employed
Lindale, TX

Please strongly support HB 1686. Texas should be a state that protects minors from treatments which are permanent in nature that a child , through confusion, peer pressure, or manipulation seek such treatment. We cannot use taxpayer funds to mutilate our progeny to their ultimate destruction. Do no harm is easy and obvious. It is not transient nor subject to fads or whims. Once a person reaches maturity they may seek such as they like as they will bear the responsibility both of their choice and their wherewithal to obtain such treatments. Thank you.

Claire Cain, Ms
Self
Lakeway, TX

Please vote for this bill. Protect our children.

Chris Drewry, Mr
Self
Flint, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass this bill from the Public Health Committee to the House floor for a vote. This is important legislation to protect the next generation of Texans. Gender modification surgeries for minors is in all essence child abuse. I want to thanks Representatives Oliverson, Klick, Metcalf and Toth for bringing this bill before the House.

Amin Salahuddin
Self
Round Rock, TX

This procedure is irreversible, what happens when the child has conflicting views in adult life.

Wanda Keller
Self- Self employed automotive repair shop
Lindale, TX

I firmly support this bill. I believe very strongly this is child abuse. A child does not have the knowledge and ability to make this kind of decision. We are made in the image of God. We cannot change our DNA. If we were born male we will always be male, female we will always be female. Pass this bill to protect our children.

Patsy Boatright
Self retired
Maryneal, TX

I support this bill

Pat Fry
Self
Round Mtn, TX

There are many negative traits that children have...kicking, biting, not sharing, taking from others,screaming, lying...all inherent. Human nature has to be tamed away from the negative traits, guided toward their better traits. A child's determination toward the gender they were not born as is just another selfish trait. Children must be lovingly guided to be their best. As a tomboy, myself, I out-grew it...as most of these will, too.
Please support HB1686.

Jeremy Story
Chaplain, Republican Party of Texas
Round Rock, TX

Child gender modification has been proven to be not only ineffective but also harmful towards providing any help to patients. Just because it is medically possible doesn't make it ethical, moral or effective. It is child abuse sanitized by medical jargon. It also has lasting and long term effects on those who are involved. Many adults who went through gender modification procedures or puberty blocking drugs now oppose such practices. This includes many, many from the LGBTQ community. Many other states have banned this barbaric practice. Texas should join them. We missed the chance last session. Representative Klick, many are watching your actions and the actions of this committee on this matter. Please don't make the same missteps made last session. Please bravely join in doing what you know personally is the right thing for Texas kids and future adults. If adults want to engage in experimental medical procedures with detrimental effect, that is their choice. However, allowing parents to experiment on their kids by altering something as basic as gender and future sexual development is not wise or appropriate. We aren't talking about something that cures an illness. We are talking about a proceedure that actually has been proven to increase the death/suicide rates of kids.

Tara Beulah
Self
Cypress, TX

We support this bill.
There are only 2 genders!
No more child mutilation!

Mary Allison, Mrs.
Self
Spicewood, TX

This is so wrong. At least wait until they are 18 and can make their own decisions.

Whitney Kenney, McKinney
Self, wife, mother, homemaker.
McKinney, TX

My name is Whitney Kenney. I live in McKinney, TX and am for HB 1686 which prohibits certain medical procedures relating to gender transitioning, reassignment, or gender dysphoria. I am the daughter of a parent who has lived with gender dysphoria most of their life, starting at age 5. That parent has told me that their greatest joy and blessing in life has been being a parent. Had the options available to children today to transition in childhood been available to my parent 60 years ago, I would have not been born. My gender dysphoric parent has told me recently that they are 100% against childhood transitioning. My parent and I strongly believe that children should be allowed to develop naturally and go through puberty to adulthood before being faced with life-altering and often permanent changes to their body. Please vote in favor of HB 1686 to stop the genital mutilation of children. We have a duty to protect these children until they are of age to legally consent as an adult, should they so wish.

Theresa Hayes
Self
Lakeway, TX

No child should have their gender changed before the age of 18. If they are not mature enough to own a firearm, how are they mature enough to undergo life altering gender change? When we castrate or spay, an animal, that does not change their sex, it simply keeps them from reproducing. With that any mammal, human or animal, will experience joint changes due to the lack of natural hormones within the body. If you look at some of the transgender‘s like Chaz, Bono, who have publicly complained of the joint pain, it’s from the transgender surgeries we used to call this genital mutilation, and that’s exactly what it is! Parents are doing this to their children to get likes on social media and this is absolutely insane! For a woman to steal a biological man’s child and try to change that child’s gender based on a toy they get out of a fast food restaurant it’s nuts! How many times have we made decisions ourselves as adults and regret them? This is not one of those things that is easily changed imagine having a double mastectomy, and then changing your mind, that’s not something you can put back! You can get implants, but those come with a price and I don’t mean financially. Implants hide breast cancers.

I was a tomboy growing up, and I wore jeans all the time, but I will tell you that I love my children more than anything, and I enjoy being a woman very much and if my mother had changed my sex, I can’t say what I might have done. I remember the first time my father told me I should not take my shirt off with the boys when I was about four or five. Would I have wanted him to call me one of the boys? Hell no! Women’s bodies are not made like men’s for a reason! We should not be sending them in to combat, because we’re not made the same no matter what clothes you put on them! Women should be treated like fine China, because we’re not made like men and men are not made like women no matter how much someone wants to be the opposite sex. If we’re going to keep kids from drinking, smoking, then, why in the hell would we let them change their sex?

Elise Carr
Self, home maker
Flint, TX

Please stop this madness. These babies don’t understand the impact these procedures will have on their bodies and mental health. Our children are worth fighting for and their God given gender.

Cora Fortin
Self/retired
Fairview, TX

You can’t smoke until you’re 18, you can’t vote unless you’re 18. A person less than 18 is a child and should not be making decisions or a parent making decisions of this magnitude. There’s no going back after surgery.
I am FOR the bill.

Janice Brooker
Self
Georgetown, TX

Support this bill. All of the above are child abuse. Children are not mature enough to understand the consequences. Infertility, mental illness, surgeries that forever change how things function. Breast cut off the body like breast cancer victims. Penises cut to never function correctly. This is cruel and inhumane. The latest and greatest plastic surgery that forever destroys an opportunity to live one's natural life. To be given hormones that destroys one's natural ability to create a family as an adult is the ultimate betrayal. Who soever chooses this destiny for children are absolutely mentally unstable, weak minded and an insult to humanity. I would never be ok paying to cause harm to an innocent child.

Ileana Vela
Self Teacher
Round Rock, TX

FOR THE BILL

Chris Coker
Self
Keller, TX

I'm for this bill

Antonio Ramos
Self Software Engineer
Round Rock, TX

For the bill

Heather Mobley
Self
Pinehurst, TX

I am NOT in favor of using tax money in any way that would change, or mutilate a child's body. Please stop this barbaric practice. Raise awareness of the TRUTH behind the lies of what really happens to these young kids lives. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and the cure is not to mutilate or use hormones to change the body, but rather psychological help by someone who recognizes the real issue. Kids change their favorite color often, do we really want the choice of sex change an option for children? We need to protect them not cause them more harm that will last the remainder of their lives, by letting them make irreversible changes to their bodies. PROTECT THE CHILDREN!!!!!

Caroline Evans
Self
Plano, TX

This bill and its companion SB14 are human rights violations and based on uninformed prejudices against LBGTQ people and medical professions. It is similar to forcing ones own religious belief on others. When people understand the truth behind this bill they oppose it. Please get back to passing bills that are in the peoples best interest instead of ignorant religious and sexual prejudices.
Thank you,
Caroline Evans

Katy Bloom, Dr.
Concerned parent
Houston, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

·A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Thank you l

John Basham, US Army Retired
Self
Azle, TX

We Must Stop This Horrible Experimentation On Children For Strictly Political Reasons.
There Is NO WAY To Undo The Permanent Damage Done & No Way To Project The Unknown Harms From Using Drugs Off Label On Children.
If Our Elected Officials Don't Stand Against The Mutilation Of Innocents For Nothing More Than A Left-Wing Political Agenda, Then They Do Not Deserve The Trust We Have Placed In Their Hands.

Carolyn Vox
Nacogdoches Republican Women club
Nacogfoches, TX

Please vote for 1686

Kamyon Conner
Texas Equal Access Fund
Denton, TX

My name is Kamyon Conner from Denton Texas and I use she/her pronouns. Im a social worker and a licensed clinician as well as being the executive director of the Texas equal access Fund. We are a local abortion fund thats proud to work towards ending stigma regarding the intersection of trans Healthcare and reproductive healthcare. I have 1st hand experience seeing the Healthcare crisis Texas creates when you force people to travel for Healthcare. Traveling out of the state where you reside is no way to experience health care. Abortion seekers have felt this and felt the harms of this.

Folks in our movement often say everyone loves someone who has had an abortion. And I'd like to say the same for our trans community. Everyone loves someone who is trans. And if you dont its simply because you haven't ensured that trans people in your life can feel safe to be themselves around you. And if that is the case for you I can assure you that you haven't considered their lives if you are considering moving this policy forward and out of this committee.

This bill serves to intimidate, shame and further marginalize children, children who deserve health care thats protected. Ensuring access to trans Healthcare is sacred and essential. It's essential for their safety, and for their futures. a future that they deserve the right to dream up,, manifest and create free of shame and stigma perpetuated by hateful and shamefully legislation like HB 1686.

I know and love trans children and they deserve to feel like kids, to have a childhood that helps grow them into being thriving adults. That cannot involve being discriminated against in Healthcare with laws and policies that interfere with how a medical or mental health provider can provide the care they were trained and are licensed to provide. Heatlthacre should be a place where we all feel safe. This bill would create separation and othering of certain children, certain families and will harm and really limit Healthcare providers and the efficacy of Healthcare outcomes. This is a state that has the highest rate of uninsured folks and numerous barriers to existing Healthcare as it is.. if you claim to be a state that prides itself on supporting families , then support these families by stopping this bill in its tracks here so that Texas parents are able to support their children they way they deems best and medical providers cam administer Healthcare how they deem necessary. .i urge you to support these brave and beautiful families by voting no on the entirety of HB 1686.

Megan Strubhar
Self/Mother
Cedar Park, TX

IN SUPPORT: Adults have many responsibilities. The highest one we have is to protect children and meet their basic needs. Protect them from bodily harm including abuse of any kind. It weighs heavy with joy and responsibility. The reason for this responsibility is because children do not have fully developed brains or bodies. They cannot reason as an adult, nor make life altering decisions by weighing pros and cons, thinking about the future in it's perpetuity. This is why we have age restrictions on driving, voting, drinking, and goodness even car rentals and cigarettes. Let's continue to protect our own children, and those in our community, from adults (who are supposed to protect them!) and institutions who wish to mutilate their bodies and confuse them further by not calling out this mental health crisis for what it is - gender dysphoria - and treating it appropriately with counseling and support for the family and child. Hormone replacement, removal of sexual organs and surgeries that will FOREVER change their bodies and brains. Let's protect them when others wish to harm. Please.

Christopher Hamilton
Texas Health Action
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Christopher Hamilton, I am the chief executive officer of Texas Health Action, a non-profit dedicated to providing healthcare in a safe and supportive environment through clinics in Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas. I represent myself and Texas Health action in speaking against HB 1686. We have patients that live in over half the counties of Texas that receive a variety of healthcare, including trans patients who live in each of your districts.

Some have attempted to discredit healthcare for trans youth by saying that it is a false substitute for other forms of mental health care, frequently going so far as to imply or state that people are transgender because of mental illness. These transphobic claims are contradicted by various studies that indicate gender affirmation, age appropriate healthcare, and social acceptance are major factors in alleviation of both gender dysphoria, the improvement of mental health, and other social determinants of health.

Contemporary surveys and studies indicate detransition is rare. An average of 8% of respondents to a US-wide survey of transgender people reported having de-transitioned at some point, but most did so temporarily and 62% of those that did, reported currently living full time in a gender different than the gender they were thought to be at birth. Furthermore, the reasons cited for detransition were primarily tied to lack of acceptance or barriers to receiving care, rather than regret.

The proposal of this bill, and others like it, is damaging to trans people and healthcare workers, emboldening extremists with false ideas of what medical care for trans youth is, telling them their vigilante outrage is ok and results in harm to trans people and healthcare providers, like the bomb threats called in to Boston Children's Hospital.

This bill sends a clear message to physicians and other healthcare professionals that the legislature does not trust their training, their expertise, their ability to practice medicine, use their medical decision making, or provide best practice healthcare.

This bill says that the legislature knows better than parents the right healthcare choice for their children. Taking away legally available healthcare is taking away a parent's right. Additionally, Many of the providers who treat the exempted conditions in this bill will be put in situations that are not so black and white, there will be confusion and House bill 1686 tells these providers they are not safe to practice in this state.

At Texas Health Action have lost mental health professionals, registered nurses and other healthcare support professionals to other states. I have been asked personally by physicians contemplating moving to Texas about the political climate to practice medicine.

According to DSHS Texas Primary Care office, there are 224 whole county primary care health provider shortage areas out of 254 counties and 248 whole county mental health provider shortage areas

Jana Kolb
Me...
Richmond, TX

I would like to show my support for the bill. We must protect our children. They can choose to transition later as an adult if they want. Minors are too young without fully understanding all of the ramifications that transitioning entails.

Dawn Weaks, Rev. Dr.
Self
Odessa, TX

Gender affirming healthcare should be available to minors with the guidance of their parent or guardian. It is not a threat to our children. What is a threat to our children is a risk of death by suicide if they do not receive the mental and physical health care they need due to being born with gender dysphoria. Please stop wasting time on this and instead help us make our state safer with common sense gun laws.

Evan Marshall
Self
Lucss, TX

Please pass 1686

LISA BAETZ
Self professional business analyst
Bedford, TX

Transgenderism is a mental disorder. It takes months of testing, research, and professional analysis before an adult person can get weight loss surgery, but a CHILD can get gender reassignment drugs and procedures on a whim. Children lack the mental and emotional capacity to make gender reassignment decisions. The adults who promote and encourage it are abusers.

Matthew Ticzkus
Mid-South American Association of Christian Schools
Weatherford, TX

I support his bill along with the 92% of Republican primary voters (March 2022) who supported a ban on gender modification of children. These procedures and so called "treatments" cause permanent damage to children's bodies, and we must put an end to the mutilation and sterilization of Texas children! Please support this bill!

Jennifer Horton
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Michelle Mostert
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I strongly support HB 1686.

George Ahrens
Self
Austin, TX

I support Bh1686 prohibition on gender transitioning and the use of public funds to provide those types of procedures. Please vote for this bill.

Jeffrey naseath
Self
Austin, TX

Voting pro 1686

Ann Peck
Self - Sales
Hurst, TX

I support HB1686.

No child is born in the wrong body.
The word of God says that:
the Lord formed us in our Mother's womb
that He knew us before the foundation of the world and
that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.
There are only 2 genders; one with a spout and one, without. The Lord does not make mistakes.

Sheryl Hazelwood
Self
Tyler, TX

I'm FOR HB 1686. If a child is not able to vote, drink alcohol, go to adult movies, take an aspirin at school without supervision and parental approval, etc. why would that child be able to make a health decision that will affect him/her for the rest of their 80 years. Let them wait until they are self supporting adults. Then if they want such a medical procedure they may make an informed choice. That still gives them 80% of their life to live with the decision. DON'T rush things!!! Quit using our child for lab experiments!!!

Laura Sunderlin
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686.Children are often confused about who they are, how to fit in, what they believe, and why they were brought into this world. This bill will protect them from making permanent changes to their bodies that will affect them the rest of their lives. We must protect then from the negative influences of this world

Francesca Romans
Self
Leander, TX

I write today in opposition of HB 1686. I implore the Texas House to stop targeting our LGBTQIA+ community. This bill is dangerous and serves to protect no one, especially not the children to whom it is denying critical medical care. Children receiving the care that this bill is trying to stop are under the direction of medical and psychological professionals. Their families and their doctors have determined that gender affirming care is necessary for their physical and mental well-being. If the Texas Legislature is truly going to promote parents' rights, it must include ALL parents. Gender-affirming health care for children is vital and life-saving, and this bill will cause catastrophic damage to our communities. Please allow all of our citizens to live, to exist in peace with access to the care that their physicians have deemed they need. Please stop targeting our LGBTQIA+ community.

Amanda Nunn
Self
Deer Park, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Danny Mitchell
Self
Mansfield, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686, God doesn't put people in the wrong body, if he did then he wouldn't be God…. The Harm that is being done to CHILDREN is literally child abuse. They can't by beer but they can taken gender altering drugs?!?!? Why are so many of them in California versus other parts of the nation? It's because parents and the culture there is abusing the children!

Craig Cassidy
Self
San Antonio, TX

This issue flies in the face of all that we know through biology and psychology. The state of Texas should have no part in fostering acceptance of this insane pseudoscience but should instead be protecting minors from these abominable life altering procedures.

Gracie Cantu
self
Burnet, TX

Please vote YES on SB 1686. It is always reckless to subject mentally distressed individuals to high risk low benefit medicalization. I ask that you all consider increasing funding for mental health resources to help support children and their families who face gender confusion. Please, protect ALL Texas children and vote YES on SB 1686.
Thank you

Pamela Felix
Self
Elgin, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We need to teach our children to:
--God created them in love and perfection for a purpose
--understand their unique personality
-- love themselves as they are
-- know how special and valued each individual is
--they make an positive impact in relationships, community, and the workplace.

We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Rohit Joy, Mr.
Self, CPA
Plano, TX

I support HB 1686. While, in general, parents have the prerogative to raise their children as they see fit, the state has an interest in protecting children from egregious acts that will result in permanent damage to their well-being, and even parents don't have the right to consent to these acts for them. Gender transitioning or reassignment is a permanent change that many minors come to regret when they become adults. Moreover, gender dysphoria is a psychological condition for which the most appropriate remedy is therapy, not hormones to mutilate them. The medical profession has unfortunately taken advantage of the increased prevalence of gender dysphoria in recent years to promote treatments that are lucrative for them and will ensure lifelong dependency on the medical system, and revenue to it. The best way to address this issue is for the state to declare that gender transitioning or reassignment procedures for children are not legitimate medical care, any doctors providing them will lose their licenses to practice medicine in Texas, and no insurance provider licensed by the state of Texas may pay for these procedures.

Mary Bone, Dr.
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am for HB 1686.

Dennis Meredith
Self, aviation support
Aransas Pass, TX

Yes, I support this bill.

Jana White
Self - Global Sourcing and Sales Manager
Lakeway, TX

No child is born in the wrong body!! God made us as we are and knew us before we were even in the womb. We must protect our children from the medical and NGO industries who are profiting on these procedures!!

Barbara Brown
Self retired
Mason, TX

Please vote FOR HB 1686 to ban gender modification on children in our great state. I believe it is morally wrong to make such life altering choices for children who are not mature in their understanding of this subject. Please protect the innocence of our children. Thank you

Mark Marshall
Myself
Lucss, TX

Pass 1686

Karen Khan
Houstonians
Houston, TX

Public monies or public assistance should not be used on children for procedures for gender transition /reassignment.
FOR HR 1686

Crystal McWhirter
Self/nurse
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Keith Becker
Self, Product manager
Round Rock, TX

This is my testimony in support of HB 1686:

Sadly in this time in our country, children are so confused about their identity and so hungry for an identity that they are willing to mutilate their bodies. As sound-minded adults who know the truth, we need to save them from this confusion and hunger for identity in other ways besides gender modifying procedures that permanently harms the child. Please do not allow children to have life-altering procedures to change their God-given gender. It was never meant to be changed. We need to affirm these children that they are made in the image of God and that they are meant to be their biological gender for a wonderful purpose.

Jon Hyltin
Self
College Station, TX

I am for this bill.

Derrick Wilson
Self/Texas Young Republican Federation
Cleburne, TX

Although I was unfortunately unable to attend in person today, I would like to register my support of HB 1686. There are only two sexes, sex and gender are the same thing, and those two sexes are immutable. Children, who are impressionable and who we as adults are charged to protect, should not be subjected to such barbaric practices physically nor should such practices be "normalized" in the eyes of society. This is not a left or right issue, and this is not about hating people. It is because we know the truth and love all people, especially innocent children, that we do not wish to see harm come upon them from the lie called "gender affirmation" or ensuing mutilating surgeries, dosing with puberty blockers, or cross sex hormones. The state needs to send a strong message that bringing such harm upon children is unacceptable in civil society. I urge you to pass this bill and protect children like mine from this harmful ideology and practice.

Mary Corbin
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Please pass it.

Lai Pei, Dr
self
katy, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Fanny Chandra
Individual
Austin, TX

I approve on this prohibition of using public money for procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria, etc. If this measure is not elected, I will do my best to encourage my friends and families to vote off the current officials who support this in- defeating bill

Carol Jacoby, Mrs.
Self
San Marcos, TX

X I do not support a bill that supports medical intervention for pre adolescents & teenagers seeking hormone therapy & surgeries that change genders at taxpayer expense.

Cynthia Blair
Self/Retired
Mansfield, TX

I am go HB1686. Stop using my tax dollars for transitioning children…protect children from societal ideology they are too young to understand and from its life long repercussions…

Jerrie Creeden
ORBC
Spring, TX

ReeD the Bible it explains it all. Leave childrenbe what they were born to be.

Bill Stewart
Self
Jefferson, TX

I support this bill which will help protect young people from irreversible harm. Hopefully it will prevent a child from a tragic misstep that they are not prepared for.

Sandra Noble
None
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Peggy and George Butry
Self
Killeen, TX

This is common sense bill prohibiting the permanent disfigurement and future sexual and reproductive future of children who are not mature enough to make this decision. While our children are being indoctrinated into a life style they would not otherwise choose for themselves. It's the destruction of our nation at the most destructive level through our children! Stop the madness

Thomas Buckhalt, Sales Director
Self
Austin, TX

In no way should tax dollars be used for these procedures. Why is this in our common good?

Christy Masoner
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please save ALL children from sex reassignment surgery, medications, torture and sterilization. This has no place in a child's life or wheelhouse!

Jessica Robertson
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Courtney Moreno
Self
Austin, TX

For the bill.

Hailey Mccurry
Self, Engineer
Lewisville, TX

This is absolutely monstrous bill, and clearly demonstrates how the Antichrist has infiltrated the ranks of the GOP. This IS going to increase child suicide rates, leaving their blood on your hands (but I know that's a bonus to some of you) and drive business away from Texas as no sane business would want to associate with such evil. Pass this bill, and everyone WILL regret it.

Nia Bell
Self
Manor, TX

Thanks for championing this bill. As a resident of Texas I am for this bill and against using public money to assist a child in receiving procedures for gender transitioning. Any gender procedures I believe should be reserved for those after puberty and after full brain development/analytical maturity has occurred and financed through personal funds.

Michael Prillaman
Self / Real Estate Salesperson
Taylor, TX

Dear Committee,

I wish to testify in FAVOR of HB 1686. I have heard public testimony on the damaging effects that gender modification surgeries and treatments have caused our children. Juxtaposed to this, we have certain medical professionals citing that gender modification is a financially lucrative business, and precious little evidence to go along with it showing that this facet of the medical community has any fiduciary responsibility for the procedure(s) they carry out. Given that a significant number of the patients undergoing "gender affirming care" are frivolous surgeries and therapies that are not needed; and given that our most vulnerable are often left permanently damaged from said treatments that are based on things that they cannot yet fully grasp, this general practice needs to stop, with the notable exceptions provisioned in the bill (Sec. 161.703 as proposed) . This piece of legislation was very carefully written to put a stop to financially lucrative medical procedures without regard to the general well being of the children being treated.

I respectfully ask you to please VOTE YES to pass HB 1686 favorably out the Committee on Public Health this Tuesday, March 27.

Penne Funk, Mrs.
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

You should be 21 to make that decision and pay with your own money. Why help the pharmaceutical companies make money off our children who will have to live on these medicines the rest of their lives. This is a strong NO to this bill.

Jennifer Zarate
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Please vote for this bill. Stop the child abuse by professions financially gaining from this issue they are creating. God made 2 genders and assigned them at birth. Public funds absolutely should not be used for this insanity.

Angela Barbisch
Self / legal records research dept.
Cypress, TX

Please protect our children! Put an end to the mutilation and destruction of the innocent!

Marshall Shepherd
Self
Deer Park, TX

Transition should not be allowed until the age of 18.

Marcy Gall
Self
Lake Dallas, TX

Our children need to be protected and not experiment on. Vote for this important bill. Save our children's souls and lives.

Hannah Southerland
Self, Business owner
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686. Please vote yes.

Cynthia Resendez
Self, paralegal
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

Sopiko Fogle
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686.
Thank you!

Vala Withrow, Mrs.
Self, mother
Dripping Springs, TX

Ladies and Gentlemen:
The ultimate measure of society is its treatment of its most vulnerable members. Allowing the corruption, castration, and mutilation of a child's God-given body is morally heinous and should absolutely be prohibited in a well-ordered society. Kindly recall your highest duty and protect our precious children from this dangerous fad.
Respectfully,
VW

Pauletta Bonner
Lindale Republican Club
Lindale, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.
We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. DO NO HARM!
Support HB 1686.

Chi Sexton
Self
Katy, TX

I support this bill and all prohibitions on the mutilation, castration, chemical castration, sterilization and mastectomies of young people being deceptively cast as healthcare. Affirm the gender given to you by Almighty God. This is Texas. Enough of the profit-motivated satanic abuse of our children.

Victoria G. Werner
Self
Denison, TX

I support this bill!!

Cheryle Priolo, Precinct Chair
Collin County Precinct 11
Farmersville, TX

I fully support this Bill.

Cheryle Priolo
(This may be a duplicate submission, forgive me if I have taken up your time with a repeat. I've sent this to many people today).

Angel Fierro
Mujer De Fierro
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT 1686, I am against gender mutilation of the children. Estoy contra del multinacional del niños y niñas. El comunidad, this community of Latinos y latinas are against these attacks on our children. They are children, precious and important. Created without mistake. Created with purpose and abilities often missed by society.
Society and her cultures are never consistent with reality. When I see a child that is hurting, we identify the issue and fix it. We encourage the child to be bold, to heal and grow. We do not place a limit against their growth and capabilities. Society tells a child they are too young to believe in Jesus. Yet tells them with the same mouth they can determine and give permission to a procedure that castrates them?

Many people know that within history, time and time again a period has passed. We come to a realization the horrors and injustices committed. Without knowledge we cease to understand. Science shows the drastic measures taken during these procedures, the drastic weight behind the cost of these decisions.

Children who are being robbed of a chance to live their lives. You have men and women who are trying to live Vicariously through others. Unsure of their capabilities and relying on pain to lead them. Our children deserve hope, they deserve to be surrounded by a community who teaches them that they are not their weaknesses and past mistakes. Their value does not stem from what society decides. They deserve the chance to discover who they are. To learn who the person they see in the mirror is capable of. Amazing speakers, strong fathers and mothers, kind teachers, encouraging members of our community.

Do not allow this state to support gender transition with the use of public money and public assistance. These treatments and procedures should not be billed to the people or goverment of Texas. We are not going to support the mutilation of children and allow our state to engage in these measures. Pass HB 1686

Douglas Sexton, Jr
Self
McKinney, TX

I am in full support of prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Any child under the age of 25 has not yet fully developed the cognitive ability to make such a life altering decision. It should be illegal to allow such intervention in anyone under 25, yet alone to consider a teenager, or person younger is a monstrous mistake that comes with sever consequences that we have not yet begun to understand fully. PLEASE do not allow this kind of procedures to be performed on our children. God bless all our efforts to preserve our children future.

Taylor Evans
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Stephanie Skoruppa
Self
Austin, TX

Taking away this treatment for children not only hurts those who are trans but also those who are not transgender. Taking away their care would be hurting a lot of children immediately. I oppose this bill and all others that aim to hurt trans people. Focus on other problems like gun violence and the homeless crisis.

Jeff Meynig, Dr.
Myself
Austin, TX

The Texas Legislature must take a stand and protect children from life altering surgeries. Unfortunately, children are unknowing becoming victims in a social debate.

Children, from young age to adolescence, often naturally struggle with identity. Who are they? Will they be accepted? Maybe if they had been born as the opposite sex things would be better. We have all been there. And as we progressed thru childhood, these feelings would come and go. It is truly a natural part of life.

The risk we face as a society is trying to make those decisions FOR the child, instead of helping them work thru this natural process. While parents are by far and away the best people to work thru these issues with their child, even parents can be pushed into making emotional decisions. Today, children are often influenced by many outside sources. Schools (teachers, coaches, mental health workers), peers, other parents, even pediatricians, can insert their personal biases. Children can be encouraged to explore the possibility that they may actually be trapped in the wrong body and really, they are the opposite sex. The obvious answer to a young mind is to fix the problem. Just have surgery. Go to sleep as a boy and wake up as a girl. That's a no brainer when you're a desperate young boy (or girl).

The problem is that these surgeries are nothing short of mutilation, and completely irreversible. Prospects of future natural parenting are gone forever. There is nothing natural about the final result. And the worst part of these the surgeries is that they don't fix the underlying problem that led to this decision to start with. Children, in their emotional state cannot make a good, informed decision. (Why are we even discussing this, children can't legally even consent to have their appendix removed.) And parents, unfortunately, are apt to make an emotional decision to move forward with a horrific surgery out of a desperate attempt to take the emotional pain away from their child.

Adults have a right to choose how they view their own sexuality, and how they present themselves to the world. They can choose who they want to love and what they want to do to their bodies.
If an adult chooses to have one of these surgeries, that's their choice. A child, on the other hand, should never have one of these surgeries. Gender modification surgeries are irreversible and cause irreversible damage. There is no going back to the way it was ... FOREVER. That's not health care.

The legislature must stand up and protect children and stop this practice.

Brad Buckman
self (small-business owner)
DALLAS, TX

I urge the committee to support HB 1686 to protect minors from harmful, irreversible gender modification procedures and treatments in Texas.

There is a lack of conclusive evidence that medical intervention through the use of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical procedures helps children overcome feelings of gender dysphoria or improves their mental health. [Moreover, true gender dysphoria is likely linked to underlying issues such as depression, being bullied, or being on the autism spectrum. Medical professionals should treat these other issues rather than jump to gender reassignment. Besides the more typical gender dysphoria that was rarely experienced in the past, now much of the identification with the gender not matching one's biological sex is the result of social contagion which most certainly should not be dealt with using pharmacological treatments or surgical procedures with permanent negative consequences.]

Emerging research documenting serious risks and irreversible side effects associated with medications used in sex reassignment procedures has led many European nations to revise their standards of care for treating children experiencing gender dysphoria to prohibit medical transitioning.

Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to “Do No Harm”

Please protect children by supporting HB 1686.

Kimberly Kay
Self
Allen, TX

I strongly oppose both medical and surgical interventions for treatment of gender dysphoria, including but not limited to puberty blocking agents, cross-sex hormones, and/or surgical removal of healthy organs or body parts. Additionally, I strongly oppose the use of public funds to assist in any of the above for adults or children.

Children and adolescents under 18 years of age are not legally allowed to consent to any other forms of physical alteration or mutilation and parents who mutilate their children in any other way are subject to arrest and conviction. There is no rational reason to make an exception for medical and surgical interventions that result in the likely sterilization of the child.

Under any other circumstances, a healthcare professional prescribing or administering off-label medications with the intent to stop or change a normal, healthy biological process would be subject to criminal charges, civil malpractice claims and disciplinary actions from their licensing body. The same should apply to the treatment of sex/gender confusion in children.

Beltran Tanya
Self Independent Consultant
League City, TX

Please move this forward.

Sarah Berel-Harrop
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Farmers Branch, TX

I am the intern minister of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry, which serves over 40 member congregations in Texas. I am also a seminarian with a call to chaplaincy and a religious educator within my movement. I am vehemently opposed to this bill.

My religion views all genders as whole and holy, with full participation and full humanity accorded to LGBTQ people generally and trans people specifically. I believe trans people are as much an expression of divine creativity as any other person. I have a personal mentor who is non-binary and many colleagues who are trans. One of my colleagues is an intersex man who was subjected to an involuntary surgery as a child, which incidentally would be allowed by this bill.

As a religious educator and a chaplain within UU spaces, I work with many families which include youth who are gender expansive - some gender fluid, some who are trans. These are kids who are exploring their identity and their meaning in life. Gender identity is but one part of their identity. Some families seek medical care, which typically involves an interdisciplinary team which includes therapists, doctors, psychiatrists and social workers. The families and teams take the exploration of gender and medical options slowly and very seriously. They deserve both the privacy to be able to do this exploration without the intervention of the heavy hand of the state as well as the ability to have the full range of treatment options.

There seems to be a presupposition that there is something wrong with trans people underlying this bill, no matter how it is cloaked in a veneer of concern: the fact that it is but one of over 100 anti-LGBT bills. The fact that the bill decries so-called "genital mutilation" due to an "inability to consent" but exempts cosmetic surgeries on intersex infants in order to make them look physically like one gender or another. The insistence on a standard of certainty far higher than other medical situations.

This past Sunday, I preached on the story of Jacob from the Hebrew Bible. He wrestled with a stranger all night, finally experiencing a change in his heart which allowed him to see the face of God in his estranged brother. As I watch the testimony, I urge representatives to seriously grapple with the possibility that you might be wrong. I urge you to seek the face of God in trans people. I urge you to simply leave them alone.

Karen McNeill
Myself
Cedar Hill, TX

I am FOR this bill

Rita McCarty
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

FOR
PLEASE STOP chopping on children’s bodies!
Just stop it!!

Catherine Stutler
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Ryan McCarty, Esq.
Self Attorney
Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Government policy is easy. If you want more of something, then subsidize it. If you want less of something, then tax it. Here, the bill would prohibit subsidies for transgender surgeries, which means the State will see fewer people unnecessarily mutilating their own bodies and the bodies of minors. Nobody should be a lifelong slave to Big Pharma.

Ellen Prasse, Mrs.
Texas resident
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Brek Lancaster
Self / Professional musician and instructor
Grapevine, TX

We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

Edmund Grillo
self - owner
Cypress, TX

I support this bill and please get it passed.

Pediatric gender mutilation and administration of chemical castration drugs is CHILD ABUSE and must stop!!

Cory Mullins, Pastor
Rockett Baptist Church
Palmer, TX

"I support HB1686".

Alexander Kenis
self
Lakeway, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill. Please pass immediately. Our children are being irreparably harmed,

David Treibs
self
Fredericksburg, TX

Butchering children, whether the unborn via abortion, or the born, via surgical/chemical castration and mutilation, is absolutely abominable.
We cannot tolerate this execrable behavior, but must stomp it out.
Those who profit from it are despicable beyond words. Them and their money both perish.

MaryBeth Kenis
self, Entrepreneur
Lakeway, TX

I am in FAVOR and FOR this HB 1686 bill. I have personally seen the damage of trans in our family. These mutilating surgeries and hormones are destroying a whole generation of children.

Krista Schild, Mrs
Self
Royse City, TX

ALL Gender modification/mutilation should be banned! Allow the children to grow to full maturity in every way, without provocation or interference!

Julie Lawrence
Myself
Grapevine, TX

Minors under the age of 18 can't get their ears pierced without parental consent. Adults under the age of 21 can't buy alcohol. But, impressionable children who express questioning of their gender should be affirmed in that choice at any age? as young as 3? Please protect our children and support HB1686.

Diana Gee
Republican
Cypress, TX

I am a Christian and will not allow changing the image of God, therefore, we need to prohibit these sexual change procedures on children to keep the image of God as in the book of Genesis. Children have no idea that these procedures are irrevisible and can be damaging to the internal organs.

Melissa Grogan
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. The passing of this bill will lead to mortality among children, adolescents, and adults who identify as transgender, queen, or gay. It is based on religious belief and therefore has no place in legislation. I am a mental health worker and know the deep impact this will have on Texas citizens. I thoroughly reject this bill.

Ivanna English, Mrx.
Self
Austin, TX

My legal name is Ivanna English but you can refer to me as Iví and I use they/themme pronouns. I stand before you today as a trans, gender non conforming person. Although I have made the CHOICE to not use—but have had the OPPORTUNITY to CONSIDER—hormone therapy, I stand before you today to uplift my trans kin who view gender affirming care as medically necessary and life saving.

I have spent the last year and 5 months providing sexual health care for the community, and center black and brown trans and queer people in my work. I have seen first-hand the benefits of the life-saving care that this bill threatens to ban, and I find appalling the proposed limitations of access to care options, which will disproportionately affect black and brown adults, adolescents, and children.

Those who proposed the bill, as evidenced in today's testimonies, still have a difficult time conceptualizing the trans identity, yet purport to know better than the medical community and 30 years of positive findings. Attempting to govern and ban medicine on a topic you don't understand is delusional and misguided.

By supporting these bills, you threaten to end the lives of the youth you supposedly vow to protect. This is not an issue of protecting youth but instead is discrimination against ALL trans people. If youth is your concern, ban guns—which have done more damage to Texas families than hormone therapy—, pass bills to give money to young mothers to privide for their children, and give children the voice and FREEDOM to tell US who they are. When children tell us they're hungry, or hurt do we not believe them? What is the difference if they're trans?

Trans children deserve the right to sleep peacefully, instead of wondering if they will ever see their friends again because of the need to flee Texas for their lives. A Trans child's biggest worry should be about this year's Halloween costume, and not the opinions of the people in this room who claim to know their bodies better than they do.

Insurance companies already pose a barrier to care and adding a ban to coverage will be more blood on your hands. Everyone deserves the right to healthcare that will affirm their gender, AND everyone has a gender that deserves to be respected, valued, and achieved by the means of THEIR CHOICE, with THEIR supporters, and with THEIR healthcare providers.

Trans and gender non conforming people have been here long before Texas, long before America, and they will continue to be here long thereafter. VOTE AGAINST HB 1686.

Michael Brink
Self
Lago vista, TX

I don't believe that children under the age of 18 should not be able to transition their gender.

Shelly Neal
Self, Speech Language Pathologist
Oglesby, TX

Anyone who supports this is evil

Leslie Bailey-Smith
Self
Smithville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Trans youth deserve gender-affirming care and the ability to make healthcare related decisions with their family and medical providers. This bill is putting the lives of trans youth at risk and goes against the guidelines of every major medical association. It also helps fuel fear and discrimination towards trans individuals who are simply trying to live their lives. Trans individuals are valuable members of our society, and trans youth and their families should have equal access to healthcare. They deserve dignity, respect, and privacy when making healthcare decisions. I strongly urge you to say no to this bill.

Kathleen Slaydon
Self law
Spring, TX

I support this bill.

Devin Coryell
Self, Self Employed
Kerrville, TX

I support this bill. Mutilating children in the name of treating "Gender Dysphoria", "Gender Transitioning", and "Gender Reassignment" is child abuse.

Jeff Brantley
Self
Austin, TX

There is no reason to allow the modification of childrens bodies prior to the legal age when they can make a better decision about what is right. Counselors and peers are manipulating these kids and hoodwinking the parents who are responsible for the kids! Vote yes! Support protecting kids.

Tara Schulte, Executive Director of CCDF-USA/Collin County
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am FOR HB 1686

Judy Hill
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Lee Jacobsen
Self
Tye, TX

I fully support this bill. Our children need our protection not our abuse. After the child has reached legal age then they can make this choice not before. Children have no idea who they are as a person at young ages.

Deborah Garcia
#donoharm
Highland Village TX 75077, TX

For

Paul Hale, Mr
"Self" Retired
Queen City, TX

I am for this bill. I thank Public Health Committee Chair Stephanie Klick for hearing this bill, Representative Oliverson for authoring it. I am praying for the passage of this bill to protect the kids of Texas and help restore the standing of Texas with God as He watches. My prayers are for this committee and the legislature while this bill and legislative session continues.
Thank you,
Paul Hale

Diane Watson
NCRW
Nacogdoches, TX

HB1686 I totally support this bill

Elaine Davis
Self
Garland, TX

Please support HB 1686.

No child is born in the wrong body. This medicalization of minor children must be prohibited! The healthcare establishment must do no harm and let them grow. As minors mature, they will change their mind many times. However, given time, the vast majority grow out of their emotional anxieties. We need to let them learn to process their feelings until adulthood.

Sincerely,
Elaine Davis

Paula Ford
Self
Prosper, TX

I support HB 1686. Mutilating children is always wrong and should be against the law. I DO NOT want my tax dollars paying for it. Doctors that preform mutilation surgery on children should lose their license and go to jail.

D.S. Zamora
Self
Houston, TX

Don’t pass this bill.

It will just turn into yet another Federal lawsuit for which taxpayer me has to pay incompetent attorneys hired by an incompetent, immoral attorney general.

The people that have testified for this bill today are people who are not experts in endocrinology, psychology, or psychiatry. Many likely do not know that human bodies produce both androgens and estrogens **if** everything works the way that’s been defined as correct.

Oliverson needs to work on his priorities instead of trying to make everyone practice his religion of choice. He also should be kept away from minors.

Ruthanne Bloyd
Self
Cypress, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL.

Elaine Chrisman
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

David Knight, FNP-C
Self
Wimberley, TX

Good evening,
My comment is in support of this bill. I don't know how people have been convinced they can change genders, but we cannot. DNA is DNA. The human genome project was completed many years ago. With that stated, surgical alteration and a lifetime of hormone manipulation will cause more harm to boys and girls already struggling. Post-op suicide rates are many times higher than the rest of the population. At the very least, delay until adulthood. Give them time to grow and mature before agreeing to such drastic and irreversible procedures. Public funds shouldn't be involved at all. How that is being discussed , as an option, is a good example of how our medical system has gotten so expensive. I hope this message finds reasonable hearts and minds.
Thank you.

Carrie Gnatzy
self
Spring, TX

Minors are NOT mature enough to understand the ramifications, or the mental changes of this decision . Parents are encouraging this “change” with the excuse of “we’re letting them chose their gender.”
They would not be questioning their own gender as a child without the parents suggestion . Kids 0-18 , are not fully developed mentally & physically . They are teaching kids , you were made with a default . You are not right in how you were designed by the creator .

Kerri Gerrie
Self
Austin, TX

Public funding needs to be directed to critical matters for the public’s well being and betterment - not used for individual, personal matters.

Joanne Pontius, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill to prevent my tax money from paying for children to be mutated.

Isabel Ray
Self; communications
Austin, TX

One of our Texas values is the importance of family. When the going gets tough, Texas families band together. We offer help—we don’t withhold it.

HB1686 would prevent families and communities from taking care of their children. All children deserve equal access to healthcare: to quote Rep. Oliverson, “like everyone else.” Trans Texans deserve healthcare, like everyone else.

Please let kids get the care they need to grow up in Texas. Vote no on HB1686. Thank you.

Trent Ilkenhans
Self
Leander, TX

For the bill

Keith Metcalf
self
Longview, TX

I would like to ask all members of the Texas house to support and vote for this bill, your help in this manner is appreciated.

Neil Glenn, mr
self
Rowlett, TX

Telling vulnerable and possibly mentally adrift children they 'should be the opposite gender' is ghastly cruel! Children are in mental development and are easily convinced of falsehoods if enough 'swear' to it's truth! Encouraging children to claim and act as the opposite sex further confuses them. This is a MENTAL situation, NOT requiring extensive and expensive surgery to 'convert' a child into the opposite sex, destroying any chance of rectification, should the now adult realize the error, and their views have now become more that of their original 'born' physical being! This interference smacks of that of some African and other cultures, where the female sex organ for pleasure is cut and removed! UTTER BARBARITY, BOTH SITUATIONS!

Sandra Crocker
Precinct 3022
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill to protect children from genital mutilation.

Heather Kennedy
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

HB 1686 is cruel and against widely accepted medical standards. Children will die because of it. Families will choose to leave Texas for states that are more kind. I already personally know at least one family that moved to Colorado after AG Paxton decided that gender-affirming care was child abuse. Companies will stop moving to Texas, because their employees, clients, and customers will apply pressure to avoid being forced to deal with all of this. Sporting events, concerts, and other special events will bypass Texas for states that don't get between a child, their parents, and the doctors who know them best. The Texas Legislature has NO business being involved in the treatment of transgender children. You especially don't have the expertise to pass laws that go against the standards of care established by the medical community. This is WRONG.

Nadelle Williams
Self retired
Big Spring, TX

I’m so against children being transformed from boy to girl or girl to boy. And even worse is parents going along with it. We are in the end times. Our Father is going to say, Son go and bring my children home. Hallelujah!! Praise God! Praise God!

Linda Johnson
Do No Harm
Grand Prairie, TX

I am totally for this bill. We do NOT need to be allowing gender changing procedures on children.

Meredith Vorderbruggen
Self
Allen, TX

FOR THE BILL! Children should not have access to these treatments. This kind of alteration before their brain is developed will destroy their lives. In order to have an operation like this the brain and body need to be fully developed first and on the dollar of the individual having it done and no one else’s.

Fabiana Simoes
Steiner Ranch Resident
Austin, TX

No children has the right discernment to make a decision like this.

Maria Zarb-cousin
Bexar County Election Integrity
San Antonio, TX

We must protect our children when they are young and venerable. No child is born in the wrong body.
The message is that they were a mistake if we support the treatments that are causing more harm physically and emotionally.
These children our the future leaders, mothers and fathers.

Rose Farrar
Self
Houston, TX

I am here as a Christian and a Texan to appeal to whatever decency and human compassion you can muster. I urge you to vote against HB 1686. This legislation is hateful. You have been able to sit here and hear from scores of constituents, children and parents that would be directly effected by this legislation urging you to vote against it. There have been doctors who have more eloquently expressed the mental health value of allowing children to use age appropriate gender affirming care.

Once again the legislature has deemed that government should interject itself into the privacy of patient care and assert the inexpert medical opinion of the state assembly rather than a child's own doctor. Indeed any doctor with a dissenting medical opinion would be stripped of their right to practice in the state of Texas.

Why do personal and parental rights always end when trans people come up? Why is can we care about personal freedom until parents want to be free to love their children and support them with their medical care team?

This bill clearly advertises Texas as a political and ideological back water. A place where business should not seek to establish new headquarters. Talent and economic opportunity will look away from Texas and young Texans will seek to move away to states that actually value children and families.

As a Christian I am praying that the spirit moves within you to a way of compassion and love of your neighbor. I pray that your heart and vote are turned to against HB1868.

On election day you will answer to us your constituents but, on the day of judgement you will answer for every child you have harmed.

John Campbell, SSG
Self
PRINCETON, TX

This alteration of our childern must stop immediately. It's like you can take a button off your child shirt and then put it back on your child shirt she would be very happy; however, if you multiate a child body part she will never be able to be the same again.

My fellow Legislators, I believe you do not want this on your conscious for the rest of your life. That what the multiate child would have to face. This is a life changing event could be detrimental to the child life, health and well being even into adult hood.

There is no turning back!! The damage is done!!! This is no more than grooming these childern for Adult Predator to Prey On. God help you Legislator to make the right laws to protect these childern.

By the way your precious child could be next one to be groomed. Sign the bill and stop this now before another child is dead or brutally harm.

WE THE PEOPLE HAVE MADE UP OUR MINDS THAT WE WILL FIGHT FOR THE CHILDERN!!!! By our voice, our commitees, our towns, our cities, our county, our districts, our our states, but the most important way we will protect our children is with our votes. Now it's up to you!!!

Monica Cline
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR HB 1686 as it protects minors from life threatening and irreversible life altering genital mutilation. In addition, Texas residents hard earned tax dollars should not be used to destroy the bodies and alter the lives of vulnerable children who may struggle with gender dysphoria. As Texans we should come alongside these vulnerable children and support them and their families in participating in talk therapy which has shown to calm the children's mental struggles as they develop appropriately through puberty. Case studies show that majority of the children who are supported in their biological sex, and receive emotional support have overcome the symptoms of gender dysphoria. In order to protect these vulnerable children we need to pass HB 1686 to ensure that adults cannot inflict irreversible harm to our young Texans who deserve the right to grown healthy lives and develop through puberty uninterrupted by chemical or surgical procedures that destroy their sex organs, future fertility and mental health.

Thank you,
Monica Cline

Danice Karagiannis
Self
Cypress, TX

Life altering procedures at a young age should not be allowed.

S Stretesky
Self; medical sales
Dallas, TX

I am for this bill. Children deserve a chance to mature as God intended, and make adult decisions when an adult (21yo). Adult decisions should be self-pay. I am in favor of this bill. Please protect our children!!

Lynae Peays
Self
West Lake Hills, TX

FOR

Paul Landreth, Drilling supervisor
Self
Rule, TX

I support HB 1686 !!!

Scott Rowe
Self
Cedar Park, TX

"All human beings—male and female—are created in the image of God. Each is a beloved spirit son or daughter of heavenly parents, and, as such, each has a divine nature and destiny. Gender is an essential characteristic of individual...mortal, and eternal identity and purpose...The first commandment that God gave to Adam and Eve pertained to their potential for parenthood as husband and wife...Husband and wife have a solemn responsibility to love and care for each other and for their children. 'Children are an heritage of the Lord' (Psalm 127:3). Parents have a sacred duty to rear their children in love and righteousness, to provide for their physical and spiritual needs, and to teach them to love and serve one another, observe the commandments of God, and be law-abiding citizens wherever they live. Husbands and wives—mothers and fathers—will be held accountable before God for the discharge of these obligations....We call upon responsible citizens and officers of government everywhere to promote those measures designed to maintain and strengthen the family as the fundamental unit of society."

I wholeheartedly oppose any law that permits parents to change or destroy what God has created and warn our society is in terrible danger if we continue down that path. These types of permanent decisions are unholy but, at a minimum, should be made after careful thought and study long after brains are fully formed and when individuals are mature and capable to distinguish fantasy from reality. Our children are incapable of telling parents who they are. In fact, the role of a parent is to teach a child who they are. Failure to do so is neglect and possibly abuse. Further, there have been no reliable long term studies that validate less mental illness or suicide prevention as a result of genital mutilation or hormone blockers. This cultural phenomena needs years more of study and learning instead of bending to the impetuous whims of confused children and activist parents. Protect our children and preserve our families or our society will be irreparably destroyed. We have been warned.

Brandon Isaacson
Fairfield
Cypress, TX

This is not acceptable!

Nancy Crowder
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Thomas Vignola
Self
San Antonio, TX

This should not be allowed to be done to children. Lifetime consequences, unknown longterm results, for a condition most grow out of.

Jana Long
Concerned Women of America
Dallas, TX

I am speaking in favor of HB 1686. As I watched testimony on Senate Bill 14 on this same issue, I was so overwhelmed with compassion and sadness for those testifying about depression and mutilated bodies caused by efforts to “detransition” to their original bodies. How can a doctor who takes an oath to “do no harm” think he or she is “doing no harm” on a minor - a child? Parents are being misinformed by an activist medical community. Rather than educating parents about gender dysphoria, parents are presented with a binary choice: transition your child or face a high risk of suicide. Any child experiencing suicide ideation needs compassionate and effective psychological treatment. Prescribing potent drugs that put a child on a path to sterilization is not the solution. Children and youth are not capable of informed consent We were all teens at one time; we know this! We really did NOT have all the answers, as we naively thought. It is not possible for children and youth to understand, let alone give informed consent about the harms and permanence of treatments causing sterilization, impairment of sexual function, loss of bone density, increased cancer risk, changes to their physical appearance, as well as their physiological and potential mental well-being. This was quite obvious in those who experienced many of these horrors after going through radical treatments as a result of “gender-affirming care”. Let’s stop the harm being done to these children. Please pass this legislation to protect children. I ask for your support today for HB1686.

Kim Guthrie, NA
Represent myself
Elgin, TX

I support this bill. We must protect our children. Do no harm

Cyndi Darland
Collin Conservatives United Exec Director
Princeton, TX

Just today, a Transgender went in and shot up a school.
The harm this ability to convince young people to mutilate their bodies in irreversible ways is a horror they have to live with forever!!!!
We must stop this insanity! Please!

Maria Cappleman
Texas Republican
Cypress, TX

Children should be considered adults for such decisions for gender transitioning, etc. The use of public money to provide those procedures and treatments should not be allowed period! This is a personal decision.

RICHARD Baria Jr
SELF/Land Rezoning Advisor
Denton, TX

Nearly ALL of these sexual self-doubts disappear in time. Most of us give up non-real, non-survival cogitation fairly soon in life; the tran-sexuals just hang on to fantasy way past a healthy norm. I once told my father, while we were on the roof replacing shingles that I was going to jump off the garage and fly away with a pair of cardboard wings.

He said, “Go ahead. You might learn a lesson like I did”. "What do you mean? “, I asked. "Well, I jumped off a barn with an umbrella for a parachute." "What happened?" "I couldn't get up for a while; couldn't even breathe, and I was real sore for about a week."
"So", he said; "Give it a try if you want, but wings big enough to lift you...are a lot bigger than you can lift!" I thought it over for a few moments and backed away from that fantasy; my father was a pilot and he knew about wings.

Had I followed my impulse at ten years old, very likely no lasting damage would have occurred. Not so with the alteration of the body. When sexual organs are removed and/or modified. The rehab is worse than grueling and often with the outcome that sensation is lost completely or greatly diminished. No joy in that. Infection can mean that the genitalia are lost to necrosis. Even the puberty blockers cause permanent and irreversible damage. Imagine the eventual self-loathing.

To allow someone to encourage self-destruction in the guise of professional counseling is the very definition of retrograde behavior. The surgery is the equivalent of deliberate maiming and demonstrates the utter corruption of the traditional oath to do no harm. The juvenile brain is not developed or stable enough to weigh the grave and permanent consequences, so the state has a duty to prevent the exploitation of their temporary gender dysphoria. The gender interventionists show a predatory mindset and have demonstrated an eager willingness to gain even as they place tragic burdens on others.

The State has a duty to protect health and foster uplifting behaviors, and it is affected by the well being of the citizenry. Unhappy people are rarely productive and the common consequence of sexual reassignment surgery is eventual misery. The incidence of suicide is very high in the post-op cohort. Surely that is a loss that goes well past the family and community to affect even the state. This absolute elevation of mammon by some practitioners in the relevant licensed guilds rejects the original and foundational motives for the creation of the agencies. Read their empowering Charter Legislation!

Finally, remember the propensity of special interest to come forward to plead their case. The typical citizen must rely on your common sense and Representation so that he can go about his everyday business.

In summary, I believe gender reassignment is evil; paying for it with public funds is obscene.

Katherine Godsey
self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Joyce Owens, Mrs.
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686

Adriane Myers
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I am in support of this bill. Children need love and empathy and guidance from their communities. If they are having emotional or psychological problems, prescribing hormone altering pharma cocktails or surgical mutilation is perhaps the worst way to walk with them through their troubles. Things like play therapy, CBT, DBT, skills training, nature schools and wilderness programs, even simple meditation techniques are all much more kind, harmless, useful, long lasting, and effective ways of helping children who are expressing a need for help with big feelings and emotions. Please let the children have their natural, sacred childhood. Do not mutilate them, poison them, or permanently alter their biology under the guise of 'helping'. Everyone has free will. The question is if the adults of this state will act in a degenerate way towards the youngest members of society, and consequently, their souls will pay the price. Or will they see the evolutionary path and use discernment and treat the children as they themselves would choose to be treated. Think about it. Take your time and really think about it. Thank you.

Chloe Vieth
Self -Senioe Animal Technician
Dallas, TX

My name is Chloe,I'm from Dallas and drove to you at 3 am to testify against HB1686 because like all Texans I'm all about personal freedom. To that end, I'm here today to state basic facts regarding trans youth. The APA's Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools gathered decades of data that came to the conclusion that transgender youth, like transgender adults, are valid, have existed throughout history and that transness itself is not a mental disorder but rather a valid medical condition. They also found that social stigma causes harm and therapy aimed at suppressing transness is medically invalid.

Numerous other organizations find the same and they constantly question their findings. They question it to the point that Cornell University has released a meta-analysis on over 55 studies. You know what they found? 51/55 studies found that trans healthcare has a positive influence. 0 of the studies that span across numerous decades since 1991 showed that transcare is actually negative or harmful harmful in any sense. They question the facts as much as they can and time and time again, it supports trans people.

There's also numerous long studies, contrary to other claims, following trans youth, sometimes into adulthood and they found that whether it's social transition or full healthcare that trans youth see marked improvements in their mental health and quality of life. This pushed idea that full and permanent detransition is rampant is, frankly speaking, a false myth. And one not borne out by good faith framing of the data.

Additionally, according to all available polling, American voters by and large don't support anti-trans legislation. They want legislation on actual issues.

So, I have to pose a question to the representatives here that are currently for HB1686. Why are you against healthcare for trans youth? All reputable organizations are listened to by all of you without question on every medical issue except for the ones which have become unnecessarily politicized. It's true that the science constantly evolves but it has also consistently supported the validity of trans people and their healthcare.

Why are you getting between your constituents and their doctors who are trying to provide their trans patients the medically necessary healthcare they need in a safe manner with best adjusted practices. Most patients in this state get the personal freedom they deserve for their medical privacy and access to care. I strongly urge you to do the same for trans youth. Voting to restrict will only harm these innocent children as all data shows.

Oh, by the way Reggie Smith, because you claimed the Texas Medical Association doesn't have a stance, I wanted you to know that they do. As recent as last year they filed a friend of the court brief in Doe v Abbott that stated the medical necessity of gender affirming care and opposed the criminalization of it.
I can back-up everything here.

Alexandra Schilling
Self - Mom and Candidate for school board
Garwood, TX

I support this bill.

Ashley Mitchell
self (Firefighter/Paramedic)
Plano, TX

Good morning,

My name is Ashley Mitchell. I came all the way from Dallas last night to speak to you today. I moved back to Texas after 20 years of absence, well, because I've always been a life long Texan. Proud to be fifth generation. This proposed legislation is not in the best interest of children or their families. What this represents is an all-out attack on the transgender population of this state. None of the reasons stated by the opposition are backed by well conducted peer-reviewed science, however they back up their bill with religion. This has no place in our government. Trans people are people too. I am here for trans families and trans children. Trans values are family values.

None of the sponsors of this bill are qualified to diagnose or treat gender issues. I'm a nationally registered paramedic and certified firefighter. If you break your arm I can take care of you, but I would never think of diagnosing cancer. This is no different. What I have experienced firsthand, as a first responder, are suicides. I'll never forget the time I ran a call involving a transgender adolescent who had hung themselves in their bathroom from bullying, dysphoria, and lack of community support. Have you ever heard the guttural cry of a mother who's lost her child? I have, and it still haunts my dreams. No family should ever have to experience that.

An attempt to limit gender affirming care for our transgender youths will do nothing to save their lives. Leave medical decisions to doctors and families. What kind of small government do the supporters of this bill believe in? This is a flat-out attack against transgender people. We will not be silenced, nor eradicated. I moved back to Texas to better my community, serve people, and to help take care of an aging family. This is not the Texas I grew up in. If this bill passes, I will most likely have to leave the state I love again. I implore you, think about who you're affecting. Texas was founded on freedom, and now this body stands to threaten its' very existence. Gender affirming care saves lives. I should know, it saved mine.

Mark Holtzapple, Dr.
self
College Station, TX

Every caring person feels empathy for a child with gender dysphoria who believes they are trapped in the wrong body. In an attempt to ease their pain, society has recently made it increasingly acceptable for them to transition to the opposite sex, even to the point where there is little counseling prior to medical intervention. As a result, many young people feel the transition was "pushed" on them as a solution to their problems. Later, they determine that the transition did not solve their problem, and then de-transition. For the rest of their lives, they must endure the consequences of their decision to transition.

Young brains are fluid. In particular, teenagers are subject to social pressures, and may decide to transition because it is a popular "social contagion." Medical intervention is a serious step with long-term consequences.

A good "middle ground" is to allow a confused child to "socially transition" where they dress and act like the opposite sex. When they they reach adulthood at 18, they can decide if they wish to make the transition permanent through medical intervention.

This proposed legislation erects a barrier to medically transitioning children, and thereby provides some push-back to prevent a rash medical intervention during childhood. If this legislation is passed, a child with gender dysphoria has the following options:

– seek psychological counseling
– socially transition
– seek medical intervention in another state or country that does not limit medical intervention
– wait until adulthood to medically transition

In my opinion, the proposed legislation is a prudent way to help these unfortunate children deal with their gender dysphoria.

Amy Reneau
Self
Conroe, TX

FOR

Kenny Reneau
Self
Conroe, TX

FOR

Christina Morgan
Self
Cypress, TX

Children with mental disorders otherwise known as gender dysphoria etc should not be granted access to medical procedures as their frontal lobe is not developed enough to make such life altering decisions considered permanent medical treatments via drugs or surgery. Protect the children. When they are adults, they can make such decisions. Many times, adults in the childs life will promote such permanent decisions for their own reasons that are not in the best interest of the child who may feel encouraged or even pressured by the adults in their life. Sometimes, these children will not feel the same as an adult without the duress of others. Under no circumstances should funds from the taxpayers be used to perpetuate or assist in the mental disorder known as dysphoria.

Teresa Bailey Weirich
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments on or for minor children is tantamount to an egregious form of child endangerment, child militating and abuse and child exploitation. Children should be able to physically and emotionally grow and mature in their natural biological forms. If and when, at the age of consent, an individual who wishes to consider and or pursue procedures and treatments related to their gender may do so. Please protect our children.

Francesca Poston
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Children should not be interfered with, brainwashed, pressured, drugged or operated on- to pretend they are a different sex than what they are. The drugs are destructive and dangerous, the surgeries horrific and brutal, leaving people unable to procreate or lead normal lives. Added to this, children are incapable of making serious decisions- they cannot drive, drink, live on their own, write a check, pay a bill, drive, join the Military- they are CHILDREN, and must be protected and allowed to grow up, unfettered.

Daniel Allen
Self / minister
Boerne, TX

We are FOR this bill - adults should protect children. In particular, parents have responsibility to love/care for their kids, not government entities

Cindy Crowsey, Self
AmeriCorps Member @ Imagine Art Peer Support
Austin, TX

I am for this bill

Linda Ward
Self/ Culinary Arts Management
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686

Erika Hatfield
Self
Heath, TX

This is child abuse

Stephan Galland
Self
Burleson, TX

I believe as a citizen of Texas we must stop the ridiculous practice of allowing children to reassign their sex. The brain is not fully developed until approximately age 25.

As a society we do not allow our children to vote or use alcohol until they have reached a certain age. Sexual reassignment procedures should be restricted to someone who has reached the age of 21 and received many years of counseling.

Charles Lampe, Mr.
Self
Comfort, TX

It is wrong to allow this
In my opinion, parents who allow this to be done to their child, should be prosecuted.

Samantha Smith
Retired
Van, TX

Continued SUPPORT FOR HB 1686

Gregory C Porter
Self and Texas for Liberty
Austin, TX

Members of the committee,

I am speaking for HB 1686. The research that I have conducted shows that between 65-90% of children who question their gender prior to the age of 18 revert back to their original gender by the time they are 18. This issue is of the most extreme importance. Have you spoken to a teenager lately? What about a 6, 7, or 8 year old? Teenagers and children are highly insecure and vulnerable to concepts which they cannot and whose brains are not capable of understanding. This simple fact of nature should lead us to protect them from any procedures hormone therapy or otherwise until they are 18 and candidly we ought to consider that a human brain is not fully formed until the age of 25, which would be a wise age to set to allow physical mutations of the body that are inspired by confusion of identity.

I urge you to please pass HB 1686, This is not about discrimination, we can love all unconditionally and recognize the incredible hipocrosy of the phrase 'protect trans kids,' because to protect these children, we need to have clear laws that prevent them from making horrible, pre-mature, and permanent damage to their mental stability and their physical bodies, that the overwhelming majority may come to regret.

Thank you, gp

kim worley
self
Arlington, TX

Vote yes for HB 1686. Protect innocent vulnerable children from predators and groomers. They can’t buy cigarettes or alcohol until age 21, they shouldn’t be able to make life altering sex changes before then either. And the fact that tax payer public money is even being considered to fund this is ridiculous, that is taxation without representation.

Melissa Wingate
Self; self employed
Cedar Park, TX

The magnitude of the long term implications of these medical interventions makes them complexly unsuitable for the minor patient. It is unethical to pursue an unalterable course for a minor when one cannot, with full certainty, know what their adult reasoning might choose. The medical community must provide the utmost care for children by properly stewarding the power that these interventions possess.

Jessica Fink
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Amy Woodward
Self - mom
Saginaw, TX

All in favor

Michael McDougall, Mr
Self
Lilltle Elm, TX

The radical left has always said it takes a village to raise a child, but now they want to silence us when we speak out about the abominations being perpetrated on children. Minors should not be subjected to gender ideology, or chemically or medically mutilated. Marxist gender ideologies are a danger to both individuals and society as a whole. Anybody pushing this on children are groomers, and they should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law! Public money should not be used for any of this. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and should be treated as such.

Sindi Folkers
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686".

Ricardo Molina
self
Katy, TX

This should not be allowed until at least 18 or maybe even 21. we say they are too young to drink at 18 how could we allow this at any age before 18 or even 21

Joseph Davis, Pastor
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Judah Davis
The Followers of Jesus Christ
Abilene, TX

Any kind of public money or assistance should never be given to anyone that wants to butcher themselves or their children in order to pander to a mental disorder like gender dysphoria. Especially children! Who in their right mind would think that a child should ever be allowed to have gender transition surgery. Here’s some food for thought, Jesus Christ said,’it would be better to have a millstone tied around your neck and be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to fall into sin’. Protect our children, don’t be a coward!

Cindy Sastle spoonts
Self - billing
Austin, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Twyla Pace
Self - retired
Abilene, TX

I do not support in any form or fashion gender mutilation on children!

Susan Ritter
Self
Belton, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Taxpayers do not want to pay for gender treatments of any sort.

Ricky Roberts
Gregg County Republicans Pct. 1
Longview, TX

I support legislation to prohibit pediatric gender modification. It is outrageous that professional people should even consider such a thing and anyone performing such an act should face the most severe criminal prosecution.

Melissa Morn
Self
Georgetown, TX

My 5 year old little guy keeps identifying as a pirate. I'm so torn, should I take him in and have his eye removed so he has a patch? I'm also considering having his hand and leg removed (only at the knee though) to be replaced with a peg and a hook. What does the TX legislature think about this? I just want my little guy to be happy.

My son doesn't really want to be a pirate, but it's absolutely no different and I'm afraid what would happen if he told the wrong person that he did.

Please put measures in place to protect children from 1) being pressured by adults they trust and 2) make decisions that they most likely will regret when they're older. They have a lifetime to explore their sexuality and preference and to decide who they want to be or who they are. The question of "what do I want to be when I grow up?" Changed yearly, cause I was a child and made decisions based on the way the wind was blowing that day.

Children just don't know what they want. They just want to belong and they'll do what they can to fit in, and the pool of trusting adults nowadays, one's who act based on common sense and not irrational emotions, is getting smaller and smaller. Something has to be done. Our kids are being attacked from every direction. Let's let kids be kids and they can decide to switch genders when they can fully understand the consequences.

Thank you,

Melissa Moen.

Sandra Wilkins, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

SUPPORT THIS BILL

JJ Roomsburg
Self
Melissa, TX

I support HB 1686.

Brenda Beck
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Leola Anifowoshe, Dr.
CEO
Spring, TX

I support this bill

Beverly Sanborn
Myself
BURLESON, TX

Please never allow tax dollar to be used to sexually alter any child under the age of 18.

Sarah Molloy
Self / engineer
Austin, TX

Men cannot have a baby. Women can be defined. Gender is not a feeling.
Please support HB 1686

Russell Faulk
Self- Chief Financial Officer
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Marcus Martinez
EmJae Ross
Cedar Creek, TX

Children have an identity as their born gender and no human should be able to alter that let alone themselves until they've had proper spiritual guidance and their kind is fully developed at the age of 25.

Thomas Oder
Self / Retired
Burleson, TX

I support this bill

Joyce Moore
self photographer
Magnolia, TX

I support HB 1686

Elizabeth Ellis, Mrs
Self
Llano, TX

I support this bill and request the committee to pass this legislation.
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Charlotte Powell
Self
Needville, TX

I support this bill!

Michael Mosley
Dream
Garden ridge, TX

I am for this bill HB1686. Thank you

Shira Zippe
Self
Georgetown, TX

God created 2 genders male and female. Society is trying to tell us there's something different. Parents who consider this for their children are abusing the child. Social pressure on children is off the charts concerning gender. Today's children are so confused they don't know what to do. This is insane to allow a child to change their gender! Or encourage them to take puberty blockers and other dangerous drugs. Media, schools and politicians are encouraging gender change! Gender change is discussed on TV as though it is normal however the side effects of drugs and surgery are never mentioned in the media. When this social pressure ends and a young child understands they really are the sex God gave them what do you do then? Life of misery encouraged by lawmakers and no therapists can turn back time!

Madelyn Shaulis, Ms
None
Elgin, TX

Wake up Texas these are our children

Leslie Green
None
Katy, TX

For

Melanie Peterson
Self
Spring, TX

FOR THIS BILL!!

Joseph Redner
Self/Sales
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Donna Earnest
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686.

Katherine Conrey
Self, mother
Magnolia, TX

It hurts my heart to see so many children being taken advantage of by adults with agendas. This is straight up child abuse, to not only encourage children to embrace delusions that they are something they are not, but to permanently chemically and/or physically alter their bodies. These are children, not adults, and this has to stop.

Elida Valdez
Self
Killeen, TX

Children are to young to decide on these types of procedures.

Patricia Dyer
Self -Homemaker/ESL Volunteer Teacher
San Antonio, TX

God, the Creator of every human, has created us male and female in a mother's womb. Why would we choose to be dissatisfied with who He has created us to be. He has uniquely created us just as He designed from the beginning of our life. We must affirm God's design, not change it.

Nathalia Castellon
Self - Writer
Killeen, TX

I am signing FOR HB1686.

Jared Douglas
Self
Red oak, TX

Gender transition is a massive mental illness and no funds should be used in medical procedures to do this!!!

Michelle Anderson
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Bettina Adams
Children of Texas
Fredericksburg, TX

I believe that Texas should ban the transitioning of minors.

Patrice Peterson
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass quickly for the children of Texas! We want God's blessing on this state

Selina Martin
Families for education
Allen, TX

For this bill, legal age to be 18

Maria Eugenia Prado
HCRP
Katy, TX

For

Mike Johnson
self - Business owner
Argyle, TX

I support HB1686

Celia Pruitt, Mrs
Self
Killeen, TX

God knows best

Adrian Garcia, Mr.
Self / Building Engineer
Cypress, TX

I support this Bill!

Laura Marlborough
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill. I do not support support gender transitioning for children and certainly do not want public money or assistance to go towards that.

John Puz
Self
Beaumont, TX

I am a father and a grand father! This is something that should not be f
or a child to decide or for a school to be involved with! I support it and our monet should not be used in this way! Thank you for protecting our interest!

Celeste Helcel, Mrs
Self
Lott, TX

Children are NOT born in the wrong body. Please support this bill to protect our children and grandchildren.

Gemma King
Self
DALLAS, TX

I support banning this procedure on children.

Janie Atchley
self
Ennis, TX

I support HB1686.

Carolyn Lemons
Self
Spring, TX

I would like to go on record as supporting HB 1686. There are so many life altering things that require children to be over 18 or 21 before they can participate or make make decisions. Why would anyone think it is ok to for a child to be emotionally mature enough to make this type of decision? The repercussions are just too great!

Cathy Carruth
Individual citizen
Fredericksburg, TX

Children have not matured enough to make such a weighty decision that will forever change their lives. They should NOT be allowed under any circumstances to alter their gender as a minor. Our world and entertainment, even in school now are causing even normal children to question what or who they are. In school we need to get back to teaching things that will help them earn a living and be educated in reading, writing, math, history (that hasn't been warped by current WOKE agendas). If America doesn't wake up and take our country back to the core values it was founded on, we will fall.
If you look at the studies you will find that so many of these that have made a gender change regret it and wish they could undo the process. Many then commit suicide because they are even more confused.

Please vote no on gender alteration for minors.
Sincerely,
Cathy Carruth

Shae Edge
Self - home representative
Brenham, TX

I support this bill

Sydney Solomon
Self
Melissa, TX

I support HB 1686. We must protect our children from irreversible medical procedures that are performed for non-medically necessary reasons until they are of the age of majority and are mature enough to understand the ramifications from making medical decisions from non-scientific mental indoctrination.

Gail Jubran
Tax paying Texas Resident
HOUSTON, TX

I support the passing of HB 1686 Oliverson | et al. Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Sherry Quinn
Steve's Painting
ATLANTA, TX

i do not agree with this bill, and respectfully ask that you stop in immediately.

RAMONA FLORES
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not support this. DHS is overloaded and understaffed as it is. This is not something to put on the very few reliable agents we have. Your personal feelings on trans individuals aside, this is not a financially sound thing to do and will waste state funds on a pointless pursuit.

Tom Bartel, Mr
Self
Plano, TX

Support this bill. We need to protect children from this madness.

Kenneth Blueford
Self
Mansfield, TX

FOR the bill

John Moffett
self
Midland, TX

please leave the children alone, let them be kids. they are way too young to understand the long term consequences of these choices.

Georgia Stewart
Self retired
Llano, TX

I am FOR HB 1686.

Rebecca Clinch
Self
Midland, TX

I support this bill

Trevor Hance, Mr
Self - education
Austin, TX

Support. No funds.

Michelle Quick
Self
Round Rock, TX

"Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children."

Maria Smith, Ms.
Self teacher
Magnolia, TX

Stop mutilation of children.

Use tax money to educate rather than permanently mutilate minors. More effort is being made to push a social agenda on students then making sure these same kids can read, write and do math computations. Use tax monies to help students become contributing Texas citizens by teaching basic skills not forcing a permanent social agenda on them.

Insurance companies got it correct, brains do not fully mature until 25. Let's HELP students get to that age and not pay for permanent mutilation of a students body and psyche.

Mitch McCain
Conservatives
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Joseph South
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Linda Oliver
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

Texas should BAN the transitioning of minors

Angie Rash, Mrs.
Self
Aledo, TX

I am in FULL support of this bill and its companion against ANY gender "affirming care" bills. No to hormone therapy, no to child mutilation, no to all of it!

Carolyn Lux
Self-Retired RN
Fredericksburg, TX

HB 1686 Testimony at Public Health Committee 3/27/2023

My name is Kathy Lux. I am a retired nurse and wish to to comment in favor of HB 1686.
I speak only for myself.

Although I am in favor of passing this bill, I am deeply concerned that this rapid increase in the number of young people identifying as the opposite sex is not getting enough serious scrutiny by the medical or psychological community in ferreting out the root cause of this strange phenomenon.

This is my second hearing concerning the topic of prohibiting gender altering treatment on minor children. I have learned a lot about it. I have heard accusations that we who oppose this treatment are haters. I can assure you this is not the case.

I feel genuine sorrow for all those caught up in this lie. Thousands of mothers, fathers and grandmothers and across this great nation are grieving their lost sons and daughters that they gave birth to, named, and nurtured, only to have the names and who they were tossed aside, replaced with someone they hardly know. Family members with differing opinions are torn apart, taking sides. If parents even moderately question their child, they are labeled transphobes and shut out from their inner most lives.

These surgical and hormone treatment are permanent. No child can grasp the full ramifications of their future if they go down this path, a future comprised of continuous drug treatment, huge medical bills, sterilization and permanent alterations in sexual function.
It seems sensible to take the slow route. Forbidding permanent treatments until these children reach the age of majority makes sense.

It is dangerous and destructive to let children, whose minds are still developing, make such life-altering decisions at such young ages – especially since 90% of children who believe they are a different sex no longer hold that view as adults when left to develop on their own without medical interventions.

“The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command.” - George Orwell, 1984

Please pass this bill

Eric Landrum
Self, Sales
Taylor, TX

I am against all gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. I am against the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Please keep this from happening to our children.

Willie Rash
Self
Aledo, TX

I support any bill against gender “affirming care”

Larry Williamson, Mr.
Self
Colleyville, TX

Hello,

I'm just an average citizen, father, and husband. I used to work in middle school in Los Angeles. I care a great deal for children and our family hit reset during COVID while lockdowns were implemented. My wife saw doctors closing their doors and made the decision to abandon a comfortable 6 figure job to return to school to ensure that we do our part in the future. She's entering the masters program at UNT HSC in May and medical school in 2024. She has great sympathy and an expressed goal to providing compassionate care to the community in question. We are Christian and political brow beating isn't how you love your neighbor. That said, lying about science to the detriment of one's health is unethical, and dangerous. On the best day these hormones and surgeries are dangerous and abusive to the body. To provide irreversible "treatment" to minors is not care, it is abuse. Minors can't even consent to a tattoo and we're having discussions about genital surgeries. It's ridiculous and there's 0 evidence that there's any mental health benefit for the patient. To the contrary, every statistic shows that mental health declines for said group after receiving treatment. It flies in the face of 1000s of tears of medical ethics. I love my children. But loving them isn't just pandering to them. It is standing there to assist even as you prohibit them from chasing their every whim. I see political attacks and that isn't acceptable. But I cannot in good conscience hurt these children or adults in the name of goodness. That's simply wrong on its face. True love and compassion means saying no sometimes. This is one of those times. Take care and God bless.

Sincerely,
Lawrence Williamson

Kasey Dwyer
self
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children. Minors are too young to make such an impactful life altering decision.

Eugene Lux
Self-Retired
Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Kids should be protected until they reach the age of majority.

Pat Clinch
Self
Midland, TX

I support/For

Melinda Paull
Self
Leander, TX

Support

Joe Minchillo
self - unemployed
Melissa, TX

"I support HB 1686" Stop the madness, there is only a man OR a woman, boy OR girl as created. Vote "yes" to stop the insanity of these "gender reassignment" modifications.

Terry A Ells, Ms.
Self
Kerrville, TX

VOTE FOR THIS PROHIBITION OF GENDER REASSIGNMENT

Brenda Hinton
Self
Tomball, TX

Protect the kids

Aaron Rocha
Hispanic Republican Club of North Texas
Pilot Point, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow

Victoria Ezagui
A concerned parent/grandmother
Harker Heights, TX

I support this bill

Joseph Flores
Real estate mentor / self
Round Rock, TX

I am opposed to Bill HB 1686 providing state-funding for the purpose of providing minors with puberty suppressants and supraphysiological wrong sex hormones, as well as sterilizing surgeries and mastectomies for minors for the purpose of transition or treating gender dysphoria. As a resident of the great State of Texas for many years, I believe this is both morally wrong as well as a great misuse of the People of Texas's funds. This has no benefit whatsoever to the whole population of Texans and therefore a travesty of the pilfering of funds which could go to better use administering the funds for the betterment of Texans.

Leslie Wentworth
Self
Round Rock, TX

The medical community is getting rich from these procedures and treatments..There is NO good study proving that these procedures do anything to benefit the children. This kind of medicine is LAZY medicine and doesn't treat the real problem...mental illness. Please pass this bill.
Thank you

Anne Valentine, Mrs
Self retired teacher
Fredericksburg, TX

Please oppose any use of public funds in order to manipulate gender.

Please oppose any effort to manipulate the gender of minors whether using public or private funds.

Stuart Brunson
Self
Frisco, TX

Prohibit any monies for any gender affirming care or procedures!

Matt cade
Vz rp
Canton, TX

I support HB 1686, protecting our youth from treatments and surgeries that are medically necessary, and are harmful to our children

Robert Satterwhite
Family's
Greenville, TX

I Oppose gender change, education to do so, and media that promotes gender change, medical assistance etc.

Lynwood Stevenson
Self
Hockley, TX

I support this bill.

Melinda Coker, Dr.
Self
Lindale, TX

As a physician and a mother, I am in support of banning gender affirming treatment that alters a child's body, hormones, and gender. The majority of children who experience gender dysphoria will, over time and normal social development, change their feelings and attitudes toward their identity and gender once they reach maturity. To offer medical or surgical gender altering treatment at a young age is at the same degree of child abuse. While many doctors and parents have good intentions of showing love and acceptance for children who experience dysphoria and seek to offer treatment T, the treatment itself only contributes to gender confusion and dysphoria. Offering hormones that are not aligned with a child's birth or biological gender, causes serious structural alterations to a child's developing brain. Offering surgery to alter a child's body at this age is another permanent disfigurement. I will not stand by and permit this offense to children. It is not part of the Hippocratic Oath to first do no harm, and it is not nurturing or loving to submit children to this abuse. This is not what Texans should fund or support.

Kimberly Pennington
self
Cedar Park, TX

PLEASE HEAR US!! At such young ages, children are not capable of making these life altering decisions to their body or allowing others to make it for them. Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children. I am a PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER at work with many children through elementary and high school. I see how easily they are swayed and how quickly they change their minds on hiundreds of matters of life throughout their adolecence. PLEASE be rational and PROTECT TEXAS CHILDREN TODAY!!! Sincerely- MOM OF 5 TEXAS CHILDREN anc countless other students over the last 25 years.

Joyce Dolle, Banker
Self
Gilmer, TX

I am definitely for this bill please pass it to save our children

Nicole Arias
My family
Laredo, TX

FOR/Support the Bill

Tommy Thomas
Retired
Tomball, TX

We don’t let children vote, by alcohol, drive or many other things because they are not mature enough. They can wait till they are old enough to make this life changing decision.

Tina Corley
SELF - Executive Admin Assistant, Christ Follower, Parent and Grand-parent
PURDON, TX

"I support HB1686", the BAN on transgender surgery on children in Texas.

Pauline Stroud
Self
Flint, TX

Please do not allow any taxpayer money to go towards this bill allowing govt money to do this to children. If you have children how could you even think this is okay? Do not believe these lies that this is a normal thing. It is not! God made man and woman..stand up for morals and principals please

Keith Corley
self - SR. Maintenance Technician, City of Waxahachie, TX
Purdon, TX

"I support HB1686", BAN transgender surgery on children in Texas.

Deidra Wilcomb
Self
Cypress, TX

Vote yes for this bill

Mary Howard
self
Ponder, TX

I support this bill. Minor children must be protected against the pressure of an extreme culture.

Megan Brunson
Self
Frisco, TX

Prohibit the use of federal funds for any gender affirming care or procedures.

Janice Whitman Vierus, Mrs.
None
Cypress, TX

I support parents not being able to change the sex of their children or anyone the parents are legal gardians for. This includes all who are under 19.

Eva Castro
None
Carrollton, TX

Children should not have this choice until they are adults for several years and can make the correct choice.

Kristina Knapp
Self, self employed
Magnolia, TX

It's absolutely unbelievable that we have to explain why mutilation of minors is a bad thing to our legislators. Y'all should have stopped this long ago.

CHILDREN are still developing. Mentally and physically. Changing their natural hormones destroys their natural development. A boy will NEVER be a woman and a girl can NEVER be a man, regardless of hormonal and surgical intervention.

There are enough detransitioning people out there to prove that this is a path MANY kids later regret. Children confused about their gender are suffering a difference between mental perception and reality and therefore need mental health intervention, NOT permanent, harmful body alterations.

Orion Sanchez
self
Kingsville, TX

This bill is a disgrace against the trans Texan youth living here. You are uprooting so many families to move out of state just so they can get safety and continue treatment. I am strongly opposed to this bill. There is research done behind all this yet you claim that there is no real science behind it. I hope this bill doesn't make it to the floor, but I can't be sure. I urge you to change your decision.

Beth Dufford, Mrs
Self
Midland, TX

Do not pass

Pamela Payne
Citizens of prct 9
Harleton, TX

We do not want our children subjected to this. If they want it they can wait until they are of age.

David Dyer
Dyer Custom Woodworking
San Antonio, TX

We must not interfere with Gods design for human male and female. No child is born in the wrong body. Gender treatment is not right for Texas.

Christopher Balch
Self service industry
Manor, TX

This is a fascist bill put up for vote by fascists for fascists. My grandfather fought in World War 2 against fascists so of course I oppose this bill!

Shannon LaForge
Self
Graham, TX

I do not believe that there should be any kind of assistance to people, youth or otherwise, that wish to change the body that Our Father gave them.

Annette Thomas
Mason County Republican Women
Mason, TX

. A child under 18 cannot vote or buy alcohol legally so gender modification decisions should be no different nor should a parent make this decision for a minor child. Nor should public funds be used for an elective procedure such as gender dysphoria.

Donna Collins
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I'm in total support of protecting our youth from the EVIL threat of genital mutilation, and any type of transition therapy. Our children are being exploited. They need Love not exploitation!

Keri Johnson
Self, business owner
Denton, TX

Please protect our children from the irreparable harm caused by medicines/surgical procedures to reassign gender. There are safer more humane approaches that can be utilized until a CHILD has become an ADULT, and can more cognitively understand the ramifications of such procedures and rationally consent to that type of care.

Laurie Norris
Self
Austin, TX

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb."
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well."
https://bible.com/bible/59/psalm 139.13-14.ESV
Our Creator God creates beautiful creatures and does not make mistakes. Any child with uncertain or shaky emotions needs CONFIRMATION and to know that he or she is loved by God and God created them special and no one else is like them. Many of us need healthy, Christian counseling to get through rough spots. That is absolutely normal. Mutilating God's creation is a horrific crime against humanity and it will not end well with the offenders. Put God's truth back in the schools: His Word!!

William Johnson
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686. Please PROTECT Texas children!!!

Lynn Addington
Self, Account Mgr.
Dallas, TX

Please protect our children from mutilation. They are too young to protect themselves. These changes should never be allowed until or unless the indict is an adult.

Irene Bellamy
Self
Gilmer, TX

Save our children from this horrible mutilation

William R. (Butch) Marsalis, Mr.
Self
Carthage, TX

I totally support the ban on gender modifications for children. To do gender modifications on children is child abuse. Democrats are saying those who are 18 cannot make a decision on money so pay for the student loans but a child under 18 can make a decision to change their gender.
Butch Marsalis
Panola County Chair

Lori chase
Myself
Waller, TX

I support this bill.

HELEN WALKER
SELF - Business Owner, Parent and grandparent
Waco, TX

"I support HB1686", to BAN transgender surgery on children in Texas.

James Madison
None
Tyler, TX

Stop this unnecessary mutilation of children. This is child abuse

Colby Pennington
self
Cedar Park, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children. I am a father of 5 children and have seen them all grow through the adolesent stage. This is NOT the time to allow children to make life altering decisions to their bodies. Please protect Texas children!

Kimberley Ream
self
GEORGETOWN, TX

"Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children."

Raine Rice
self; homemaker
Stockdale, TX

I support this bill. As individuals we are each created in the image of God, male or female. As humans, we make mistakes, but we are not mistakes. Physicians have pledged to “do no harm”; they can maintain their oath and not take drastic measures altering the bodies of children whom God created in His image.

Kent Mary Anne
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am for this bill. Please protect our children from life-altering and often irreversible decisions that they may later regret.

Fred Maier
self
Wichita Falls, TX

Please support this bill. Gender transitioning is a cruel punishment that will come back to haunt them later in life. And most of it can't be undone! Thanks for you who support this bill.

Vicki Germer
self
Grand Prairie, TX

please pass this bill for the health and safety of our children.

Tommy Hays, Rev
Messiah Ministries
Fredericksburg, TX

We want this for our children

Patty Lowery
Self
Midland, TX

I totally support to not allow any child to have amy gender modifications through drugs, procedures or surgeries!!
You are interfering with God’s creation!!
Patty Lowery

Jani Hughes-Overgoner
Self
Cypress, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL

Julie McArtor
Self
Leander, TX

Something that is permanent should not be decided by a minor. Furthermore, public money should never pay for these kinds of services.

Marianne Lang
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Jeremy Unruh
Self
Lakeway, TX

I support this bill.

Jeanne Perry, Mrs.
Self
Elgin, TX

Please vote yes to ban gender modification on children.

Thank You

Patricia Cook
Republican
Cypress, TX

I support this bill!!!!

Mark Meandro
Self
Austin, TX

Dont pass this bill. Dont spend my tax dollars on this wvil

Gerri Barrick
Self Quality Improvement Consultant
Belton, TX

Children are not old enough to make decisions about their gender. Gender dysmorphia has always been determined to be a mental health issue. Money should be allocated for mental health care and not irreversible surgery.

Nanette Ellis
Church
Midlothian, TX

Save our children from the evil taking over our country

John Guida
Self
Leander, TX

I support this bill

Cheryl Philpitt
Republican
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Robert Boscaljon
Self
Cypress, TX

Stop financing these gender procedures and treatments with tax dollars. This is a misappropriation of public funding. It also does not solve the problems of the child seeking treatment. It appears it is adult led, not child led. No child should have treatment until legal age and self paying.

Fama Harris, Mrs.
None
Sunset, TX

God says that Children should be born from women.

Clifford Fry
self, Associate Director, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study, Texas A&M University
College Station, TX

I am for prohibiting these gender transitioning procedures for children. Children are impressionable, are unable to evaluate properly the long run consequences, and these are severe procedures that forever alter a child.

Catherine Koch
Self
Austin, TX

Please protect our children. They are not capable of making life altering choices that will impact their health for the remainder of their lives. Gender disphoria needs mental health treatment. This is the only mental health illness that we treat by affirming the mental delusions.

Melinda Haynes
Self/homemaker
Cypress, TX

HB 1686

I support this bill

Betsy Wells
Self
Midland, TX

Please prohibit transitioning for minors. These poor babies don’t know what they’re doing!

Tony Haynes
Self/engineer
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

David Dowd, Captain
Self. Retired airline pilot
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686. Children are not equipped to make these life changing decisions. And children should not suffer the consequences of decisions made for them by parent(s) when those decisions involve the mutilation of the child's body.

Joseph Martinez
Luke 4:18 Ministries
Austin, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Sandra Grigsby
Self - Analytics Director
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686. Protect our children.

Cynthia O'Shea
Self
Round Mountain, TX

I feel that a child should be 18 years of age before any modification is made to their body. They must understand (with counseling) the consequences of the modification and that it is permanent.

SUE FOLTZ
Self, retired school teacher, Volunteer ESL teacher.
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect children.
Hb1686

Eric Cook
Self, Engineer
Cedar Hill, TX

I comment in support of HB 1686. Children are not adults and are already banned by law from making many choices about themselves. Confusion about whether they are a boy or a girl does not mean they should be able to attempt to alter a biological fact, especially using long term life altering methods. Adults with responsibility for children should also not be allowed to make such life altering decisions for children.

Angie Burnham
Self
Leander, TX

Support FOR the bill

Autumn McCall
Precinct Chair #4031
Dallas, TX

Please pass HB 1686!!! Let children develop naturally as they have for millions of years!! This is literally Satanic! If a child is gay let them be gay. Do not start removing body parts adding body parts and pushing deadly hormones into their developing bodies! Please protect these children from any sick parent that might want to do this to their developing child!!

Sharman Corbity
Self
CYPRESS, TX

I support this bill! HB 1686

Castro Berenice
Catis Act
Mission, TX

We support the bill

Wendy Clarke
N/a
Cypress, TX

Save the children. They are not old enough to make these types of decisions.

Monica Cooke
Self Mom
Cedar Park, TX

I fully support this bill and the restrictions it provides. There is not nearly enough research to support decisions being made by minors who are otherwise not permitted to make such consequential choices before reaching their majority. The decisions are irreversible and so must require accountability when the data is so lacking regarding the unintended negative side effects of such drugs and procedures.

Nick (Paige) Hendrick, Software Engineer
Self
Austin, TX

Since you cowards decided to cut testimony early, here were my planned remarks. Cutting testimony just proves to the world that you're in the wrong.

Good Evening committee members and that one guy who can't seem to figure out what a woman is.

Parental Rights.

This is a buzzword we've heard a lot this session. As a former conservative I'm very familiar with the argument. But parental rights for whom? Certainly not the parental rights of trans youth, the people who know their children best, who make plenty of decisions, not just medical that lead to permanent, irreversible effects on their life, parental rights of trans kids don't seem to matter.

I'm not going to mince words about what this committee is doing, what the intent of today is… this is a literal death panel.

You are proposing the denial of life saving medical care to a population group based solely on the involuntary characteristics of that group, the same medications cisgender people are entitled to, while also mandating the forced gender transition of innocent children to a gender they don't want, via intersex carve outs which magically are somehow immune to your concerns. The same medications that I take, that have given me my life back, given my daughter a mother to love instead of a father to mourn.

You are condemning the parents of these children to the unimaginable hell of coming home to a blood stained carpet, instead of ensuring the delivery of services to the children they love and care for.

Death is permanent.

What will you say to those parents, who among you would actually look them in the eye? (Pause, look at each member in the eyes).

Truthfully I don't think many of you would, I think a lot of you are cowards, that's why you attack trans youth as a proxy for LGBT issues.

Before I finish my testimony I want to leave to share this poem by the poet Jennifer Espinoza.

You will have to pry
My gender from my cold
Dead hands
And even then
All you will hold
Is an idea I carved
Into the side of the world
With fire.

Our fire grows ever brighter with every step taken against our siblings, understand that you will fail in the end, and your legacy will be stained with the blood of those we can't save. Those deaths are by your hand, you pulled the trigger.

Let me make this perfectly clear,
We aren't going back in the closet,
we protect our own,
and regardless of what barriers you place know that there are thousands who will ensure care reaches those who need it BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

Death before Detransition.
Thank you.

Heidi Michaelian, Mrs
Self- mother
Leander, TX

Our children are not capable of understanding the life-long implications of these destructive surgeries and hormones. Carving up their natural bodies during a time of emotional volatility will not result in good and healing. Please help parents and doctors protect our children from these destructive procedures.

Selina Brown
self/business owner
sugar land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Mike Gilmer
Self entrepreneur
Tyler, TX

STOP IT!!
Leave the children alone!!

Kevin Talley, RN
Self
Midland, TX

I am firmly against gender reassignment and gender transitioning on children

Carolyn Hargesheimer
Self
Midland, TX

Please do not give into this evil agenda! Save our children! Love and care for them as they are. They are each perfectly and wonderfully made in the image of God. Do not mutilate and cause permanent harm to our children. I’m begging you!

Mindee Popham
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

I support this bill.

Patricia Pfeffer
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Gretchen Kottler
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Transgendering children is child abuse and molestation. We are what we are! If they think differently they need mental help. I would rather my tax money go to getting them mental health than mutilation!

Julie Campbell
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this ban! NO child should undergo any kind of gender reassignment when they lack the knowledge and life experience to understand the consequences. Adults should know better and should be held accountable if they support this nonsense!

Stephanie Archer, Mrs
Self
Frisco, TX

I am against all public funding that would go towards encouraging minors to change their gender. All gender dysphoria procedures should be banned in Texas.

Brad HALL
Self, Retired
Midlothian, TX

"I support HB1686"

Cynthia Acuff
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am completely and totally in favor of HB 1686! As a mother, grandmother and a Registered Nurse, it is unconscionable to me to allow children to make a decision to transition their gender to something other than their birth sex. These kind of decisions have lifelong consequences. Children’s brains are not fully myelinated until adulthood, usually over age 22. Males can be as late as age 28. Children and young adults are known for making decisions that they later regret. There is a reason that there are age restrictions on driving, getting married, joining the military, drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, etc. Giving parents the choice to make this decision for them is child abuse! As a nurse for over 30 years, with many of those years as a pediatric nurse, it is absolute insanity to me that we are even having this discussion!

Michael Campbell
Self
Waxahachie, TX

“As in the days of Noah so shall it be with the coming of man.”

Michael Clarke
N/A
Cypress, TX

I support stopping children from going through this. They are not old enough to make this type of decision

Lisa Zuniga
Self, Homeschooling Mother
Harker Heights, TX

These procedures are not reversible, they should not be inflicted on kids who can't make these decisions that will affect the rest of their life. I got a really bad tattoo at age 24 that I hate now that I "grew up," and that is eons away from removing body parts that are essential! If it was removing a functional leg or arm, no one would be arguing about this.

Carolyn Hargesheimer
Self, mother of four, grandmother of fourteen
Midland, TX

I support this with all my heart. Do no harm!

Debbie Fox, Mrs
Self
Magnolia, TX

This is insane. Children can't decide to get a tattoo but they can decide to multilateralism themselves.

Nancy Benitez
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

God created us male and female. It is morally wrong to steer children away from truth of who they are created to be. Transitioning from who God created us to be is blatant rebellion and should not be condoned.

Erich Fields
Representing self and the trans kids your committee is considering murdering
Austin, TX

My name is Spark Fields, my pronouns are they/them, and I am a transfeminine nonbinary resident of the 48th House District of the great state of Texas. I am speaking to you today in desperate opposition to House Bill 1686.

I considered many avenues to make my case today. I could cite medical statistics, describe how successful these medical interventions are in preventing youth suicide, how satisfied patients are after undergoing these treatments. I could cite work from every respected medical institution in the country, who all accept that transgender healthcare is lifesaving for transgender youth. I could tell you my own story, about how a young kid who didn't have the words to express their own experience, suffered for decades and nearly died several times over, only saved by finally getting access to social support and transgender medical care.

But we both know that you know those things. Everyone on this committee knows that this medicine is equivalent to life for thousands of children around our state. We know that this is a naked attempt to secure stability in your power by leveraging some bunk videos on far right social media. So I have elected to take a different approach.

This testimony is a warning. We see what you are doing. The world is watching. And if and when you allow this bill, or any like it, to proceed, we see the blood of innocent, vulnerable children that you will be drenched in – each of you individually, this committee, and this institution as a whole. We will not sit by. We will not allow you to sit in your positions of power and openly murder these children. This will be remembered. This will follow you the rest of your lives. If you vote yes on HB 1686, you will always, individually, be the people who held the lives of thousands in your hands, weighed them against your political clout, and decided, personally, to snuff them out.

Thank you, members of the committee who will vote no on HB 1686. I see you, and the work you are doing to protect Texans. You deserve the world.

I offer no such thanks to anyone who votes yes.

Do what you have to do. We are watching.

The above was supposed to be my testimony for yesterday. But because you anti-democratic freaks laugh in the face of the people of our state, I didn't get to speak, and neither did almost anyone else. Shame on you. Resign immediately.

Michelle Knapton
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bill!!

Melanie Reed
Ellis County Republican Party
Waxahachie, TX

FOR HB1686.

April Salazar, Mrs.
Self Business owner/Psychology Major at TEXAS A&M-Cen
Austin, TX

I am for this bill. I am currently studying for my degree in Psychology at TEXAS A&M University-Central Texas and after researching the studies and statistics on the claims of the studies of Gender Dysphoria and transitioning procedures, I believe that there are not enough thorough adequate studies and that the risks of these medications and procedures are higher than anticipated. This will cause lifelong irreversible negative medical effects on these children. This should be considered child abuse. I have seen numerous adults who had transitioned as a child or youth that regret their decision and detransition causing even more harm. A lot of these adults blame their parents and Psychologist or Psychiatrist for suggesting or encouraging it. I have also seen parents of very young children who wanted a child of the opposite biological sex of the child they have, and they suggest their child is transgender at a very young age, just so that they can transition their child to be the preferred sex that they wanted, causing psychological harm, physical harm, and emotional harm to the child. All children were created by GOD himself, and God does not make mistakes in which body or gender he assigns a child. Parents, medical professionals, and mental health professionals need to stop trying to play God by changing the natural biological sex of a child. There are only 2 genders, male or female. Men cannot have babies, it is impossible due to lack of female anatomy! I would like to take the time to thank all of the Representatives who are in favor of this bill for protecting the children of Texas and May God Bless you all.

Erin Greene
self
Kingwood, TX

I am for HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body and therefore, no surgeries should be performed in an attempt to encourage this fallacy. Throughout the country perfectly healthy young men and women are being mutilated to changed their biological sex.

Matthew Cooke
Self Engineer
Cedar Park, TX

i fully support this bill. Justice means protecting the vulnerable and this bill is doing just that. Intervening before a minor is legally allowed to have other freedoms is criminal. There is not nearly enough data to support the use of these irreversible drugs and procedures on minors. The negative side effects alone could easily destroy their health and no one is showing respect or taking responsibility for communicating these very real and legitimate deterrents.

Julia S. Coffman, Ms
Constittutionalist
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. I’m a Texas resident

Wilma Owens
Self
Rockdale, TX

I support this bill.

Kali Culver
Self - Accountant
Midland, TX

Maybe too late, but I am FOR this bill with the understanding it WILL prohibit these procedures and treatments. Thank you for addressing it!

Nichole Creak
Self/ homemaker
McKinney, TX

I support this bill’s prohibition of life altering procedures to minors. I also agree that public funding should not be used or allowed for such procedures.

Cindy White
Self sales
Kyle, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL

Rebecca Dorn
Self; Admin
Carrollton, TX

I am in full support of HB 1686. Thank you for supporting this bill.

Krystal Durham
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Stephen-Joseph Stancil
Self
Round Rock, TX

The Texas Republic should NEVER pay for the mutation of children. Nor should any medical professional be permitted to mutilate anyone in the Republic of Texas for the purpose of attempting to change their biological sex. Any violators should immediately and permanently lose their medical license and face felony charges and long prison sentences.

Cheryl Owens
Self
Milano, TX

I support this

David Hamlin
Self
Wimberley, TX

Stop gender modification of juveniles.

Joel Barry
Myself and my wife
Round Rock, TX

I support this bill because our children need to be protected from making life changing decisions that impact their adult years….public and corporate pressure pushes some parents to give in to the thought that a 12 to 15 year old knows what they want but the state should restrict any decision of this nature till the child reaches 18 as a minimum. Thank you.

Kim Bates
Self
Midland, TX

No child is born in the wrong body??

Lin Burress
Self
Plano, TX

Please protect children from being surgically mutilated by the trans cult, gender indoctrination insanity.

Kathleen Markoff
None
McKinney, TX

I do not support the gender modification of our children. We are all made in God’s image and He doesn’t make mistakes. Our children are not able to understand the consequences of such actions and need to be protected! We don’t let them smoke, drink, get a tattoo, vote until 18! Once someone is 18 we’ll then it’s their decision.

VIrginia Cadwallader
SELF, mother
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP.

Sandra Billingham
"self"
Austin, TX

I am opposed to using public money or public assistance to provide in these treatments and procedures in gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria.

Lisa Sneed
Self
BIG SANDY, TX

Please do not allow this. Make Texas safe for our children. Gender modification is an abomination to the Lord, we are not yo change or alter our bodies like that. Please keep this out of Texas!

Wanda Brewer
Conservative Grandmothers of Texas
Fort Worth, TX

As a grandmother of a “Transgender” granddaughter, I strongly urge you to forbid this damaging and complete non- reversible surgery. (She hasn’t had any surgery yet, but takes male hormones.)
My opinion is these young people have likely experienced a trauma in their life and/or been encouraged by social media to embrace transgender thinking.
The ramifications are too profound for teenagers to make such dramatic decisions that affect the remainder of their lives at such a young age.
Please protect vulnerable young people!!!!
Stop this madness!
Respectful,
Wanda Brewer

Dani Bishop
Self
Allen, TX

I am strongly FOR this bill. We must not allow children to be making this types of life altering medical decisions as minors.

David Popham
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

I support this bill.

William McWhorter
Self
Longview TX, TX

Good morning, I respectfully request favorable passage for HB 1686. It is absolutely sickening that this is allowed to happen to children in today's society. These adults are making life altering decisions for young children whose only focus should be fun, learning, and development. We need to return to the Christian values in this society where God made it clear there were two genders, a man and a woman, and stop harming these children. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and legislation. Sincerely, William B. McWhorter.

Estelle Brooks
Myself
Westhoff, TX

Children and teens do not have the emotional or mental capacity to make life altering decisions before the age of 21. We don't allow them to drink, or buy cigarettes until we believe they have the capacity to so responsibly. It is insane for medical professionals to believe a child of 13, or 16 truly understands the ramifications of such life altering events. We don't allow children and teens to consent to any medical care, they are not able to sign consent forms because they do not understand the risks and adverse conditions that could occur. I plead with you, PLEASE pass this bill to ban these harmful treatments and surgical procedures. Let Texas be known as a state that protects its children. Thank you for this courageous bill.

Jennifer Bonessi
Self
Austin, TX

Im a mom of seven, and I can absolutely tell you minors are too young to understand the forever-implications of such changes to their bodies and brains. Please protect these children struggling with identity issues from their parents' lack of resolve and comfort-seeking. There is no licensing process for parenthood. CPS can tell you how much parents get away with on one side of the spectrum in regard to "discipline." This is just another side of that same scale. It's our job to be steady for our children through the difficulty of growing up. Being too harsh or too lenient is not being steady. Even these children (and really their parents) from this until they are old enough to make their own decisions about their personhood.

Karisa Stancil, Mrs.
Self
Round rock, TX

We, the people, should never ever pay for young impressionable tiktoc influenced minors who are following the latest trending indoctrination to identify as the opposite sex or a different race or a different species!!!!

We, the people, must stand against any government protection for these decisions made while being in this stage of life! That being young confused kids who do not truly know “who” they are. These should never ever be allowed to forever disfigure their bodies permanently to follow the latest trend.

It should be against the law to perform surgeries to change biological sex period. Much less to a young minor.

It is time we stand up and speak out loudly against such atrocities!!!!

Ruth Offereins
Self
Leander, TX

A child must be protected from gender transitions until they are at a minimum of 25 years of age

Holly Smith
Self, mother and teacher
Mint Belvieu, TX

I firmly oppose this bill! I have five children of my own and have worked with children in and out of schools over the past 15 years. My education on the human and especially the child brain is extensive. Anyone who has studied the child’s brain at even the most elementary level will tell you that the brain is not full formed until adulthood.

In the meantime, it is the responsibility of parents and adults to PROTECT and GUIDE our children with a moral compass. Allowing medical, hormonal procedures to be taken at a young age is psychologically harmful and irresponsible.

Let’s stop pretending that this is about human rights. This is being pushed by powerful drug companies and we are pawns in the process. Young children are being targeted because they are easy prey. We are failing our children if we allow this to happen.

Martin Chalupa
Self
Leander, TX

Gender transitioning should be illegal until the age of 18.

Lisha Ruda
Self. Mother of three
Aledo, TX

PLEASE PROTECT INNOCENT CHILDREN FROM THIS EVIL AGENDA! Children can not consent to ANY medical procedures. How can permanent mutilation be allowed?

Shelly Kuempel
self / stay at home mom
ROUND ROCK, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children!

Kelly Tuxhorn
Luke 4:18 Ministry
Austin, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body

Lucille Menzies
Self-retired state employee
Menard, TX

I would urge that this bill be passed

Stan Donaldson
Love Force Ministries
Montgomery, TX

For!

Scott Beard
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Debra Brown
Self
Leander, TX

FOR HB1686. Please support HB1686. Our children must be protected from premature gender transitioning until they are able to make an informed decision as adults.

Lydia Randolph, Ms
Self RN
Bryan, TX

No child is born in the wrong body

Paloma Wall
Self
Argyle, TX

I am 100% for this bill. Gender transitioning and treatments for children are absolutely ridiculous. There are many things that you are required to wait to do until you are an adult, this should be no different!

Richard Neal
Self
Austin, TX

As a lifetime resident of this great state of Texas , I am saddened and sickened that this travesty of a once great medical community is even allowing this abomination to be done to helpless children . I Pray for all Texas Legislators to Vote yes for this Bill .
Strongly stand in favor of HB 1686 .

Mary Ann Trevino
Self
Alice, TX

I support this bill because it’s immorally wrong in the eyes of God and to the children. They are not able to make such a permanent change in good conscience and whatever is done to them against their cognitive ability to decide is irreversible and will traumatize them when they are older.

Teresa Livingston
Self
Whitesettlement, TX

I do not agree with having children make these decisions until they are of legal age

Caleb Ripple
Christ Fellowship Church and Koinonia Classical Christian School
Taylor, TX

Obviously public money should not be used for this, because this kind of mutilation and grooming and destruction of healthy bodies should not be happening AT ALL. This bill may be a step in the right direction but we need to recover the full legal protection of children who have been groomed and harmed and abused by this wickedness. Protecting children should be a no brainer.

Bill Tucker
Self
Ovilla, TX

WE MUST protect our children from gender related treatments, there isn't any reason in the world to do this on a minor...I can't believe we even have to address this issue but that is what happens when liberals want to control our children for their perverted benefit!

Melissa Bergman
self
Midland, TX

I do NOT support funding to aid mutilation and fundamental bodily, hormonal , and mental changes to minors. It equates to abuse; mental, emotional, and physical abuse.

Barbara Orr
Self
Plano, TX

Please vote FOR this bill for our children. Please do not be intimidated by the far left in voting for the bill.

Danelle Vanderzyden, Mrs.
Self
Cypress, TX

I fully support a bill that would prohibit gender modification surgery or the use of puberty-blocking drugs for the purposes of gender transitioning. Children are too young to make these decisions. They are still trying to figure out who they are. We have many rules on what minors can and cannot do (smoking, drinking, driving, etc.) for a reason. Their brains and bodies are not fully developed to make these kinds of decisions. I fully support this bill. It is sad that we have come to a time in our society when people are purposefully wanting to harm children for their own justification of their beliefs. They may say they are doing this to help children, but it really is extremely harmful. These kids are confused and we are just confusing them even more with them thinking they were born in the wrong body! Why this is even legal in the first place is shocking to me. While I appreciate and applaud self-expression and finding yourself, it is a journey and a process that does not come until well into adulthood. Children who are thinking they are a different gender or who feel they are not comfortable in their own bodies is a common feeling, especially among young teens. What we need to do is discourage full transitions until they can make those decisions as an adult.

Abby Mckinney
Self artist
Austin, TX

Children and young adults are being led to believe by s forceful campaign that they are not the gender they are born with. They are too young to be making these life altering decisions.

Donna Goodwin, Mrs.
Gods design for civilization/Self/my family.
Tyler, TX

Thank God for this bill. Who on earth would believe this practice is even SANE let alone worthy of public funds support.

Dawn Burleson
Self
Round Rock, TX

Protect our children from anyone who would endorse physical mutilation and gender altering “therapies”. This includes any Doctors or school officials that want to impose their beliefs about gender transitioning on children.

Russell Manning, Mr.
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. Please vote to pass and protect these vulnerable children

Allison Conyngham
Self
Leander, TX

Support HB 1686 - this is crazy, don’t ruin our children by allowing gender reassignment.

Lisa Schuttger
self, homemaker
Gilmer, TX

I am definitely in support of this bill. I am commenting FOR. Even if Biblical reasons against this nonsense are disregarded, the secular evidence of massive harm against children permanently damaged by these procedures continues to mount. This is so much so that medical people with no religious interest at all are beginning to realize the extent of the damage.

Debbie George
Self-Retired
Carrollton, TX

Vote YES for HB 1686 to protect our children. Why are some schools removing snack and soda machines from their campuses? Because children don't make good choices in what they consume! Why are they allowed to make the choice to mutilate their bodies….seems much more drastic a decision than whether they drink a bottle of water or a Coke!! I refuse to accept that taxpayers could be asked to pay for this! Teachers (teachers unions) need to concentrate on teaching our children how to read, how to write a complete sentence with punctuation and capitalization and mathematics. Our world ranking in those basics should be the best….we are not. Now we are wasting their precious formative years encouraging confusion about who they are and removing body parts. Lucrative business I'm sure but evil to the core.
Vote for HB 1686 and let's protect our children, when others won't!!

Christopher Roomsburg
Self
Melissa, TX

I support HB 1686.

Elizabeth Bozzell
Self Insurance agent
Millsap, TX

I strongly support passage of HB 1686 and strongly oppose the medical or surgical so called "transitioning" of minors.

Lani Richerson
Self
Katy, TX

Please pass this bill! I am against gender modification and permanent damage. Done to these children. It is child abuse.

Jeff Kuempel
Focus on education
Florence, TX

I'm in support of this bill to keep parents from physically harming their children during their transformative developing years.

Skyla Gilbert, Mrs
Self
Midland, TX

I don't believe transitioning procedures should be performed on minors or anyone else. God created Man and Woman.

David Roland
Self, retired
Lockhart, TX

The use of taxpayer funds to provide gender mutilation surgery on innocent children is morally bankrupt and criminal in any way it is viewed. I'm expecting support from every member for HB 1686.

Carmen Mayorga
Self
Lindale, TX

I am for the bill

Ann Baker
Self health care worker
Tyler, TX

I am opposed to the use of Medicaid funds to pay for the medical transition of children .

Frances Purdy
N/A
Round Rock, TX

Gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria should be prohibited. How can a young person under 18 years of age be expected to make an informed consent to this life altering decision when they cannot enter into a legal contract until 18. It is hard to believe that this countries moral values have dropped so low as to take such perverse advantage of children in our society.

Sarabeth Moffett
Self
Dallas, TX

Children are too young to consider consequences of certain actions. Their frontal lobes (impulse control center/reasoning) are literally not developed until they are in their 20's. Allowing children to make these life-altering decisions is beyond negligent. If a child or adult is struggling severely with identity issues, this individual needs counseling and a strong support system. Most transgender suicides and irreversible health problems occur after individuals transition.

Gary Epperson
self - engineer
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686. Children should not be subjected to such procedures, most of which are irreversible, when they are too young to make such decisions themselves.

Lauren Wiatrek
Self
Austin, TX

This is a mental health problem and a parental responsibility crisis. Gender is in every cell of our body, you cannot reverse that. We are mutilating our children and it is child abuse. What if they wake up at 30 or 40 and want to be their biological gender but they've had their parts removed? As a breast cancer patient who has had reconstructive surgery + an hysterectomy and my breast amputated, I can attest that my pain will never go away. Scar tissue, hormonal imbalances, hot flashes, not to mention body image issues because my breasts and mid section are man made and do not fit in certain clothes. I wouldn't wish this reality among anyone. If a child said they wanted to be a mermaid, we wouldn't push them to drown in the water. If our child decided they wanted to fly would we condone that unrealistic notion? No. We are setting our future generation up for incredible failure, depression and suicide. Suicide rates go up AFTER transitioning. De-transitioners have been trying to go public to explain this. We need families together, we need strong parents to help their children not abuse them. We need mental health and trauma support not mutilation. We are setting up our future to have zero fertility and a depressed nation. This is a massive cross with all the wrong answers. Protect our children! They were made in God's image.

Janelle Farnham, Mrs
Self
Temple, TX

Gender Dysphoria is a psychological issue. Children do not possess the mental capabilities to understand the ramifications and permanent consequences there are in transitioning from one sex to another. God creates each person and has a plan for their life. God doesn't make mistakes. If a child has gender dysphoria, they need counseling, not mutilation.

Michael Holt, Dr.
Holt Consulting - self
Clyde, TX

I support this bill to prohibit the use of public funds to obtain procedures to alter or promote gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria of children.

Lisa Lamb, Mrs.
Self/ Interior Designer
Midland, TX

This horrendous act should be illegal, banned. It is child abuse! Studies show it leads to confusion, more mental health issues, and suicide.

Irma González, Ms.
Luke 4:18 Mimistry
Austin, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm
I asked that you vote against this bill that has a potential to mutilate our children!

Sandra Gasmire
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I do not believe that our tax dollars should pay for gender transitioning to alter minors ‘ gender in any way. Please DO NOT pass this!
Sandra Gasmire

Denise Jolly
Self
Midland, TX

I am for this bill.

Michelle Yost
Self
Dallas, TX

Now

Barbara Jean Collins
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Prohibit these gender alterations.

Sheila Chopin, Mrs.
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

My Tax dollars shall not be used for any of these procedures. Dollars shall not be applied to fund children procedures and treatments for gender transitioning. I do not want this bill to pass. We need to pray for these beautiful children supporting them be their created design. God bless the state of Texas to do the right thing for these blessed children whom God created.

Holly Freeman
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill and against the mutilation of children.

Holly Freeman
Ellis County
Precinct Chair 1024

Lucy Nicholas
Legion of Mary
Richardson, TX

No child is born is the wrong body. I am for 1686

Kathy Walkoviak, Mrs
Self
Caldwell, TX

I support HB 1686

Jeana Riley, Mrs
Self
Midland, TX

I am FOR this bill. Protect the children !!

Ron Parnell
None
Cleburne, TX

No

Deborah Lawrence
Self
Thorndale, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Paul Reyes
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Kelly Stahlman
Self / marketing rep
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Cindy Najera
CCDf Travis County +150 citizens
Lakeway, TX

I am a mother of 4 and executive director of a nonpartisan nonprofit. When I was a sophomore in high school, my new friend was raped by a boy who was giving her a ride home. She called me in the middle of the night sobbing and hysterical. She claimed she could not tell her parents because she would get in so much trouble for being out without permission. I woke up my dad and put him on the phone with her. He talked to her, told her she needed to tell her parents and call the police. She did not do this, instead she tried to pretend it did not happen. We went to different schools so I did not see her every day. A few weeks later when I finally saw her, I noticed that she had pigtails in her hair, wearing a doll like dress, mary janes and little socks. I asked her about the outfit and she confessed that all she wanted to do was go back to when she was innocent, before that boy took her virginity- and that she wanted to be a little girl again. That was how she dealt with a traumatic rape- she regressed. This girl needed help. Yesterday at the committee hearing I saw people wearing capes, 20 year old men dressed like 80 year old women. Green hair, women with beards and mustaches, men with implants. They are all dealing with some kind of trauma. They need mental help to figure out the preexisting root cause of their issues, and we need to stop doctors who are preying on these people. As we heard yesterday 1/3 of these people have autism. Are we really going to let big pharma and unethical doctors use them for profit? Each transition costs over a million dollars and creates a patient for life for the pharmaceutical industry. That is a lot of money.

I have heard from one patient, of a botched genital surgery. Hair growing INSIDE the "vagina". Not being able to urinate because it leaks everywhere, of sex being nothing but exposed nerves and extreme pain. The constant smell of feces and urine, of dead skin tissue that has maggots growing.
I also talked to Chloe Cole, a 19 year old girl who was transitioned as a child after two doctor's visits and is now de transitioning. The doctors won't even talk to her now. They cannot and won't help her.
We cannot trust some doctors anymore or let children make these decisions. I am supporting HB 1686.

Amanda Weaver
Self - homemaker
Midland, TX

For/support this bill

Ellen Tuthill
Self -- small business owner
Austin, TX

I support this bill. The bulk of Europe has weighed the benefits/downsides to these experimental procedures and concluded that there is NO EVIDENCE that they reduce suicide, but great evidence that they cause lifelong sterility, pharmaceutical dependence, loss of sexual function and pleasure, and horrific surgical side effects that require ongoing corrective surgeries. It should be illegal to subject any young person to these experimental butchery and suffering for a mental health issue. And we still don't know the long-term cancer and health diseaserisks for using cross-sex hormones in this way.

We would never allow anorexic youth to be given "body-affirming care" , or permit doctors to say, "YES! You are as fat and ugly as you falsely think you are -- here's a liposuction procedure and some lapband surgery and diet pills." Doctors doing this butchery and chemical castration are making huge profits off of suffering children.

Kids' lives are ruined, all because of an ideology that seduces them into thinking they can use sex hormones and surgery to fix amental health issue. My teenage son hasmultiple friends dealing with this mental health crisis right now. It's terrifying to watch. They are NOT thriving. They are not happy. They are not well. But if their teachers and media influences etc would stop "affirming" this nonsense, maybe they could go back to living their lives the way biology dictated at birth, and enjoy their bodies, and enjoy their freedom to dress, think, and act however they want without doing radical, permanent harm to themselves before they can even vote.

Since our country has decided to hate science in everything from Covid to biology, would you please at least look at what has hairbrush in the UK and other European countries, and vote with the science to do no harm?

Sophie Gonzales
Concerned citizen
Houston, TX

I support

Pamela Goussy
Self
Austin, TX

Vote yes, I am for HB 1686. Every child should be allowed to reach full maturity before authorizing permanent augmentation of their body.

Margie McAllister
Grass Roots Activist
McKinney, TX

Please support this bill, HB 1686 for the health and well-being of our children now and into the future. Things like changing your gender should never been allowed in a civil society but since they are here, our state must legislate against such egregious measures to disfigure and confuse our children.

Karen Chatham
Self
Paradise, TX

I believe that children are not mentally developed enough to make permanent decisions for themselves concerning gender transition, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Any procedure to change a child's gender before they are fully grown is, in my opinion, physically abusive. Any cohersing or promotion of a child changing gender is mentally abusive in my opinion. This kind of information and decision is too heavy for a child to bear. It's like putting a heavy man on a horse too young to ride. The spine of a young horse cannot handle the weight and will forever be damaged with sway back. It is the same with young minds. Sexual talk, experience or cohersive thoughts of any kind will disrupt a child's development process and they may agree with permanent decisions they will later regret immensely. I believe that any decision to alter the human body for gender changes should be prohibited until the child is a full grown adult and is fully in charge and responsible for their own choice to make a such a profound change. This should not even be a subject to children, especially before puberty begins.

Sheila CHOPIN, .Mrs.
Self
Round, TX

No bill should allow gender transitioning or reassignment surgery. If this bill is stop this type surgery, I am in favor of this bill. Love and support kids in their created genders to be who God created them to be.

NOTE. Disregard my previous comments if it appeared I was for supporting this type surgery.

DeeAnn Ellis
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686. It is unconscionable to encourage and/or facilitate a minor to permanently mutilate his/her body before he/she is an adult and able to make that personal decision with his/her adult mental reasoning capacity in force.

Kellie Goolsby
Self
Denton, TX

Please protect children by voting for this bill.

Amber Hall
Self
Keller, TX

No child should be allowed to transition, be on hormones, or have gender reassignment. When they become an adult is when they should have the choice to do to their body as they choose.

Tamra Kelly
Self
Jersey village, TX

I support this bill

Laura Hansen
self/medical care
Austin, TX

I am for prohibition of certain young children and adolescent teenagers from receiving 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. I have seen many high school students who have regretted their and their parents decisions to go for such procedures. I was aghast where I learned from a medical doctor with much knowledge that these that have received such treatments may never have proper sexual function again and probably not be able to have orgasm experience for the rest of their lives. I am a health card provider.

Lisa Windahl
self
Rockwall, TX

We MUST stand for what is right and just. The mutilation of CHILDREN's bodies must be prohibited. We are a society headed for hell in a hand basket. We MUST pass HB 1686 and protect our children!

Edward Scruggs
Self/Retired
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB1686. There is nothing in the Texas constitution that gives people the “right” to expect the government to provide this type of procedures at taxpayer expense. This is entirely a private matter and as such it must be funded privately without use of any public funds.

Courtney Griffin
Self
Missouri city, TX

FOR THIS BILL!!!! I have 4 children. It is my job to protect them. Sometimes that means protecting them by not allowing them access to that which they want. For instance, if my child wants to run in the street I will not allow it, but my child will probably still throw a fit that I am not giving him what he wants. Children are not equipped to make lifelong decisions that will alter their reproductive organs.

Lauren Oberman Newburn, Mother
Mother
Alamo Heights, TX

I AM FOR 1686

Monica Wilhelm
Self
Midlothian, TX

Please stop the abuse of our children!!!
Get this bill passed!!!!!!

Stacy Geitgey, Mrs.
Myself
Midland, TX

For/Support the bill. Please protect our children and allow them to grow up and mature before making such life altering decisions.

Clifford Steakley, Retired
Self
Spring, TX

Vote for passage

Sondra Janssen
Self homemaker
Georgetown, TX

I support the prohibition of any gender transition procedures, drugs, or other treatments carried out on minor children. Physiological facts are undisputed-a young person's brain is not fully developed nor fully capable of logical decision-making until their mid-20s. That fact is one reason that alcohol consumption is not permitted until age 21. If a young person is deemed incapable of making a wise and informed decision about alcohol, why would anyone think that same person is capable of making a permanent, severely life-altering decision regarding pharmaceuticals, surgery, etc, for what (statistics show) is likely a state of transitory gender dysphoria?

Tracy Koehler
Self N/A
Leander, TX

I 100% agree that minors should not be allowed to undergo such treatments without parental consent!! I support this bill!

Carman Moore
Self
Grapevine, TX

I am in favor. Please vote FOR HB1686

Carrie Hargrove
Self
Leander, TX

Full support of this Bill

Lisa Jaynes
Myself - Human Resources/Payroll Manager
Round Rock, TX

I fully support this bill. It's time to stop allowing institutions and outside influencers from providing life altering gender reassignment surgeries on child/ren who are not old enough to vote, buy alcohol or cigarettes, obtain a driver's license, purchase a lottery ticket or any other services that are designated for "adults" who can make those types of educated decisions. The "war" on our children has gotten way out of hand and the only people that should be involved in such a drastic decision should be the parents, clergy and the child. We are now seeing the effects of what happens when a child "transitions" too early! They regret making those life altering decision, their bodies are completely messed up from all the hormone medications and surgeries and they are left even more confused than they were when they started the process. I personally do not want my tax dollars being spent on a process that is completely "voluntary" and non necessary. If the child turns 18 years of age and wants to transition, then that will be their choice "as an adult", but it should not be burdened by our tax payer dollars!

Courtney Percy, Mrs.
Self, Marketing Vice President, Mother
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP.

Jessica Mitchell
Me
Kyle, TX

The system was deleting my text as I typed.
So I'll keep it short
I do not agree, this bill should not pass!
Adolescence do not have the mental or emotional capacity to understand the ramifications of making a life altering decision.

Tim Walkoviak, Sr
Self
Caldwell, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Angela Iwu
Self
Manvel, TX

This bills are dangerous to children and their families. Allow parents and doctors to make THEIR OWN DECISIONS stop telling them what they can do with THEIR OWN Kids. If parents should get a choice on their kids wearing masks so should parents that want to or need to treat their children from gender dysphoria. Americans have the right to pursuit of happiness by passing this law you are violating this right. Do not pass this law.

Morgan Russell
Self - recruiter
Round Rock, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Jessica McElroy
Self
San Antonio, TX

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!!!! Stop allowing adults to mutilate children before they are even of an age with the mental awareness of what they're doing!!!!

Jesse Colwill
Self - sales rep
Rockwall, TX

It is abhorrent that these procedures are even under discussion. No child has the maturity level or wisdom to understand exactly what is being done to them. They do not understand the future ramifications of what is being done to them. We must protect the children!

Heather Roell
self, freelancer
Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. It is up to a doctor and their family to make medical decisions best for the patient.

Jeff L. MacGeorge
Precinct 0548 Chairman
Houston, TX

This is probably one of the most important bills. It's our responsibility to protect the children. Harming children is against God's word and should be the same with man. The long term harm these children will have to deal with have such a negative impact to them. Thank you.

Paul Zuniga
self, retired
Leander, TX

As a life-long resident of the State of Texas, father of 5 (two still attending public schools), and grandfather of 8 (6 still in school), I am APPALLED that legislation of the type being proposed would ever be NECESSARY in this once great State.

TRAGICALLY, in order to counter the horrendous attack on innocent children by Texas public officials and Texas schools, using our precious, hard-earned tax dollars against our will, it IS necessary; in fact, it is PARAMOUNT for this legislative body.

I am wholly in FAVOR of this legislation to STOP, and hopefully REVERSE this evil being foisted upon innocent, unwitting CHILDREN, whose brains are not fully formed until around age 25 (as commonly understood by science and medicine, with agreement and consensus by conservatives AND liberals).

We will hold our elected representatives responsible for permanently damaging a generation of children with this SICK, PERVERTED indoctrination and mutilation of body and mind, should this legislation FAIL to PASS.

Larry Coffer
Self
Cypress, TX

Access to transition-related health care is critical for transgender kids' mental health and wellbeing. Research has consistently shown that gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgeries, significantly reduces distress and improves mental health outcomes for transgender youth.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), and many other medical and mental health organizations, access to gender-affirming care is a fundamental human right for transgender individuals. These medical organizations also warn that denying access to gender-affirming care can lead to negative health outcomes, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

Furthermore, blocking access to transition-related health care for transgender kids can cause them to experience severe gender dysphoria, which is associated with significant distress and impairment in their daily lives. Gender dysphoria is a condition where an individual feels discomfort or distress because of a mismatch between their gender identity and the sex they were assigned at birth. Medical interventions such as puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgeries can alleviate gender dysphoria and improve mental health outcomes for transgender youth.

Therefore, denying access to transition-related health care for transgender kids is not only unethical but also goes against established medical and mental health guidelines. It is crucial that lawmakers prioritize the health and wellbeing of transgender youth and support access to gender-affirming care to ensure they can live healthy, happy lives.

Katherine Woolston
self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body and we must prohibit gender treatments and medication to minor children. The healthcare establishment must do no harm to children and allow them to thrive into adulthood. We don't allow other modifications to our children, i.e. tattoos, until they are 18. Healthcare professionals need to be held accountable for doing harm to their patients. We have no idea of long term effects on the medication or surgeries. I fully support the HB 1686 in this session.

Steve Scott
Self. Real Estate Professional
ALLEN, TX

I SUPPORT the Bill and am IN SUPPORT OF prohibiting Transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and PROHIBITIONS on the use Of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Eric Livingston
Self
Austin, TX

No person is born with their soul in the wrong body. Gender dysphoria is a mental health issue and gender affirming care is incorrect treatment.

William Glesener
Self, Manager
Round Rock, TX

This bill must never pass. Trans children must be protected from uninformed/ignorant politicians and people. Gender affirming care (which includes therapy) is Healthcare that prevents suicide and ensures the person is comfortable in their own body. We must ensure society accepts people for who they are on the inside so they can present themselves on the outside. Like how the prominent Christian by the name of Mr. Rogers would say, "Everyone is special in their own way."

We must do better. For our children's future.

Kelley Pittmam
Parents Texas
Leander, TX

I am NOT in favor of public money used for transgender procedures

Nicolas Gonzales
Self, Software Engineer
San Marcos, TX

I support this bill. The use of tax payer dollars for such procedures on children, AND adults, is inappropriate, regardless of the person's desire to transition. I absolutely support an adults right to choose, but do not support the operations or treatments being funded by the tax payer, nor being available to minors.

Bob J Brownj, Rev.
self....Minister for Christ & Mortgage Broker
Garland, TX

Psa 127: 2 says "Children are a gift from God, blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." It is difficult for me to understand how adults could even consider mutilating (HARMING) our innocent children. You people who oppose HB 1686 by Oliverson how dare you call yourselves human? Basic decency requires all people to PROTECT our innocent children, not maim & hurt them!! I SUPPORT this bill....JOIN me! God is watching & your conduct is being recorded.

Allison Pasternak
Myself
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Denise Lane, Mrs.
Catholic teacher
Richardson, TX

We must protect our children. Please vote against gender modification for children.

Holly Hays
Self/ retired public school teacher
Katy, TX

I am against prohibitions on gender affirming healthcare and services for all people including children. Public money should be made available and allowed use to provide these procedures and treatments. Vote No to HB 1686.

Larry Rister
Self - oil and gas operator
Eastland, TX

As a Christian I know that God created each of us, male and female; so please vote for HB1686.

Rebecca Read
Self
McKinney, TX

I oppose HB bill 1686.

No parent seeks medical care for their child on a whim. It is a deliberation done with care, concern, and worry. They want only to improve the daily lives and mental health of their children when seeking gender affirming care. It is better to have a teen taking hormones under the guidance and direction of a physician and therapist so that they can feel comfortable in their own body than have a teen taking their own life because this society would not accept them.

Brenna Moore, Doctorate of Physical Therapy student
Self
Houston, TX

Working in the health field with adolescents, I can attest that gender dysphoria is a REAL disorder that is due to hormonal, and physiological abnormalities. We should NOT refuse medical care to any child requesting care with adequate reason.

William Gunn, Mr
self/Self employed
Midlothian, TX

I support laws that will prohibit children being exposed to sexual content, prevent procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. I support preventing the use of public money or assistance to provide these procedures or treatments.

Mary Jo Watts, Lt Col
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I support HB 1686 Minors are incapable of understanding the long term consequences of permanently altering their bodies and the adverse effects of long term cross hormone drugs Minors can’t vote, join the military or consent for any other surgeries for very good reasons

Nancy Beamesderfer, Ms.
Self - retired
Houston, TX

People need to realize that children go through a natural sexual awareness. At a young age, boys have been known to play with dolls - this does NOT mean that they feel they are "female trapped in a male body". Performing these life altering procedures (surgical and medical) is something that should NEVER be done. At present, they are being done so that some physicians can become rich off the lives of others. I believe they take an oath to "do no harm". It's extremely distasteful that insurance companies are paying for these surgeries and medications which, in reality means that the general public is paying for them just by paying their premiums! When will the American citizens wake up and smell the coffee?!

Katherine Regis
Self Engineer
Wimberley, TX

I was a kid long before the term transgender was ever used. For years I tried to do what was expected of me. I got a scholarship from the US Navy to attend Rice University and I served as a naval officer on board a submarine.
But I have always been transgender.
About four years ago I finally found the strength to live openly and fully as myself. It hasn't always been easy, but on the whole it's like a dark cloud has lifted and the sun is shining now. My only regret is that I spent way too many years under that dark cloud.
That is why this bill is important to me.
Trans kids today don't necessarily have to go through years of denial under a dark cloud. But this bill takes that opportunity away.
As Texans, we believe in Freedom and Liberty. Families and their doctors should be able to make vital health care decisions using medical standards of care in the best interest of the individual child. Texans don't want the government to take over those decisions about our health care.
I am extremely disappointed with the biased manner in the way this hearing was conducted. Hundreds of transgender people, parents, and allies were left waiting to testify against this bill when public testimony was cut off at midnight.
The questions by several of the committee members were disrespectful to the public and did not meet the decorum expected for a serious legislative hearing.
HB1686 should never leave this committee.

Janice Buck
Self
Anna, TX

SUPPORT FOR
Public Health March 27, 2023 - 8:00 AM [E2.036]
HB 1686 by Oliverson
Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Ryan Sizemore
self
Round Rock, TX

Please do not support this bill. Well documented, scientific evidence has shown that affirming the gender of a child helps their mental health and reduces the risk of suicide. An official and recent document by the Office of Population Affairs goes over this in more detail to confirm the data https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-03/gender-affirming-care-young-people-march-2022.pdf. There is a reason these are seen as healthcare treatments in the medical community. By advancing this bill, you are not helping these children, you are hurting them for your own selfish beliefs and to push a political agenda. Do what Republicans say they want and keep big government out of people's personal lives. If you truly want to help the children do not advance this harmful bill.

Lisa Parker
Self
Ft. Worth, TX

I'm an LPC/LMFT and a mother of four. This is reprehensible and immoral. Please bring back common sense and help protect our children and communities. This is out of control!

Lindsay Hearne, Ms
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I am for this bill. God does not make mistakes, parents, big Pharma and govts do. Children don’t have the brain capacity to make such monumental decisions!

Deborah Smith
Self homemaker
Lago Vista, TX

I support this bill and am opposed to any kind of gender transitioning for children.

Claudine Auge
Myself
Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill

Michelle Allen
Self
Cypress, TX

Minors are not allowed to vote, purchase alcohol, drive vehicles, but some think it’s okay to allow them to make life changing decisions about their body. Absolutely NOT! Their brains are not developed enough to understand and/or make such life changing decisions such as this.

Sivan Damti
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am for HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP.

Manuel Saenz
Self
Austin, TX

I SUPPORT This Bill HB1686

James Sword
self plus many family members
Spring, TX

I AM ADAMENTLY OPPOSED TO ANY PROCEDURE TO MODIFY THE NATURAL BORN SEX OF AN INDIVIDUAL, ESPECIALY CHILDREN. I CAN'T BELEIVE THAT TEXANS WOULD NOT STRONGLY OPPOSE THAT MODIFICATION. FURTHER, I THINK ANY DOCTOR OR ANY MEDICAL PERSONELL THAT FACILITATE SUCH A PROCEDURE SHOULD BE CONVICTED OF A HIGH CRIME AND LOSE THEIR LICENSE!!!

Juli Grettenberger
Na
Cypress, TX

I do not agree with gender assignment regarding children

Annie Vargas
Children of Texas
Cypress, TX

We as parents need to protect our children, not just assume and select a gender for them. When they become adults and make that decision on there own. In Jesus name save our children

Michel Ann Coleman
Families
Allen, TX

I strongly and fully support this bill. It is child abuse and completely wrong to allow children to damage their bodies in irreparable ways at an age they cannot fully compwhat they are doing.

Sherry Weidmann
Self
Midlothian, TX

What an insane time we live in that such a bill is even needed. Protecting our children from making life impacting decisions before they have the mental capacity to even remotely understand what think they want to do to their bodies is so critical. We all know fads come and go - and 'just to fit in' children opt to follow fads (and have since the beginning of time I'm sure). But this is NOT a fad! This will determine the life that they will live for the remainder of their time on this earth! This decision cannot be allowed to be made at a child's level! Heck even at 21 very few truly know what direction a person wants to take their life! So please - no matter what the resistance is - PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!

Ben Lovvorn, Executive Pastor
First Baptist Church of Dallas
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. It is imperative that HB 1686. Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception. These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts. Moreover, gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. This is nothing short of gross child abuse. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria. Indeed, a growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria. Children experiencing gender dysphoria should be lovingly counseled and supported by mental health professionals equipped to help them deal with their confusion and mental health condition. No one should be permitted to take advantage of these children or abuse them by leading them down the devastatingly harmful and dangerous road of gender transition.

Sarah Jordan
Self, homemaker
Dallas, TX

Do not allow public money to be spent on mutilating children with gender confusion. If we have an abundance of funds, please use that money to help with their mental health.

Dan Andrako
Myself
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686.

Pamela Dean
Self
Big Sandy, TX

HB 1686 Please BAN Pediatric Gender Modification

Debra Poindexter
self
NEDERLAND, TX

I wish to express my support for HB 1686 which will protect our children from being abused by people who want to mutilate them. Children do not have the ability to make such a major life changing decision at such a young age. Nothing should be done to any child without the parents consent. School employees or anyone outside a family circle has no rights to make decisions for children. We are still the United State of America and our success has been because of our original strong family values. Please stop this abomination that the radical left has embraced.

Amber Wallace, Mrs
Self/teacher
Midland, TX

Please keep Texas children safe from all this gender confusion and brainwashing. Children do not have the mental capability to make such a decision that would irreversibly change their lives, thus creating confusion and depression. God didn't make a mistake when he assigned their gender. This is morally wrong. Some children think they want to be a dinosaur, they don't understand.

MICHAEL BUCK
SELF
ANNA, TX

SUPPORT FOR
Public Health March 27, 2023 - 8:00 AM [E2.036]
HB 1686 by Oliverson
Clear
Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Michelle Tomczyszyn
Self
Palacios, TX

I support this bill!

Alex Handley
Self
Tomball, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Rick Wells
Self
Austin, TX

For the bill

TONY PALMERI
Self
Austin, TX

Please support a bill that prohibits state funding of gender transitioning procedures.

Raymond Berkeley
Self
Hutto, TX

Vote yes

Julie Gonzales
NA
Katy, TX

I support this bill

Misti Wallace
Self
Aubrey, TX

No child is born into the wrong body. Most people that experience gender dysphoria, outgrow this state of mind. If you, as a child can't be allowed to choose to drink, smoke or drive because of age, then you should not be able to alter your body with medical procedures that can NOT be undone. Why subject these children to unnecessary medical procedures? Oh! Because of the money made from these procedures. (Sarcasm intended). It's not about the children. Stop mutilating children for monetary gain. Studies show many of the children are not "fixed" by trying to change their gender. They still have the same mental issues and now added medical issues. The oath is "First Do No Harm". When did that change? Money, Money, Money is the driving factor.

Stanley Hartzler, Dr.
Retired
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR this bill enthusiastically, and prayerfully.

Veronika Alker
Self - pet care
Kingwood, TX

Do not mutilate children and alter their born biology. They will change over time. This is ?? munchausen by Proxy . Stop this madness

Joel McGregor
Denton County Precinct 4217
Northlake, TX

Please pass this bill to prevent child abuse. We have to stop the perversion.

Cynthia McGraw
Self
Midland, TX

I'm am so FOR the prohibitions to this! Many who get these surgeries done, regret it later, but the damage is already done. Children's brains are not developed enough to make these lifelong decisions! We have got to stop this insanity!!!

Frank Malfettone
Self; territory manager
Carrollton, TX

Medical science has shown many who transition wind up restransitioning with regret. These are children and this is abuse. Children do not have the emotional quotient to make such a decision and for those of us who are Christian we have a moral obligation to protect them from what is wrong. Putting religion to the side, no child should be subjected to such a detrimental decision with lifelong consequences. We place restrictions on driving, drinking alcohol, smoking, etc. There is no reason why we shouldn't legislate stopping harm to children. The large majority of the country agrees and medical journals and science once recognized this for what it is, a mental health crisis. We need to stop politicizing and we need to act strongly by standing in the gap for these children. The idea that this is open for debate is troubling.

Wanda Threadgill, Mrs
CFRW
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Gail Muse
Self
Bullard, TX

Please support this bill. Protect our children from surgeries to change their gender. There are psychotherapy treatments that should be required outside of transgender clinics for treatment of gender dysphoria.

Marcia Gunn, Mrs
Self/Self Employed
Midlothian, TX

Do we let a young person get a tattoo?! No, we don't. Why? They might not want daffy duck on their hand when they are older. What makes one think they are mature enough to decide something far more permanent and serious to make that type of decision?! And I DO NOT WANT anyone talking to my grandchildren about Sex. That is not appropriate and it is the job of each family, NOT the teachers, they have proved to be untrustworthy in that area. It is not their right to do. It was a privilege and they need to LOOSE that privilege. That is what happens when a few bad teachers take advantage and behave like they have. PLEASE put this madness away! And do what is right. DO NOT SEXUALISE OUR CHILDREN!

JO DOUGLAS
Self/Homemaker
MIDLAND, TX

FOR/support the bill

Charlyn Woolley
Self, Home maker
Denton, TX

FOR the bill!

Celeste Adams
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please pass this bill and not allow funds especially public taxpayer dollars to go to the physical altering of minor children for the purpose of gender change. This is a decision to be made as an informed 18 or older person.

Denise Long
Self/banker
Katy, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. I am against the gender modification and permanent damage done to children.

CARLOS ROSS
Self-Retired
Winnsboro, TX

It is time we stop wasting money and time on nonsense. Our tax dollars should never find a way to have any part in gender trasititioning, gender reassignment or any woke nature of this sort.

Melissa Sherer
self
Garland, TX

Please support and pass this bill to protect Texas children from the harmful gender identity affirmation/medical transition industry. These children need help, not harm. Do not assist in creating lifelong medical patients under the guise of affirmation. Gender ideology causes confusion and irreversible damage to young people and should be stopped.

James Griffin
Self
Missouri City, TX

I support this bill. This is not a decision a child should be allowed to make.

Diane Larsen
PAVE
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Maegan Whiting
Self
Midland, TX

I support the bill to protect children from being able to have gender change. (Transgender)

Martha Sauce, Church Business Administrator
Lakeside Baptist Church
Granbury, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

CAREN LACY
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Eric Kuntz, Cpt
self
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686

Friday Garcia
self, artist
San Antonio, TX

My name is Friday Garcia I'm 19 years old from San Antonio, TX and I'm AGAINST bill HB1686. I'd just like to speak a little bit about my experience and my story growing up as a Female to Male transgender person in texas.

I came out at 12 years old and although my parents are supportive in everything I do, they didn't completely understand what being transgender meant for me. So they took me to a professional, a Gender Therapist. This is also the first step to starting HRT; hormone replacement therapy, as a minor which I would like to mention is NOT easy to get.

I was in therapy for months before being diagnosed with gender dysphoria, which is required before starting HRT.

Gender dysphoria for me is the feeling of wanting to rip my skin off and jump out of my body because myself and the world can't see me for who I really am. Gender dysphoria is PAINFUL and it affected me everyday in everything I did.

Because of this I suffered from suicidal thoughts, self harm, and treatment resistant depression but HRT truly saved me. Once I started taking Testosterone at 15 years old my entire life changed.

I can proudly say that today after being on Testosterone for over 4 years that I'm happy, that I'm healthy, that I love my trans body, and that I'm still alive to give this testimony.

My parents didn't understand at first and if trans youth is something that you cannot understand as well, then you should do as they did and not only listen to the professionals, but more importantly listen to the voices of those in our community.

Bills like HB1686 are what kills us and I don't see where politics lie in the discussion of care between child, parent, and their doctor or therapist. Being transgender isnt a crime, it isnt a perversion, and trans youth seeking gender affirming care is not abuse, it's a lifeline.

Thank you for your time.

Donni Cook
self
Tyler, TX

I am FOR HB 1686! NO child should be allowed to have procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or gender dysphoria! I see this as child abuse! NO use of private money or public assistance should be provided for such procedures or treatments.

Kevin Lykins
Self
Tioga, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Robert Granecki
Sekf- Sr. Sales Enablement AnalystI oppose this bill. Pride is another tool which encourages inclusion and acceptance of others just as teaching about any other culture. Denying people the ability to
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Denying people access to life saving healthcare denies Trans people their existence. Denying their existence is encouraging the disappearance of said existence. This community is strong and will continue to exist regardless of bills like this.

By framing this decision as a "protection for children" you explicitly mean the types of children you want to see. You don't want kids to be trans. They will be trans regardless but, you don't want to see them. By focusing on this for children you can make the claim that you're fine with adults transitioning. But, you don't want to see trans adults either. With this bill, at best, you view trans-ness as a backup choice - as something that can be explored later on, and in silence, when their existence is a reality whether we allow them to get gender affirming care or not. And if these kids are not able to get the treatment that is recommended by their healthcare professionals, their parents, and the people who care about them most - you won't have to see trans people in our community because they won't make it.

At worst, you actively support transgender genocide.

Again - this wonderful part of our community will not stop existing due to bills like this; They'll just feel hated, scared, and unloved. Which is exactly what this bill aims to do and it's despicable.

Donna Wisdom
Self
Richardson, TX

Decisions like this can do a lifetime of permanent harm. Please keep children from being able to make choices that do not fully understand and will regret later.

Erwin Dela Pena
Self
Plano, TX

I support this Bill. Please pass this bill. Thank you

Susan Keator
self
San Antonio, TX

I am for HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee as soon as possible!

Kathleen Alberigi, Mrs.
Self, preschool teacher
Frisco, TX

Please vote for this bill to stop gender modification of minor children.
What children grow up to be happy and free the way they were born to be!

Linda Huff
Self
Abilene, TX

Vote for this bill.

Linda Berrey
self/retired
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686.

Jessica Browder
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1686. Gender-affirming medical care saves lives, reducing the risk of suicide by up to 73% in teenagers. In fact, over 20 national medical institutions support gender-affirming medical care for teenagers, including the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Psychological Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and the World Medical Association.

To push this bill forward would result in a higher rate of teen depression and anxiety (meaning more suicide attempts) and goes directly against best practice medical recommendations from nationally recognized health organizations.

I urge the folks who keep shouting “but think about the children” to consider the lives and wellbeing of trans children as well.

Jeff Graves
Self
Midland, TX

Children should not be making life altering decisions with or without parental consent. Please do not spend Texas money on any such procedures. Keep children innocent.

Robert Bloss Sr, Dr
Self pediatric surgeon
Houston, TX

This provision cannot be allowed-and I am one of the surgeons asked to do it!!!

Christopher Hagin
Self, Nonprofit marketer
Austin, TX

I am testifying on behalf of myself as a transgender Texan from Austin in opposition to HB 1686. By age twelve, extreme depression and anxiety ruled my life. For years, I was unable to function academically or socially. By thirteen, my parents were terrified that I would kill myself. I went to psychiatrists, therapists, hospitals, but nothing made a difference. All my life I prayed to God that He would make me a boy, but it wasn't until I learned what transgender meant at 14 that I understood why I had struggled all my life to be happy.

I came out to my parents at fifteen, and I was very lucky that they listened, believed me, and supported me. They did not fully understand, but tried their best because they loved me and knew that they would rather have a happy son than a dead daughter.

Living my boyhood under the care of mental health professionals improved my wellbeing, but as long as I and society physically saw me as female, I was unable to better my mental health in a meaningful way. Fearing that I would not make it to adulthood, my family looked across the state for practitioners willing to treat a sixteen year old, and I started hormone therapy, slowly increasing from a low dose to the biological male range. At seventeen, with the approval of many physical and mental practitioners, I had my chest surgically reconstructed.

You say that what my parents, physicians, and health providers did was a crime against me. If I had not been able to access hormones and surgery in my teens, I would have killed myself. Medical transition opened my life to wellness, happiness, and social inclusion.

I am very lucky to be one of the most privileged transgender people in Texas. The Lord gifted me a family who loves me unconditionally and had the time and wealth to fight for me. Most trans kids in this state don’t get that. Because of their support, I was able to graduate high school and college and start my career with minimal trauma or resistance. I cannot stress enough how medically transitioning in my youth made both my adolescence and adulthood so much easier.

If this bill becomes law, you will sentence kids to suicide, to social exclusion, to deeply unhappy and broken childhoods that will follow them the rest of their lives. You will tell families and communities that their kids are not to be listened to, not to be believed, not to be loved and supported unconditionally. Every trans child deserves to reach adulthood, just like I did. For these reasons, I urge you to not let this bill proceed.

Kylie Cross
Myself
McKinney, TX

I am for prohibiting these procedures and treatments and am against public funding for these treatments

Cynthia Graves
Self
Midland, TX

Please keep children innocent from this! We should not be tampering with the gender of minor children.

Katie Martinez, Self
Self
Abilene, TX

FOR

Jodi Fry, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

Children are not mature enough mentally to make these decisions.

Steven Ward
Self
Melissa, TX

Protect our children from being “allowed” or pushed into life changing procedures that they are not prepared to make nor understand the consequences. Stop the experimentation of our children’s lives for a strange and sick agenda.

Carol Snapp
Self
Leander, TX

I do not want my tax money used for these purposes. I base my opinions on Bible principles and beliefs.

Brad Bunnett, Dad
Concerned parent
Dallas, TX

In favor

Kate Anderson
Self
Murphy, TX

Support!!! Children are not born in the wrong bodies. Puberty blockers and genital mutilation cause irreversible damage to children. Find other ways to get them the help they need!

Kathleen Kenny
Self
Cypress, TX

I do not want any tax payer dollars used for gender transitioning. The State of Texas should not be part of the mutilation of children because of mental conditions they may have about their bodies. The jump in numbers of children claiming this confusion is caused by adults who have an agenda that supports their needs and not the children.

Gregory Hearne, Mr
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I agree with this bill. God doesn’t make mistakes. People and governments do.

Richard Murphy, Pastor
Self
McKinney, TX

Totally opposed to gender alteration

Kathy Gray
Parents of Texas Children
Frisco, TX

I am absolutely against any changes to an adolescent’s body until they are older, mature and can make a mature, informed decision.

Karen Ryan
Self
Dallas, TX

To prohibit this care based on gender is inhumane and will cause untold harm and suffering to so many children and their families. Government needs to refocus on the country and stop trying to control how individuals live their lives.

Judith Clay, Mrs
Conservative self
Ore City, TX

I am against gender modification, so I am asking you to vote to ban gender modification in the state of Texas. If we could, I'd like to ban it worldwide.

Michael Chaffin
Self. Engineer.
Humble, TX

I am for limiting the mutilation of children. Gender modification is for the very very few, when they are adults.

Donna Strader
Self/homemaker
Cedar Park, TX

Please pass HB 1686 and stop procedures and treatments for gender change in children!

Gavin Drewry
Texas Nationalist Movement
Flint, TX

I support HB 1686

Keisha Holland
Self
Little Elm, TX

I am in full support of this bill!

Leonor Vargas
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. It is time to listen to the majority of the voices and not the few. It is anti-democracy.

Jenna Rowell
Self
Austin, TX

I have a public health degree in Social determinants of health as well as a masters in education. I work as a patient advocate here in Austin.
Bill HB1686 will deny children the possibility of receiving life-saving care that is already shrouded in restrictions and deny medical professionals and physicians the ability to fully care for their patients as is their expertise.
It restricts the freedom of parents to look out for and properly care for their children. This bill is obvious in its intent- not to save children but to silence and disappear trans people. This especially shows in the bills use of the language "certain children" and its exemption for surgery and gender related care in cases of intersex children. When the United Nations has found that these intersex surgeries on minors, usually performed without their full, free, and informed consent, “violate rights to the security of person, right to bodily and mental integrity, freedom from torture and ill-treatment, and freedom from violence. It also does not consider banning rhinoplasty or other procedures minors can receive with parent consent. This is not about consent or a child's ability to do so with their parents, this is about systemic oppression of Trans people in an attempt to extinguish lives that don't fit the sponsors and supporters personal definition of "normal".
I ask for you all to oppose HB1686 as it is not only government overreach and oppression of personal freedom, but also as it continues to promote the systematic genocide of trans lives.
I urge you all to consider the voices of the 2000 people who showed up to rally against this, and were all but silenced during testimonies. I also urge you to read the most recent WPATH standards of care, which are fairly restrictive, to see that every recommendation is backed by evidence and is not presented in isolation like much of the evidence brought up in support of HB1686 today like claims that puberty blockers are irreversible. And that of the DSM5 which outlines specific standards of gender dysphoria in adolescents set to specific timelines.

Marsha Davidson
Self, retired teacher
Bedford, TX

I find it hypocritical when you scream parents rights on some issues while taking away parents rights on others. You seem to believe that parents only have the right to agree with you. Parents know their children best, and should be allowed to access the health care their child needs, including care related to gender identity.

Kristin Quidatano
Self
Celina, TX

No child is born in the wrong body!!! I do not support public monies being used for gender modification surgeries.

Sabrina Ward
Self
BAIRD, TX

Children need a voice

Quatonya Solis
Self
Abilene, TX

I do not condone underanged children mutilating the body that was given to and designed by God, Most High.

Brenda Sanchez
Self
Dallas, TX

Trans kids and teens must continue to receive gender affirming care, their lives depend on it. No parents, therapists or doctors provide this care with out extensive research, therapy, and age appropriate methods. Trans rights are human rights.

Joanna Phillips
Self - Retired Business Manager
McKinney, TX

FOR

Holly Thurman, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

Children are not equipped emotionally or mentally to make such a life altering decision. I vote yes.
Thank you

Barclay McCort
Self - Retired
Salado, TX

Please vote YES on HB 1686 to protect our children.
Thank you!

Beverly Adams
Self
San Antonio, TX

The human brain is not fully formed in a woman until she's 21 or 22, in a man until he's 25 or 26. The last to be formed are the frontal lobes where we make decisions therefore a child under theses ages are not capable of making gender decisions. Taking steps on gender at these young ages is child abuse as they are not capable of making these life changing decisions.

Zhonglin Zhou
self/Seminary student
Plano, TX

I strongly support the Bill HB 1686.

JoAnn Courtney
Self
Valley View, TX

In support of this bill.

Gail Smith
self--retired
Dallas, TX

Please support this bill! We must stop the mutilation of children from those trying to push the gender transitioning on young minds that really do not understand what they would be doing to there bodies.

Indigo Giles
Self (student)
HOUSTON, TX

My name is Indigo Giles, I’m 21 years old, and my pronouns are they/them. I’m a born-and-raised Texan and a current university student and I am here representing myself to oppose HB1686.
When I was 14, I realized that there was something different about me. I knew I wasn’t a girl, but I didn’t feel like a boy either. When I finally found the language to describe myself as nonbinary, it felt like a relief. But I still felt uncomfortable in my own body. I struggled greatly with gender dysphoria, which caused deep depression and even behaviors of self-harm. Finally, at age seventeen, after a year of waiting, multiple disheartening delays, and many, many discussions with a full team of doctors, nurses, my personal GP, and multiple mental health professionals to determine that this was the right choice for me, I received gender-affirming surgery. The first time I was able to get out of bed post-op and see myself in the mirror wearing just a regular t-shirt, I started crying. I was so unbelievably happy. I felt like I could finally recognize the person in the mirror.
The care I received falls under the scope of procedures targeted by this harmful bill. It is not an exaggeration to say that the care I received saved my life, and it is not an exaggeration to say that banning gender-affirming health care will cost the lives of kids like me.
I want other trans children who are going through the same things I was experiencing to have access to best-practice medical care. I don’t want any child to be denied the same joy and relief that I was able to experience.
Politics and legislation have no place in a decision that should be made between a patient and their team of doctors. Trust the experts to provide best-practice medical care. Let our bodies be our own bodies, and not a political battlefield. Vote no on HB1686.

Amanda Ridout
Self
Kerens, TX

Please stop the mutilation of our children! If they want to change genders they can decide to do so as adults.
Children do not have the capacity to make these life altering changes

June Bennion
Self
Austin, TX

Hello council members,

My name is June and I was raised as a deeply closeted nonbinary trans person in conservative Utah. I didn't even have the language for gender dysphoria or what being queer really meant let alone even the hope of accessing medical care. I've lived with depression and suicidal ideation for the better part of my life and to be honest if I hadn't made the move the Austin in 2016 I don't know if I would have lived much more than my current 28 years.

I can't begin to describe how painful it is to see this legislation even be up for debate. If I would have had access to gender-affirming care back when I was a teenager I can't begin to describe how much of a difference it would have made in my life. I have friends who have either committed sucide or succumb to drug related deaths because they were denied gender afdirming care. To know that their suffering could have been relieved and to know what beautiful souls we lost as a result of that lack of care pains me to no end.

I'm one of the lucky ones who got out and was able to move to a city like Austin where I've been able to find a chosen family who loves and supports me for exactly who I am. Why would you deny the right to a full long, rich, and fulfilling life especially when many of these children are under the supervision of their parents and trained medicinal professionals?

Please dont pass this billl, we will lose so many bright and beautiful people if you do.

Sandra Fogle
Yourself
Whitewright, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Angela STANFORD
Self
SPRING, TX

I vote for this bill.

Julia Holstine
Self
Houston, TX

As a transgender Texan I am appalled and terrified by this bill. Cutting access to lifesaving healthcare will drive families with trans children out of Texas and those who stay will be in a hostile environment where no one can thrive. We just want children to be able to be who they are without the fear that the government that's meant to protect them doesn't even want them to exist. Who wants to live in a state like this? Blood will be on the hands of those who vote to pass this bill. I implore this committee to vote no on this bill. Please help make Texas a place I can feel proud to live in.

Min Edwards
Self
CEDAR PARK, TX

I support HB1686. The children are our future. We need to protect them.

Ashley Wilson
none
Austin, TX

Thank you, Chairwoman Klick, Vice Chair Campos and the members of the committee my name is Ashley Wilson. As a transwoman I am fundamentally opposed to this bill and efforts by your committee to attack myself and members of my community. I am proud of who I am. I grew in Haskell County and graduated from Paint Creek High School in 2001. I grew up in a Christian evangelical household. Even though I have transitioned I am still a Christian today. I attend a great Church here in Austin. Now to the issue at hand today. I would have transitioned sooner than I did. This bill harms children by the potential ban on HRT for young people who just want to live their true authentic lives By this ban, children who are not able to live their true authentic lives it would drive them to commit suicide. I believe that your big party donors in West Texas that funnel money to the Texas GOP is the driving force for these anti lgbt bills. We have more important issues to worry about in this state like making sure we have affordable education, a fully functioning power grid and safe schools from gun violence. As I remember correctly your party stands for personal responsibility. How can you stand for personal responsibility if you want to take away the rights of parents and the parent's responsibility to parent their children. I Fundamentally oppose this bill.

Nancy Aspaas, MOTHER
self
Hurst, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill and will actively seek to stunt the reelection and primary election efforts of any representatives that support it.

Jenifer Grubbs
Self
Southlake, TX

I support this bill and ask that Texas stand strong in this. Please do not allow parental rights to be trampled on. Protect our children.

David Davis
Self
Haakell, TX

I support these bills

Sharon Duncan, Ms.
GOP Precinct Chair 131
McKinney, TX

I support this bill for the following reasons:

1. Each medical professional has taken an oath to “do no harm;” this bill supports that oath.
2. This gender focus is touted by @10% of our population, imposing their beliefs on the other 90% of citizens.
3. This country was built on Christian beliefs and the truth told in the Bible, that there are male and female, period.
4. Many children who have undergone these procedures have regretted being bullied into making this life-changing decision. As a former educator for high school, I know the intense peer pressure and bullying that occurs. I also know that children’s brains do not fully develop until about age 21.
5. No public or health funds should be used.

Please seriously consider these thoughts as you make decisions that will negatively affect a generation of our young people.

Mary LaVeau
self/REI
Austin, TX

Please vote yes to prevent gender modification of children. Honestly, I believe it should be prohibited for anyone, I can't imagine God makes mistakes. Remember what Jesus said to his disciples in Luke 12:1-2. Then He said to the disciples, “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones."
He was warning of us of the times we are facing now. Please be on the side of good, not evil. We need to join together to protect all humanity as Jesus called us to do.

Karen Pulaski
Self
Denton, TX

Pass for the children’s sake!!

Michelle Hollingshead
Self
Austin, TX

Ban transitioning for minors

Ashley Steinmann
Self
Georgetown, TX

We cannot be giving our young children hormones at such a young age when our children's brains haven't even developed fully. If we allow gender reassignment before 18 we need to allow other preposterous things like boob jobs before 18 too. Both represent the same unhappiness in identity. Both are preposterous to allow a child to do something about it before they are adults.

Joyce Setter
self - retired
Duncanville, TX

Stop child mutilation--especially before maturity--age 25 or so! Notice detrainsitioners anger at making changes with lack of full knowledge and understanding of ramifications. So sad money and drug companies as well as misguided individuals fight so hard against common sense. Look at how some European countries have evaluated the negative effects of mutilation and are now focusing on true identification and treatment of foundational problems that truly help hurting/confused individuals!

Patrick Poteet
#DoNoHarm
Frisco, TX

Gender modification should not be allowed in Texas.

Marie Harbord
Self
Highland Village, TX

I support this bill! No child is born in the wrong body!

Min Edwards
SELF
CEDAR PARK, TX

I support HB 1686. Our children are our future and we need to protect them.

Jennifer Cook
Self
Irving, TX

Children's brains are not mature enough to make this decision. It is appalling what some doctors and parents are doing to their children. Protect the children.

Kay Vick
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

Children should not be able to have these life altering treatments. They can wait until they are adults if they do choose to pursue

Rebecca Setliff
Self
Georgetown, TX

It is child abuse to perform any surgeries and mutilate any child's body under the age of 18. The medicine often given to children is not FDA approved. Please stop disorienting children. Many children young adults who go through with the process detransition years later and then have permanently damaged bodies.

Jeffery Mayor, 1SG
Self
Harlingen, TX

This goes against Gods design and parents rights. Children are not able to make life altering decisions at such a young age and we are seeing the damage done throughout society. Once these procedures are performed there is no undoing them. Adults should not be encouraging these procedures or practices that push a narrative which is harmful. If an adult wants to make these decisions then the burdens including mental health and physical issues rests on their shoulders. To offer this to minors is abhorrent behavior and should be criminalized. Mental health is a serious issue in society today and as we see the destruction of our families, state and nation we should be returning to God for answers and not the State. Government is the cause of problems not the solution. I vehemently disagree with the perverse manipulation of our youth and these procedures, surgeries and mutilations of our children Must Stop. We must ask ourselves why adults would want to traumatize and damage our youth. It is a sickness and we as a State and nation must stand up. God will judge those harming our children. Like 17:2 says " It would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to stumble". Gods wrath will be on those that harm children. It's time to stop following what the world says and turn back to Christ. I urge you in the state house and legislatures to heed Gods warning and if supporting this to repent and save yourselves. From a concerned and troubled Citizen Soldier

Mary McClain, Mrs
Self
Georgetown, TX

For/support the bill

Zoe Trewin
Self - photographer
McKinney, TX

These decisions should be left to parents and the Children's doctors. If you don't have a child with gender dysphoria then you don't understand the incredibly difficult road these families are walking. Lives hang in the balance... leave this decision to medical professionals and also to the people who know them, love them and care about them the most. I speak as someone who has walked this road in my family.

Johanna Willis
self
Cypress, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL

katie Sharp
self
austin, TX

This bill infringes on the rights of all texas citizens. every child and adult should have the access to gender affirming care!

James Jackson
OUTreach Denton
Denton, TX

The following is the testimony I was going to read during public testimony for the Public Health House Committee on March 27, 2023:

My name is James Jackson, I use he/him pronouns and I'm a trans Texan who was born and raised here. I'm testifying on behalf of myself and the organization OUTreach Denton. I deeply oppose HB 1686.

There has been a lot of discussion and expert opinion about the increasing rates of youth suicides and suicidal ideation. I've heard other witnesses for this bill claiming that trans youth are depressed because they're trans or that they don't know themselves. But the truth is we do know ourselves and we have plenty of trans joy. So I'm going to share mine in a list of firsts.

The first time I wore a binder I couldn't stop grinning and touching my chest in astonishment that I finally recognized myself in the mirror.

The first time I came out at work to supportive and celebratory emails from co-workers.

The freedom and relief after I posted my first Facebook announcement explaining that I started hormones and that I would like everyone to call me James. I still read the congratulatory comments and messages today.

The first few hairs sprouting on my chin along with red hot pimples and a deepening voice. It was my chance at a second puberty that wouldn't make me want to die.

The first time I used a men's bathroom and then the locker room, shaking from nerves and fear that I would be caught out or attacked, and discovering that everyone could see what I saw.

The first time I saw my chest after top surgery and I beamed so brightly, my cheeks hurt. Plus, that moment when I first slipped on a button up without the top buttons straining? Heaven.

The first time my father finally called me his son one day late last year after being out for six years and waiting for that moment the whole time.

Trans people are resilient, joyous, open, loving, talented, and sacred. The problem isn't being trans. It's the rest of the world who can't see what we see.

Trans, non-binary, gender non-conforming, and gender expansive kids deserve access to healthcare, they deserve to make decisions with their trusted support systems, and they deserve a future. And most of all, they deserve joy. Let them.

Thank you.

Leslie Strange
Self, homeschool teacher
Bullard, TX

For the bill

Taylor Whitsell
Self
McKinney, TX

No minor is capable of making such a life changing decision. This procedure is unethical and detrimental to the body and should not be a choice a child has. Protecting our children should be an utmost priority!

Steve Koehler
Self / N/A
Leander, TX

I stand WITH this bill and support parental rights over minors.

Rebecca Heidelberg, Texan
Self
Midland, TX

I grew up as a tomboy. I wore jeans with holes in them, not because it was cool, but because I was always ripping my jeans. I had short hair and never followed a boy band. My favorite afternoons were with my guy friends playing football in a neighbor's yard. We pulled crawdads out of the creeks and threw frogs at each other. If you had given my 9 year old self the option to become a boy, there is a solid chance I would have signed up.

My mom loved me for who I was and let me run with my tomboy personality, but when I would make statements like "I wish I was a boy." She would remind me of the fact that God made me a girl and He created me this way for a reason. Those reading this may not be of the Christian faith and so that point may not hold any value, but at the end of the day, I am so extraordinarily grateful for my mom's gender affirmation of my born gender.

As an adult, I'm happily married to a man. We have two boys. I don't freak out when they climb, roughhouse, or bleed. I'm a pretty darn good boy mom. I'm so grateful that I did not miss out on this blessing in life. I still despise the color pink and floral prints, but we need moms like me to balance out the others. Where are the people protecting the tomboys. Why can't we let little girls be rough around the edges without telling them that they were just born wrong? Why can't we accept boys that are more effeminate? Things have been taken too far. Let the kids have their personalities, but don't tell them their gender birth was a mistake. Let them mature and let all of the hormones settle before they make a life altering decision.

Protect our children. It is the right thing to do.

Gina Phipps
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Lilly Grubbs
self
Southlake, TX

I support this bill and the necessary protection it offers parents and children who are suffering at the hand of a sick society. The truth shall set them free.

Chloe Poteet
self, massage therapist
Frisco, TX

FOR THIS BILL

Amanda Logan
self
Austin, TX

Children are being abused and should NOT be enabled by medical professionals or using public funds to provide hormone blocking drugs that cause long-term and irreversible damage OR to allow surgical procedures to remove a child's body parts. These damaging procedures are resulting in long-term health damage to these children and once they have matured many are realizing they have made a HUGE mistake but it's too late and their body is permanently disfigured, they can't bear children or breastfeed when an underage woman's breasts have been removed. Whistleblowers in gender clinics and children who realized they made a huge mistake in partaking in these medical procedures have bought to light the child abuse that is taking place with enabling children to receive these disfiguring procedures. Children under 18 can't get a tattoo or drink alcohol under 21 and should not be allowed to make the decision to change their gender as a child and permanently disfigure their bodies. PLEASE consider the stories of from whistleblowers at gender reassignment clinics and from those who have detransitioned and the permanent damage they have to live with from this. VOTE TO PREVENT MEDICAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN. most of these children have comorbidities and need psychiatric counseling not hormones to permanently change their bodies!

Ruthanne Kern
self and for the next generation/school teacher
Plano, TX

To the House Committee on Public Health: I am writing with an urgent request for you to vote YES regarding HB 1686 : Relating to prohibitions on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments to children. As a public school teacher, I see that the next generation of our nation is greatly struggling with the confusion of today's information in finding their true identity, purpose and value. These questions cannot be answered by undergoing mutilation surgery of their body parts and taking drugs that were never meant for this purpose. We can no longer even trust parents in this area because they have been deceived by misleading information about these procedures and their lifelong affects. There are current laws that protect our children from driving, bearing arms and drinking alcohol and we must include this topic of a child's gender in this critical list. As adults, we have the responsibility to protect the next generation and must therefore stand firm on what biology proves - regardless of religion - and not approve, nor pay for, these horrific procedures. There is very little research on this topic, and the truth is being suppressed, but the information that is available shows a skyrocketing increase in depression, regret, suicide attempts, drug and alcohol abuse in the lives of those that have been lied to by the medical community about the harmful effects of this decision. Please look at the website www.SexChangeRegret.com to get the TRUTH and vote accordingly. May God be with you as you vote YES on prohibiting these harmful and hideous surgeries on the most vulnerable - because one day we ALL must give an account to GOD of the decisions we have made in this life.

Chelsea Acres
self, long-time Texas resident
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Medical decisions should be between patients and their doctors, and the Texas government has no business limiting personal freedom when seeking healthcare. This bill in anti-science, anti-religious freedom, is a massive state government overreach, and puts at-risk people in danger.

Francis Kenny
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686.

Rong Hu
Self
Austin, TX

I am for the bill. No single child is born in the wrong body. We need to give confused kids enough time to mentally figure out who they are. Cutting off body parts and and put them on the opposite sex hermon creates depression, aggression and Complication to the body and mind. There are so many people regret but can't go back. Please hear the powerful testimony of detransition people on Twitter : @detransawareness, @chooocole, @ljdetrans, @billboardchris, @detransaqua, @genspect etc. there are so many of them and you can't ignore.

Andrew Prado
No one
Cypress, TX

I support this Bill!

Rachael Sikes
Gregg County Republican Chair Precinct 5
Longview, TX

It should not be legal for parents to even transition their children as it can negatively impact their development, nor should taxpayers have to pay for a child to transition or anyone to transition for that matter.

Many times when children transition they have regret even adults do. It also negatively impacts their sexual life, their personal life their, and mental health after transitioning. I will not include my own personal opinions based off of my faith, because my faith does not agree with it, but as this is a free country I am providing facts as to how it is detrimental to childhood development and should be considered child abuse. If a child is not old enough to consent to having sex, why would we consider them old enough to consent to having a sex change that could cause their entire life to spiral?

Especially nowadays people want attention and instant gratification, and a lot of these kids are just transitioning because of social pressure and not truly having gender dysphoria. As someone who was a tomboy when I was younger in the era that's going on right now I may have been socially pressured to transition and thank God I grew up in the late 90's early 2000s where It was just chalked up to me being a tomboy. I outgrew this by age 16 as do most women but right now we're seeing a epidemic of young girls socially and medically transitioning and harming their bodies. This has to stop and this cannot be allowed in the state of Texas nor should anyone have to fund it for children or adults. This is purely a lifestyle decision but in the case of children medically transitioning them or putting them on puberty blockers should be considered child abuse.

Parents need to start saying no again. It's good to listen to your child but it's not okay to cave to your child every whim especially when they're under so much social pressure. And for the parents who force their children to transition they should be tried in court because that child is going to have a shorter life expectancy a terrible sex life a terrible life in general, and that's just child abuse.

Kimberly Shurtleff
Self
Haslet, TX

Support

Kristi Tovar
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill. No child is born in the wrong body.

Ashley Boyers
Myself
Frisco, TX

I SUPPORT the passing of HB1686.
Once a surgery is complete, there is NO going back. A human brain isn't fully developed until said human is in their 20s.
Do you REALLY believe it is a good idea to change a CHILD'S body?? I am FURIOUS that I even have to discuss this right now. If a person grows up and decides to change their fully developed body, then SO BE IT. Until then, I'm voting to protect these vulnerable kids.

Amanda Blundell
Self, owner Abide direct Medical supply
Bullard, TX

AGAINST

Edward Boytim
Self
College Station, TX

Persons under the age of 18 should be prevented from consenting to any of the above life altering and ultimately sterilizing treatments. Gender dysphoria is not a terminal disease and public funds should not be used to provide gender transition, gender reassignment, or hormone therapy. These individuals should be screened for previous abuse and provided with counseling to deal with their issues not life altering, non-reversible procedures that mutilate healthy bodies.

Jordan Spaethe
Self
Frisco, TX

I'm saying that this BS that would allow MINORS to be able to use public funding to transition is abominable. I choose to support this bill because there are zero moral grounds to inflict these disgusting treatments on children. We must pass this bill for the protection of the next generation.

Meagan Field
Self, homemaker
Flint, TX

FOR

Deborah Fogle
Self
Goldthwaite, TX

For/support

Shau E Su, Dr.
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB1686.

Audrey McGinnis
Self
Frisco, TX

Support

Lisa Tindol, Mrs
Self
Midland, TX

I am for HB #1686. A true doctor would not consider providing transgender related health care to a minor.

Melodie Reguero
Residents of Texas
Allen, TX

Every child is fearfully and wonderfully made and created in the image of the God who created the universe. He chose the gender. Stop the mutilation of children and the TG agenda with children!!!

Rebecca Young
Self
Mckinney, TX

For

Jessica Partlow
Self
Tyler, TX

I am for this bill.

Lindsay Rose
Self/homemaker
McKinney, TX

For

George Grubbs
Self
Southlake, TX

FOR/Support the Bill

Chasity Dix
Self
Austin, TX

My fiancé is transgender. He moved to Texas a decade ago. He's the CEO of his company and they do over a million dollars in revenue each year. He owns his own home and pays taxes here in Texas. One of my close friends has a transgender child. They're moving this summer because they no longer feel safe living in Texas, and they're worried they're not going to be able to get best practice health care they need for their daughter if they stay. My kids' best friend at school is transgender. Their family is planning to leave Texas in a couple of years, to ensure that their daughter is safe and can get the life saving health care that she needs. Passing bills like HB1686 doesn't actually do anything to protect children. This bill is a dangerous and potentially deadly attempt to deny medical care to transgender youth and blatantly overrides the parental choice and medical expertise of providers to determine what care is best for their child. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. The fact that these bills are being proposed is driving people from our state, and with that they're taking their tax money and money they could be pouring into our local economy. I urge you to vote NO on HB1686. These children deserve to feel safe and supported in the state they live in, and the opportunity to grow up to become happy, successful, thriving members of our society.

Rory Petrakis
Self.
Austin, TX

My name is Rory...i am a jewish trans man and i oppose house bill 1686

I hope that some of what i have to say will tap into the empathy of the adults in the room making decisions but today i am submitting in hopes of documenting that trans voices deserve to be heard. Especially trans kids.

I have known my entire conscious life that i am a boy. I felt it in my soul long before i ever had the words to express it. Years before i had the internet.

When i was younger, everyone called me tom...as in tomboy.

They weren't wrong.
Tom just wasnt the right name.

My trans body is my greatest joy. I adore it.
I love who i have grown to be inside of this body and i know trans kids just want the same opportunity to grow into themselves.

So many people in that building yesterday knew what it feels like to hold your breath while folks who do not understand you decide what to do to your body.

We will find a way forward.
Trans joy is everywhere. Its been coursing though your capitol for days in the face of your blatant transphobia.

This community will not abandon kids to the whims of politicians. Every trans child deserves the opportunity to be a happy and fulfilled adult. That is all the trans community wants.
We are not mentally ill.
We are not a phase.
We are survivors and we will be here every step of the way fighting for our future and our health. We will never back down from the cruelty of those who seek to harm us. This world needs trans joy and more importantly trans kids deserve to experience that joy.

To the members on this committee....you have the opportunity to reject transphobia and scientific misinformation ....a lot of which is your own creation.
Please make the correct choice and throw this bill into the trash where it belongs and actually protect the health of these children and their families.

And i just want to say to the representative who needs clarification on what a woman ...i might be a raging homosexual
But i do know what a women is....and what she is sir ...is tired of small men like you making decisions about her body autonomy and her family.

Cynthia Dale
Self. Retired
Princeton, TX

Please do not further damage our children's mental and physical health by allowing gender reassignment surgeries.

Evia Ballard
self
Marble Falls, TX

I am for this bill! It is vital that we protect our children from this travesty.

KAREN CHILDRESS
self/designer
Sherman, TX

Not only should 'certain procedures and treatments for gender"... not be allowed on children, public money and/or public assistance should definitely not be used to provide those procedures and treatments. If the state of Texas has so much public money that they don't know what to do with it, try using it for the welfare of those who need food assistance or something that is a basic necessity for life.

Alric Reynolds
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Alric, I use He/They pronouns and I am against HB 1686.
At 8 years old, I started puberty. In 4th grade, this was very confusing, humiliating, and disorienting time, as I was the only one my age having a period and wearing training bras. At age 12, I was diagnosed with PCOS and was put on birth control, after having multiple ovarian cysts burst. Many of my immediate peers did not start puberty until 14 through 16 years of age. I was alone in early onset puberty.
I didn't come out until my 20's as part of the LGBTQ+. If I had had access or even knowledge at a younger age, I could have avoided tremendous amounts of embarrassment, humiliation, anxiety, chronic depression, and suicidal ideation. I stress, even if I was CIS gender, puberty blockers would have helped me feel more equal with my peers, being able to develop with them. Before transitioning, I was consumed with disphoria, depression, and suicidal thoughts and attempts. It wasn't until I had access to gender affirming health care and vocabulary, that my mental and physical well being improved. And I so desperately wish I could tell my younger self that it could have been okay with access to health care, like I'm advocating for today. So I ask the committee before me to. Please, vote against HB 1686 and help the younger generations live their happiest lives and become their best selves.

Xinrui Li
Self
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686

Esther Wheeler
Self, homemaker
Sanger, TX

Minors are too young to be making these lifelong impacting decisions. Gender transition should not be taken lightly and should only be done by/for a legal adult who has researched and understood all the long term effects and consequences and ramifications. Minors aren’t allowed to drink or vote, why should they be allowed to completely alter the course of their life with no recourse for true reversal of the actions? And even if it is allowed, it should not be funded by public finances. The public finances should strictly be used for basic functions of society. Trying to use public funds for these things opens the state up to the possibility of major lawsuits in the future if there are minors who regret the decision later and wish the public hadn’t encouraged it.

Lauren Sheppard
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I would like to vote FOR HB 1686. Our children’s body’s should not be mutilated for cultural fads.

Sasha Rose
Austin Mutual Aid
Austin, TX

As a parent of five I can attest to the struggles teens face & the impact on their mental health. The statistics regarding LGBTQIA youth that consider and or attempt suicide are terrifying. This bill is DANGEROUS to our trans youths lives. This bill is HARMFUL to our community. Legislators should NEVER be given the power to override parents & youths MEDICAL DECISIONS much less the power to override the entire medical community. The evidence is clear. Treating gender dysphoria is NECESSARY. Passing this bill will drive families of trans youths out of Texas. The LGBTQIA community brings nearly $5B worth of annual funding in to Austin alone. Let's keep trans kids & families safe. Let's honor & support their already challenging journeys and commit to making healthcare accessible to all.

Jason Whitsell
self
Mckinney, TX

I am writing in strong support of HB1686, which aims to prohibit gender modification of minor children. I believe this bill is crucial for ensuring the well-being of our youth and upholding the principle of "do no harm."

Informed Consent: Minors often lack the cognitive maturity and life experience to make such life-altering decisions. It is essential to ensure that they have the opportunity to explore their identities in a safe and supportive environment before making irreversible choices.

Mental Health: Adolescence is a time of significant emotional, physical, and mental changes. By restricting gender modification procedures on minors, we can allow them to focus on their mental health and well-being without the added stress of transitioning.

Medical Risks: Gender modification procedures carry inherent medical risks, including potential complications from surgeries and lifelong dependence on hormone treatments. Protecting minors from these risks is paramount.

Reversibility: Some individuals who undergo gender modification at a young age may later regret their decision. By preventing such procedures for minors, we can minimize the likelihood of these individuals experiencing regret and seeking reversal procedures, which may not always be possible.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support HB1686 and urge others to do the same. We must prioritize the well-being of our children

Victoria Kirkpatrick
Self
Longview, TX

Children with gender confusion shouldn't have gender modification be their only option. Nor should it be the first option given by their pediatrician. The medical community use to try and get to the root of the problem, now they just want the money in their coffers. Unfortunately there are parents that are more confused than their children. These people encourage the child's dysphoria and with the medical community only pushing one agenda our young people are basically screwed. Take away the money and we might be able to save the children.

Mackenzie Steiner, Dr.
Self (Clinical psychologist)
Austin, TX

I am a transgender psychologist who worked 20 years with veterans. Like myself, I saw people who did not have the support to recognize their gender identity and suffered for decades as a result. I also have experienced and seen the relief and joy that comes with recognizing their true gender identity despite false, disgusting and hateful narratives by some in our society like those authoring and pushing these anti-trans bills. These bills, as shown by the advocacy and investigative journalism of people like Imara Jones & Anne Nelson (see the Anti-trans Hate Machine podcast for the evidence) we know that the individuals pushing these bills are fundamentalist Christian billionaires and other rich donors, like Betsy and Dick Devos, who have created or massively funded organizations like the Family Research Council (a recognized hate group founded by Betsy's father) the National Christian Foundation and the Heritage Foundation. These organizations are 1) laundering hateful messaging about the LGBTQ+ community through the media and 2) drafting legislation in "bill mills" that can be easily adopted into states like Texas. These hateful fundamentalist religious beliefs are hidden in the trojan horses of (1) pseudoscience, (2) attempts to invalidate/undermine the decades of medical and mental health research and practice that has been supported by EVERY major medical and mental health organization, and (2) claims that they're doing it out of "compassion", and "to save the children." Parading around a few detransitioners does not invalidate the model of care. Just like finding that there are abuses of power by a few in the police doesn't incriminate all police or invalidate all policing practice. The idea that 80% of trans children detransition HAS BEEN DEBUNKED, because it is based on a fundamental misrepresentation of the data. NO politician should be involved in claiming they know better than all these organizations and it is utter hypocrisy coming from the party of small government. If you really were concerned about child death like you claim then you'd address the largest source of child death... which is GUNS! Furthermore, if you were actually consistent in the logic in this bill you would prevent the egregious surgical procedures on intersex infants. You seem to trust the doctors and parents rights in those circumstances. Anyone who supports these bills is coming from a place of (1) ignorance of the majority of the evidence we have to date, (2) greed and/or (3) fear of political retribution... which all represent craven motivations. And to do this to the most vulnerable Texas children is NOT at all consistent with the Christianity I and most Christians practice , let alone the majority of Texans either. Are you going to give in to ignorance, greed or fear? Or are you going be courageous like our veterans, who step onto the front lines war. This is a war for the civil rights for ALL people not a few. You must vote NO on HB 1686!

Kathryn Oney
Self
Mckinney, TX

I oppose HB 1686 as it is life-threatening to our youth, damaging to our businesses, and bad for Texas.

Catherine Lemus
N/A
Austin, TX

This bill takes away individual right's to healthcare and self-expression. There is no reason why young people should not be able to receive the gender-affirming care they desire as transgender individuals already face incredible scrutiny and mental health issues. I stand against this bill and all it stands for.

Brenda Moss, Ms
Self
Savannah, TX

Stop this abuse on our children!! Do NOT support any agenda allowing public money and public assistance to provide procedures or treatments of any kind!

Mimi Watts
Self
Azle, TX

I support this bill and the protection of children who are suffering with mental disease and fall into the hands of ill intended medical institutions. Our society worships mental illness's but truth must prevail. Children need to be protected at all costs. Protect the children.

Jo Foley, 1686
self/none
Henderson, TX

This is a horrific thing to do to a child. You know the argument that we don't let children make decisions about a whole lot of things, how can we let a child or their parents make a decision about gender, something that will be a life-long struggle. No child should ever be subjected to this barbaric surgery or puberty blockers or a constant assault telling them that God made a mistake putting them in the wrong body. It is absurd that this is even an issue. If someone over 21 wants to mutilate their bodies, that is on them, but if they do it at a young age, that is on all of us. And no tax payer wants to have our money pay for it, whether the child is young or an adult. This is a good, and very much needed bill and it needs to pass. I am FOR HB 1686.

Dixie Doherty
Self
Wylie, TX

I am strongly in favor of & support this bill .

Alexandra Vargas-Gonzalez
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill.

Valerie Tyler
Self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Jacqueline Taylor
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. As a native Texan, I believe all Texas citizens have a right to make decisions regarding their health, gender, and identity. This bill will limit the bodily autonomy of Texas citizens and prevent access to the gender affirming medical care that can often save the life of a trans person. The National Library of Medicine reports that 82% of transgender individuals considered killing themselves and 40% attempted to end their life. Suicide rates are the highest among transgender youth. One of the biggest factors that negates the chances of suicide in trans youth is access to gender affirming medical care. Trans people are a vital part of our community and they should be allowed to thrive just as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and vote No on HB1686.

Tierney Bourne
Self
Frisco, TX

For the bill

Amanda Liao
None
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686

Lindsay Krisko
Self
Frisco, TX

Children should be protected from making irreversible decisions before they’re developed enough to understand what and why they are doing something major to their bodies.

Echo Hardwick
Self
Bullard, TX

FOR HB1686

Toliver Jolly
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Sarah Morales
Self
Temple, TX

Public money should not go towards something that is such a personal choice for a family. Children should not have the surgery before they are old enough to truly understand genders and how their own body's work.

Sherri Heckendorn
Self Retired
Big Sandy, TX

Growing up, I was called a tomboy. I thank God I was born in the 1960’s instead of today. We’re I born into our current environment, I would be pushed into body mutilation simply because I wanted to keep up with my older brothers.
This bill protects little girls like I was from the insanity of current gender ideology. Let tomboys be nothing more than tomboys. Please pass this bill.

Traci Jones
Self
Spring, TX

Say NO to using public funds for procedure or treatments for gender transitioning

Tina Sam
Self - retired
Humble, TX

I am FOR this bill - HB1686!

Andrew Chen, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

Please no gender change for minor.

Sarah Worzer
Self
Schulenburg, TX

I want to live in a country whose lawmakers act with compassion and respect for human beings who are trying to live their lives to the fullest expression of their true selves. There is beauty in the care that we have the option to share with others, and we rely on others to provide care for us. It is our duty to protect people's right to live with joy and have access to the care they need in order to find their joy. The onslaught of laws written to control the bodies of citizens, what care they have access to and what they are "allowed" to do with their time is an example of Government overreach that many supporters of these bills claim to be against. Be consistent. Citizens do not need the government to tell us what healthcare we are allowed to receive. Citizens need healthcare to be accessible and affordable, as it is essential to living life with liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which is our inherent right. HB 1686 is a gross ploy to turn children into political toys. They deserve to have a say in their own lives and to be provided the option to get the healthcare that they want. Act with respect for human rights. Act with an acceptance that you may not understand every person you meet, but that does not make them a threat to you. Act with a sense of reciprocity - treat others as you would like to be treated. Be a decent human and represent humanity at it's best, which is loving and supporting others and their right to self determination.

Leah Johnson
self
Conroe, TX

Trans people should have a right to transition to their identified gender.

Wendell Viktorin
Self
the woodlands, TX

I do not support this bill.

Ralph Hughes, Mr
Self
Crowley, TX

For passage of this bill.
Most children are settled into their birth gender by the time they reach majority age. Any trans surgeries before that age should be prosecuted as mutilation, what it is.

April Roycroft
Self
Tyler, TX

For

Rachael Wilkins
Self
Killeen, TX

Performing gender surgical procedures on children should NOT be allowed. Public funds should NOT be used for such procedures. Children are too young to make such life-altering decisions. There is a reason there are minimum age requirements for driving, drinking, voting, owning firearms, serving in the military, etc. Children do not have the mental and emotional maturity for these serious commitments and the same is true of gender-related surgeries. ANY vote in support of allowing these procedures is a step toward being voted out of office.

Tina Sam
Self- retired
Humble, TX

I am FOR this bill!!!

James Nall
Individual
Sugar Land, TX

I'm for the bill! NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Charles Householder
Self
McKinney, TX

It’s time to take a stand and do the right thing and pass a prohibition on the gender reassignment and transitioning of children under the age of 18. God made us make or female and that cannot be changed. Do no harm and take the action that will protect Texas minors from this evil practice.

Tennille Gentry
Self- homemaker
Flint, TX

I strongly support this bill preventing gender manipulation.

Holli Bennett
Self - homemaker
Tyler, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Kristen Dickey
Self
Frisco, TX

FOR

Gina Braswell, Mrs
Self
Bullard, TX

Vote FOR this bill.

Phyllis Roberts
PAVE Nonpartisan political action group and TMO
Houston, TX

As a person of faith and someone who trusts the medical community, I am completely against this bill:
According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Rodney Smith, U S Army Veteran.
Self - Retired
Jasper, TX

I am a Christian a believer & follower of God almighty & Creator. Passing of this bill would be against God - His creation & His holy word. What a condemnation!!!

Sam Braswell, Mr
Self
Bullard, TX

Vote FOR this bill.

Karli Lytle
Self/ FT Parent
Allen, TX

FOR.
Let us give our children the support and love they need and help them deal with the realities of a challenging world. That support does NOT include telling them that there is something wrong with their bodies or pushing them towards life altering, irreversible drugs and surgeries with severe and poorly understood side effects.
When future generations look back at this time and wonder how a supposedly civilized society became so barbaric towards its children, let it also see that Texas was a beacon of sanity and hope.

Janice Lowe
self
Austin, TX

No person is born in the 'wrong body'!
This is a destructive idea especially being forced on our youngest generation to destroy them and us, and tothwart what is right most importantly according to our Creator, but also to anyone with sound thinking.

Paisley Costlow
Self
Tyler, TX

Protect our children! If children aren’t mature enough to make adult decisions, they should not be allowed to make decisions that have life-long consequences. We MUST prohibit gender modification, by both surgical and hormone therapy, of minor children. #DoNoHarm.

Xiao Qiang Liang
Self
Austin, TX

Kids is too young to make the decision and it is not revertible.

Peyton Quidatano
resident
Celina, TX

I am writing in strong support of HB1686, which aims to prohibit gender modification of minor children. I believe this bill is crucial for ensuring the well-being of our youth and upholding the principle of "do no harm."

Informed Consent: Minors often lack the cognitive maturity and life experience to make such life-altering decisions. It is essential to ensure that they have the opportunity to explore their identities in a safe and supportive environment before making irreversible choices.

Mental Health: Adolescence is a time of significant emotional, physical, and mental changes. By restricting gender modification procedures on minors, we can allow them to focus on their mental health and well-being without the added stress of transitioning.

Medical Risks: Gender modification procedures carry inherent medical risks, including potential complications from surgeries and lifelong dependence on hormone treatments. Protecting minors from these risks is paramount.

Reversibility: Some individuals who undergo gender modification at a young age may later regret their decision. By preventing such procedures for minors, we can minimize the likelihood of these individuals experiencing regret and seeking reversal procedures, which may not always be possible.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support HB1686 and urge others to do the same. We must prioritize the well-being of our children

Ren Mooney
self
Austin, TX

I am here speaking fro the trans and queer chidlren in Texas who cannot speak for themselves. HB 1686 is a dangerous threat to all trans life here in Texas. Gender affirming care does not indoctrinate children or confuse children, it allows them to have access to a more free and safe life. This bill is an infringement of rights under the bill of rights. If those who support this bill are in favor or pro-life values then they must act out their pro-life beliefs and support all children, even those who are trans, poor and gay and immigrants. Pro-life means saving the life that is on this Earth and if you are in support of this bill you are showing your hypocrisy. Trans rights are human rights and this bill will only prevent doctors from allowing trans kids to live out their life fully. 82% of trans kids have attempted suicide and 40% have died by suicide. This is a threat to trans children;s mental health and wellbeing. Supporting this bill supports violence against trans folk and people will die if this bill passes.

Mary Wulff
Citizen
Cedar Hill, TX

I fully support this bill and strongly urge the delegates to vote and pass it.

Kathy Thomas, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for bill HB 1686. Thank you for passing this out of committee

Emilio Clancy
Self, Video Game Producer
Austin, TX

To whom it may concern,

It is troubling, to say the least, that our great state is currently being governed by parties that stand on pillars of hatred. The liberty to pursue happiness is a cornerstone upon which our forefathers sought to establish our beloved republic. A cornerstone that is currently in jeopardy by the legislative comity of Texas seeking out to legally restrict the right for certain children to receive the medical attention that they need to live the lives they choose to lead.

It is absolutely unconscionable that the children of Texas do not have a say in the medical practices that will help determine whether they are able to live freely, happily, and safely. This bill does not benefit their well-being, despite the ill-informed rhetoric that certain lawmakers are giving their constituents. Lawmakers who do not understand the gravity of the legislative impacts that they are set to impose on the citizens of Texas. Especially since they have never been in the position of the many Texans that will be impacted by this bill. They cannot comprehend how detrimental this will be to the thousands of Texans who are struggling to express their views of gender identity freely in the pursuit of happiness.

I implore you to look at your actions and truly assess the gravity of the decision you are about to take part of. Thousands, if not millions of lives across Texas for decades to come will be impacted by the legislation at hand today. These lives deserve safe medical practices surrounding their lifestyle choices. Let us be a state that supports well-informed decisions of the choices we make in our lives. Governing ourselves through bias and bigotry will surely lead to our ruin.

Thank you,

John Swindle
Self
Dallas, TX

Please do not consider this bill. Every single person should have access to the healthcare they need. Trans individuals are people just like everyone else and they deserve to be treated as such allowing them access to the healthcare they need just like every other human has access.

Kimball Young
Self
Tyler, TX

I support this bill

Evan Young
Self
Tyler, TX

I support this bill

Gabriel Bedo
Myself
Oak Leaf, TX

I support HB 1686 ! Public funds cannot be used for mutilations on the mentally ill.

Keresa Richardson
Self
McKinney, TX

Please support this bill. All children are born in the correct body.

Lucy Holguin
Self
McKinney, TX

No medical procedures or treatments should be permitted for children with gender dysphoria or gender transitioning as this could cause irreparable harm to children.

Clayton Gibson, Mr.
Self, Executive Director
Austin, TX

Texas Legislators who care about Texans will vote against this bill that silences the will of parents to support their children's wellbeing.

Medical professionals prescribe the treatment that's needed because it's necessary, and caring Texas Legislators will vote to empower doctors and parents in keeping Texas children alive and physically and mentally healthy.

If you appreciate your own ability to parent your children as you see fit, please protect other parents' right to do the same.

Jianli Shi
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Stacie Guidry
Self
Cypress, TX

They need to be adults to make this decision!

William Foster, Mr
self
Red Oak, TX

I support HB 1686. The gender transitioning idea is child abuse. No one under 18 (really 25) is cognizant enough of their bodies or what happens in this procedure to make a decision regarding this issue. There are only two sexes, male and female, and that is determined at birth.

Kandice Foster
Self homemaker
Tyler, TX

FOR THE BILL

Alissa Rhee
Self, education
Austin, TX

My name is Alissa Rhee, and I oppose HB 1686 and continue to oppose the battery of hypocritical and violent legislation that this legislative body continues to produce under the guise of protecting children, at best, and blatant disregard for the humanity of queer and trans people, at the most honest.

While people have heard elected officials here claim time and again that no single piece of legislation is an attack on the queer and trans community, as if there is not a battery of over 100 bills that systematically restrict people's choices about their education and healthcare. It seems that the politicians putting forth this bill want to cherry pick the circumstances under which parents are capable of making decisions, when science is valuable, and when the legislature is willing to accept research from places other than Texas. I'm not sure when we started listening to medical professionals (and some who are not) who conflate intercourse and reproduction, who confuse correlation for causation, and who confuse a rapid increase in the number of people coming into clinics and seeking medical treatment with rapid onset gender dysphoria, something individuals experience. Certainly, we should be listening to the most up-to-date research available. Instead, some of you want to make decisions about trans youth who are suicidal or experiencing suicidal ideation due to the litany of legislation makes it abundantly clear why trans people would not want to live. That man from the Manhattan Institute even acknowledged that suicide is a complex issue. Yet, he made Olympic-level leaps to simplify how gender affirming care does not solve suicidal behavior, when the root cause is, as he cited, much more nuanced than that.

This legislative body believes that science has to be up for rigorous review; yet, is it not a priority to establish the grounds for a study to see specifically how children in Texas are impacted by gender affirming care. This is obviously not about science. Still, the State wants to decide for all families based on limited world views where shortened life spans for LGBTQIA folks are germane to queerness and transness rather than the innumerable systems designed to exclude people from basic human resources, like the one being proposed today.

I am offended that you are posturing as though you are concerned for children, yet vehemently unwilling to acknowledge that there are children who see what you're doing right now, know that you are willing to deny them care, and will remember what you say and do in this session.

James Teague
Self. Retired
Porter, TX

Please vote for this important bill. It is crazy permitting damaging this confused youth bodies for ever. There is no reason the child can wait until they are a adult before having permanent damage done to their bodies.

Lauren Wheat
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly against this bill. These medical decisions are between doctors, their patients and their patients' families. The legislature has no business legislating against best practices as established by medical boards.

Kerri Morris
Self retired
Plano, TX

We cannot allow children to make life altering sections about their bodies. We MUST have adults in the room who live support and help them make WISE decisions.

We cannot allow them to mutilate their bodies before they have fully developed mentally.

Holly Cloud
Self
Frisco, TX

I fully and adamantly support HB 1686 protecting children from harmful and detrimental medical procedures that will affect them their entire lives. This is body mutilation and doctors and healthcare providers have no business committing these horrendous procedures on our most innocent in society. Protect the children!

Shelley Lasater
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support helping or funding children to alter their bodies

Rhonda Lockwood
Myself
Frisco, TX

Kids / parents should not be allowed to make decisions that will cause life changing irreparable damage to their bodies.

Leigh Evans
Tyler
Tyler, TX

I fully support this bill...HB 1686. Do no Harm!

Sandra Parker, Mrs.
self/atty
Sugar Land, TX

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1686 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27, Holy Bible, Word of God.

Have the COURAGE to do what is right and good in the eyes of God. Do not yield to evil, misguided voices, no matter how loud they are. God appointed you to this position, at this time, for a reason.

Do the right thing.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1686, vote it out of committee, and do all possible to pass it out of the House!

Summer Whitten
Self
Wimberley, TX

I believe it is harmful to allow children to make life long decisions during childhood. I believe people have the freedom to make choices, but the same way we wouldn't allow a child to drive a car; I don't believe we should allow a child to change their gender. I do not support any bills that would support children making these kinds of choices.

Linda Bellomy
self
Ovilla, TX

I support HB1686. Please pass this bill. Children should be protected by adults and government, not exploited for political and financial purposes. Not to protect them from these procedures and treatments wreaks permanent damage to their bodies and futures, and that in turn, damages the future of Texas.

Preston Sabom
Self, construction cost estimator
Houston, TX

Like all Texans I'm all about personal freedom. To that end, I'm here today to lay out some basic facts regarding trans youth. The APA's Resolution on Gender and Sexual Orientation Diversity in Children and Adolescents in Schools gathered decades of data that came to the conclusion that transgender youth, like transgender adults, are valid, have existed throughout history and that transness itself is not a mental disorder but rather a valid medical condition. They also found that social stigma causes harm and therapy aimed at suppressing transness is medically invalid.

Numerous other organizations find the same and they constantly question their findings. They question it to the point that Cornell University has released a meta-analysis on over 56 studies. You know what they found? 52/56 studies found that trans healthcare has a positive influence. 0 of the studies that span across numerous decades since 1991 showed that transcare is actually negative or harmful harmful in any sense. They question the facts as much as they can and time and time again, it supports trans people. There's also been numerous long term studies, despite the claims today that they don't exist, that follow trans youth, sometimes into adulthood and they found that whether it's just social transition or full healthcare that trans youth see marked improvements in their mental health and quality of life. This pushed idea that full and permanent detransition is rampant is, frankly speaking, a false myth. And one not borne out by good faith framing of the data.

Additionally, according to all available polling, American voters by and large do not support anti-trans legislation. They want legislation on actual issues.

So, I have to pose a question to the representatives here today that are currently for HB1686. Why are you against healthcare for trans youth? All reputable organizations are listened to by all of you without question on every medical issue except for the ones which have become unnecessarily politicized. It's true that the science constantly evolves but it has also consistently supported the validity of trans people and their healthcare.

Why are you getting between your constituents and their doctors who are trying to provide their trans patients the medically necessary healthcare they need in a safe manner with best adjusted practices. Most patients in this state get the personal freedom they deserve for their medical privacy and access to care. I strongly urge you to do the same for trans youth. Voting to restrict will only harm these innocent children as all the data shows.

Daniel Cole
Texas resident
Bullard, TX

I am against gender modification

Zhitong Zhao, Mr.
Self
Georgetown, TX

We need protect our children.

Rachel May
Self - Homeschool
Tyler, TX

I am for the Bill of HR 1686

Michael Meuth
self
Buda, TX

Following the logic that you must be 18 years old before being allowed to get a permanent tattoo, it is very important that we use the same logic to keep children from making a permanent decision before they are old enough to know the consequences.

Jennifer Jones, Mrs.
Family
Jacksonville, TX

Children are created perfect by God and should not be altered in any way based on “feeling” they have currently or what a parent wants to change about their child! They need to have the ability to naturally develop into the person they are going to be without having their body mutilated/altered that is permanent!

Brianna Hulshouser
Self
Whitehouse, TX

Minors can’t even buy alcohol but we want to give them the choice to make a decision that’ll affect the rest of their lives? Absolutely not.

Krisztina Cole
Self
Bullard, TX

Please vote Yes on this Bill.

Le Chen
self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686.

Zenyth Gale
Self - performance artist
Copperas cove, TX

Laws like this not only discriminate against transgender people on an unconstitutional basis of sex/gender discrimination, but more importantly, they directly harm and endanger the lives of trans children. Additionally, the perpetuation of ideas like this puts all trans people of all ages in a heightened danger of discrimination, violence, and death. How can you all sleep at night? The values of this country are equality, freedom, and liberty and Justice for all, or at least we were all lead to believe that. the leading cause of death for transgender youth is suicide already, a yes vote on HB 1686 puts more of their innocent blood on your hands. Pick up a textbook about human sexuality and learn about gender so you can be less afraid of that which is unknown to you. Knowledge is a solution. Discrimination being signed into law is not. I see that we’ve also worked in some verbiage about abortions. This is not unnoticed. I implore you to mind your own business when it comes to healthcare. If anything, we should follow in the footsteps of every other developed modern country and provide access to free healthcare for all Americans instead of discriminatorily blocking certain minority groups and attempting to criminalize doctors who provide necessary and scientifically backed treatments. Vote no on HB 1686. It’s government overreach and Texans deserve better.

Rhiannon Blair, Mrs
Self/homemaker
Tyler, TX

I am for HB 1686. God decides, not His creation.

Vickie Herrera
Self retired
BURNET, TX

For

Valerie Bartels
Self
ALLEN, TX

Our children need to be protected. No child has the wisdom or brain development to understand the life long altering effects of gender transition. First, counseling is needed. Second, an age limit of 18 and older needs to be put into place. Please stand up for the next generation and not have them be victims to popular ideologies that have little to no evidence in helping a person long term.

Teresa Brunker
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I agree with HB 1686 to prohibit providing children with procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. No use of public money or public assistance should be provided for the above mentioned treatment or procedures.

Leah Hummel
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Leah. I am a recent transplant to the great state of Texas. I am currently enrolled in my second year of graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. While here I have met incredible colleagues and friends who call this state their home. The function of the government is to represent and protect its citizens, and I believe that this bill does not protect Texans. Texas represents freedom of expression and freedom to live a self-directed life. HB1686 removes parental agency freedom to provide appropriate healthcare for their children. All transgender adults used to be children, and all children wish to one day live a self-directed life. I urge you to give young Texans and their parents more freedoms, not less.

SONYA YEGLIN
Self
Willis, TX

Children need to more information, education, and experience to make life changing decisions of any kind. Please, can we withhold treatment and drugs until they are adults and old enough to understand the ramifications of such procedures.

Betty LeBlanc
Self
Allen, TX

There are only 2 genders Male and female.
You cannot destroy these children’s lives by trying to alter their DNA.
DO NOT use my tax dollars to enable this abomination. I fully support denying my tax dollars for these surgeries.

Tom Sadowski
Self. Self-employed home remodeler
Denton, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686, and urge you to vote for it as well

Anthony Villa
Self - technical writer (private employer)
Lewisville, TX

I share the concerns for children that the Representatives have. I do not agree with children being coerced into anything, including growing up in a body that does not match their mind. My best friend is a trans adult and I cannot imagine the utter horror that she endured and how life-saving gender affirming treatment could have prevented the two attempts at ending her life. While 42% of trans children may have serious thoughts of suicide, 100% of all children are loved by Our Creator. 100% of them deserve safety, peace, and to be treated for their gender dysphoria. Bans like what the Representatives are debating go against the Texan values of respect, individuality, and kindness. Furthermore, these bans negate the ability for parents to treat their child's dysphoria in appropriate ways. Much is made about parental rights, but parents also have the right to obtain treatment for their children. I hope and pray that the Representatives consider the testimony and public comments provided and do what is right for Texan children. Thank you.

Amy Melhorn
Self
Northlake, TX

Please protect children from dangerous gender modification surgeries. Allow children to grow into adults, THEN make that life-changing decision for themselves.

Robin Luo
Min Industries Llc
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Mary Eleane Wimberley
Self
Granbury, TX

No one should have the right to change a person's gender including doctors and/or scientists and parents. Each person is who they are supposed to be. It is insane to think otherwise.

Christine Tilley
None
Prosper, TX

For HB1686

Patrick Hill
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Patrick and I am writing in opposition to house bill 1686.

Healthcare for trans youth SAVES lives. Attempts to convince Texans of the opposite (and to ban this much needed care) are based in either fearful misunderstandings or intentional falsehoods. I listened all day yesterday as you brought forth people with very transparent political agendas, with objectively false statements about the trans community and those who support them in an effort to demonize, sow doubt, and to paint a picture of trans people as delusional and doctors who treat them as evil cogs in a big trans empire that…does not exist.

This healthcare is not a threat to children in this state. But poverty, gun violence, an underfunded education system, and high levels of actual child abuse are. And this states inability to adequately fund or support departments like DFPS shows that real child abuse is not of major concern to you.

I know for bills like this, you hear our statements of opposition, and then make the decisions you are already determined to make. If I can't change your mind, I at least want you to hear my words.

I am queer and I grew up in the church in Longview, Texas. I still attend a church today. If you are a follower of Christ, which I assume at least some of you are, I want you to understand that this legislation isn't just unscientific and harmful in general, but I believe it stands in direct opposition to everything Jesus stood for. Jesus was the great includer. He surrounded himself with people who were outcasts from religious and societal circles. Maybe even more importantly, he was a compassionate healer. He offered help and healing to anyone who needed it. That and so many of the actions and traits of Christ show me that He would stand in support of gender affirming care because it is proven to improve a child's quality of life.

So if it means anything to you at all, know that I believe Jesus would not see his heart reflected in this legislation.

Do right by all kids in your state, and don't sacrifice the safety and mental health of the most vulnerable. If this bill becomes law, and if any part of you believes there is a correlation between this healthcare and lowering odds of suicidality, I want you ask yourself this question each time you hear a trans or queer Texan takes their life: Could my rejection of House bill 1686 and others like it have prevented this outcome? Or am I at peace with my choices, no matter the lives they might have cost? Please stop this bill. Thank you.

Mrs. Smith
Running to Win
Angleton, TX

Scientific research states the full development of the frontal lobe occurs after 20 years of age. Thus executive function, problem solving, organization, emotional control emerge throughout childhood, adolescence and young adulthood.
In respect of developmental maturity before life altering choices, we completely support HB 1686.

Audra Deffenbaugh
Self
Tyler, TX

FOR the Bill

Cecily M Cassidy
self, retired teacher
SAN ANTONIO, TX

I strongly support this measure because I believe that all children should be protected from this form of child abuse.

Alison Fechtel
Self professor
Dallas, TX

Hello,
I am someone who is directly affected by this proposed bill, in several ways. First, I have a teen trans family member that I am close to, and I have a first hand account of their personal journey of transitioning here in Texas. Nothing was taken lightly, and the family all met with therapists, psychologists and medical doctors for over a year before beginning any kind of medical gender affirming care. The mental health of this trans teen has improved tremendously, and he states he finally feels “at home” in his body. He does feel very anxious and afraid of how people in this state seem to view his gender dysphoria, and is very worried about what will happen in the next year here in Texas. (And elsewhere) Many trans people feel as though people do not care about them, and believe them to be “delusional”. I ask you to please look into the medical and mental health research connected to transgender health care and gender affirming care. They are not “delusional”.
Second, last semester I was in graduate school at UTA, working on a Masters of Social Work. As part of a few projects, I did research on transgender healthcare, as well as researched the statistics and studies done on those receiving gender affirming care. In my research I found that the mental health improved after receiving gender affirming care.
I ask everyone to please do extensive research, as well as actually speak with families dealing with this issue. For many young trans people, receiving gender affirming care is quite literally the difference between life and death. Their mental health is that precarious.
I also ask to look at how people treat and discuss this topic. No one is “forcing” kids to be trans. Why would a parent want their child to be on this environment where they are mocked, not believed or worse, bullied or killed.
There have always been trans people, and because they are more vocal and visible, people think it’s some kind of “trend”.
Please listen to the professionals on this topic. Please hear the stories from trans people and their families. Please don’t take away gender affirming care for those younger than 18. And please don’t criminalize this care. This will in all actuality probably lead some kids to kill themselves. I don’t believe anyone truly wants that outcome.
I thank you for your time.

Bert Von Roemer
Self
Drip Spr, TX

Please know my support FOR this bill. Thank you

Heather Turner
Self, Accountant
Austin, TX

My name is Heather Turner, and I'm a resident of Austin, TX.

I strongly oppose HB 1686 because children's healthcare should be determined by their doctors and parents, not legislators.

Gender-affirming care provided to transgender youth is backed by years of extensive research and conducted via strict international guidelines (WPATH). It is also backed by every major US-based medical and mental health association, and is proven to reduce suicide rates among transgender youth.

Texas families deserve to give their children the best possible medical care, and for transgender children, that includes gender-affirming care.

Thank you to members of the Senate for reading my testimony and taking the time to hear such an important matter.

Brenda Estis
Self; Volunteer; Political Activist; Retired High School Principal
Houston, TX

FOR this bill.

Katherine Vega, Dr.
Myself
Georgetown, TX

Hello,
As a healthcare provider I have seen how gender dysphoria has affected children, teens and adults. It is occurring much more frequently than in previous years as well. I have researched the evidence for treatment and have not found clear or promising evidence to argue in favor of surgical treatment for treatment of gender dysphoria or for gender reassignment. We know that human brain is not fully developed until early 20's. Young people are at greater risk of making wrong choices and negative decisions that will affect their future greatly. Children and teens are not equipped of making this type of decision for surgery or medical/hormonal treatment and they're parents, while well meaning, may not fully understand this negative psychological and developmental consequences of such a survey. Surgery or medical treatment is not the best treatment for the underlying condition which is a mental health condition. Surgery such as what have been occurring and recommended for gender dysphoria go against our medical path to "first do no harm" to our patients. It is clearly and plainly unethical. Please help us provide, instead, correct mental health treatment for these children, teens and their families who are crying out to us all for help!
Sincerely,
Katherine Vega, MD

Heather Barnhill
Self
Bullard, TX

Please don’t

Garrett Wilson
Self
Boerne, TX

I support this bill. We should not allow minors any kind of elective surgery or potentially permanent transformation that’s not medically necessary. The desire for gender transition seems to have a strong correlation with dysfunctional family units. Rather than chemically and surgically altering children we should address the root of the issue by providing Texas families with more resources to encourage healthy marital and parental relationships. We should also increase funding to prevent child abuse and institute much harsher penalties for this crime. Trying to prevent teen suicide with gender transformation is like throwing a cup of water on a wildfire. The issue should be addressed much sooner.

Ryan Johnson, Mr.
Texas Resident
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Marie Montes
Homemaker
Bullard, TX

No child should be subjected to this abuse. I am AGAINST this movement and you should be, too.
I stand with HB1686

Kim Vaught
self-teacher
McKinney, TX

As a mother of a transgender 17 year old and a teacher, I advise you to meet a family this has impacted. Until it is in your sight, life, and/ or family, it is hard to explain the necessity to keep these already fragile kids alive. My child was in a very dark, deep place until she was brave enough to come to us. I am not sure if my precious child of God would be with us if help was not there.

Karie Wheeler
Self
Pasadena, TX

I support HB 1686 and ask you to please prohibit these procedures and do not allow funds to be used. It is harmful and life altering for kids. Kids are to immature to be certain of these changes. Even adults have changed their minds and detransitioned. Please protect children. Thank you

William Bergman
Self. Oil gas
Midland, TX

Pass this bill transitioning immature children is EVIL.

Andrew Brookshire
Self; commercial real estate developer
Dallas, TX

I love Texas because it has always been a state of self-determination and individual liberties. One of those liberties has to be the ability to understand and express one's own gender identity however they choose.

The science behind gender is a lot more complicated than we once realized, and I am admittedly no expert, but here are some organizations who are:

American Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
Endocrine Society
Pediatric Endocrine Society
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
World Medical Association

These groups (and many more) all agree on the following three things:
1) Gender-affirming care has enormous psychiatric benefits. According to a recent study, youths who received gender-affirming care were 60% less likely to have moderate or severe depression, and 73% less likely to be suicidal. It literally saves lives.
2) Gender-affirming care FOR MINORS includes counseling, social support, and hormone treatment. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE SURGERY, AND IT NEVER HAS. Gender-corrective surgery is only performed on adults.
3) Hormone therapy and puberty blockers are completely safe, and are also completely reversible. A person can decide to stop hormone therapy whenever they want, and it is a simple process to reverse any changes that have already happened.

I know we all want what is best for the children of Texas, and I believe this bill was written with that intent. But because gender-affirming care is both essential to those that need it, and reversible for those that do not need it, banning it would do more harm than good.

Please vote against HB 1686.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jing Zhang
Republican Party
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Steven Hall
Self
Rockwall, TX

I apprise any legislation that harms children in any way. Gender transition is the worst form of child exploitation

Vicki B
Self
Mission, TX

I support bill hb 1686

Kainoa Reponte
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Trans kids belong and should be given the RIGHT to affirm their identity through medical procedures.

Scarlet MacGeorge
Grassroots
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children,

Danielle Skidmore
self, Civil Engineer
Austin, TX

Good evening , Chair Klick, and members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide public comment. My name is Danielle Skidmore, I am here on behalf of myself to speak in OPPOSITION to HB 1686.

I am member of the Board of Equality Texas and a transgender woman. I am also a parent to a special-needs child with complex medical needs. In fact, my family worked with Senator Nelson and Rep. Crownover in 2005, to help extend newborn screening in Texas and save the lives of thousands of Texas children by improving access to the best practice medical care for children. My son, Peter got to the keep the pen when Governor Perry signed that bill in to law! That law and HB 2478, which you discussed earlier today, are examples of our government working to save lives of children.

What you have before you in HB1686 is EXACTLY the opposite. Rather than help improve the health and safety of transgender children, it seeks to deny the care that is defined as best practice by:

-American Academy of Pediatrics, the
-American Medical Association, the
-American Counseling Association, the
-American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry,

and the list goes on and on.

I ask Chair Klick, "What makes you believe that the STATE of TEXAS should intrude in the private medical decisions of these children, their families, and doctors?

Thousands of transgender children and their families are telling you this care is life saving.

Thousands of transgender adults – like myself – are telling you that so many of us wished and prayed for this kind of medical care during our own childhood and puberty. I grieve every day for the transgender people who don't have access to care, and how many tragically don't make it.

I can't help but imagine what it would feel like if my government decided to penalize my son's doctors for providing the best practice care for him.

Imagine if a law meant that your child's doctor could no longer legally treat their diabetes, or ADHD, or manage a food allergy.

Imagine explaining to your child that their state does not believe they have a right to this care, because of WHO THEY ARE.

What pleasure do you find continuing to attack the transgender community? Why do we deserve this animus? Seriously, what have we done to you other than simply exist?

You think you are on a crusade to stop some 'transgender ideology'.

There is no 'ideology'.

This is simply our humanity.

Transgender people are real. We've always been here.

My gender is real and intrinsic. I am not broken. Transgender children know who they ARE.

They deserve appropriate, best practice medical care. without intrusion from the State. The private medial decisions of children, their parents, and their doctors are in no way the affairs of the State.

I ask you to vote no on HB 1686.

Elzada Starks
Retired
Grand Prairie, TX

Chemically or surgically altering a child's gender is wrong on so many levels it is difficult to believe that it is allowed. Public funds should NEVER be used to pay for such procedures.

Katheryn Farroni-Roach
Self
Plantersville, TX

Scientific research suggests the full development of the frontal lobe occurs after 20 years of age. Thus executive function, problem solving, organization, emotional control emerge throughout childhood, adolescence and young adulthood.
In respect of developmental maturity before life altering choices, we completely support HB 1686.

Jennifer Butler
Self (home maker)
Bullard, TX

FOR

Addie Harraid, Mrs.
Self
Tyler, TX

This Bill amounts to Child Endangerment. I DO NOT WANT IT PASSED!

Allison Hayes
Self
Austin, TX

FOR the bill

Mary Hackerman
I'm a concerned Christian
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill to protect all children from the woke anti-God, anti-American satanic agenda to destroy our children, our Judeo-Christian heritage, our family structure and ultimately our country. Thank you.
In Christ, Mary Hackerman

Timmy Moring
Conservative Native Texan 5th generation
Somerset, TX

I am for this Bill please vote yes!!!

Cynthia Eenigenburg
Self / school registrar
Denton, TX

I am FOR this bill! Please support it. We, as human beings, are not born in the wrong body. Our gender is God-given as male or female only. Gender modification treatments are harmful at any age, but especially in the young. I don't support these treatments at any level, and especially do not support using taxpayer money to fund any of part of it. Thank you.

Lexi Hearth
Self
Austin, TX

I am testifying in OPPOSITION to HB1686. This bill allows the government to interfere with private individuals and businesses. Healthcare is one of the most intimate matters in a person's life. It should be left to the patient and their healthcare providers.

By threatening providers' medical licenses for providing the best standards of care, this bill will drive talented doctors and other medical professionals out of Texas, broadly harming public health and exacerbating the ongoing doctor shortage. By threatening insurance providers, this bill will harm Texas' status as a competitive commercial hub.

HB1686 is unscientific government overreach that will cause targeted harm to individuals and broad harm to Texas' status as a leader in commerce and medicine. I urge you to scrap this bill.

Thank you.

Shili Li
Self
Allen, TX

I support HB1686.

Krystal Marcos-Mah
Self
Hutto, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Crystal Gambino
Liberty Fellowship
Jacksonville, TX

Please vote to protect our vulnerable preyed upon children.

Karen brown, mrs.
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill

Sarah Barber
Self
Bullard, TX

I do not agree with this.

William Murphy
My Family
Dallas, TX

Our children must be protected from political activists that will sacrifice them and their futures for their own gaIn. This is no different than limiting alcohol or tobacco products, or not allowing minors to get tattoos. Only with much more dire consequences.

Ever Hayward
self, healthcare worker
Austin, TX

Good morning Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and Committee Members. My name is Ever, I'm a Texan, a born Austinite, and I am here testifying on my own behalf in opposition to HB 1686.

I've been working in gender-affirming healthcare for the past 3 years and I've been navigating my own healthcare for my entire adult life. In my experiences, ones I know are shared by so many in this room, navigating healthcare in this state is already not. easy.

It's expensive, it's confusing, and I think it's a deep misunderstanding of the healthcare system and the healthcare needs of Texans to imagine that this bill protects children, or helps anyone at all. I know from the conversations I've had with my community, my colleagues, my patients, and my own providers, that this bill and others like it aren't just hurting kids, they're hurting all of us—they're making healthcare harder.

My current employer doesn't serve minors, but we still get messages, all day, every day from our community crying out in pain. For eight hours, 5 days a week, I spend my time seeing over and over and over again messages of fear, and terror, people wondering how they'll survive, contemplating whether or not they want to survive, people dealing with an overwhelming sense of despair facing a politics so plainly hostile to them.

Even aside from care relating to gender transition and care relating to minors, we're scared for ALL of our healthcare. Bills like this send a poisonous message.

I need you to know that it is excruciating to watch your long-planned future evaporate into a fog of fear, uncertainty, and confusion. Unlike the kids this bill impacts, I do have some agency, and I've already lived a lot of the joy and love and warmth and euphoria, the wholeness and the sublime bliss that comes from being a trans person alive in the world, able to access care in my community: There is nothing more holy to me. This committee can't take that knowledge away, and the trans community will always be there for these kids.

I am Texan, and committee members, I am also part of your community. I believe in personal autonomy, and I believe that healthcare providers and parents are the ones that ought to be involved in a child's healthcare, not the state, and not this committee. This is a personal health matter, it's not a public one. I don't believe this body has any business making laws that don't need to exist, nor in thrusting more bureaucracy into an already overly-bureaucratic system. It just doesn't make sense to me as a trans person, a healthcare worker, and especially as a Texan.

I urge you to please safeguard the healthcare of all Texans by voting no on HB 1686, do not allow it to move out of this committee. Thank you for your time, and thank you for listening.

Jane Wilk
Self
New Braunfels, TX

FOR !!! This is child mutilation and abuse. Parents and organizations should be prosecuted for this. You can't vote, join the military, or purchase alcohol or tobacco before the age of 18…but now elementary and middle school children are mature enough to decide this. NO NO NO! INSANITY!!

Bonnie Griffin
Self
Austin, TX

Restricting youth's access to gender affirming care does nothing to protect children. On the contrary, barring young people's access to the resources that permit them to live authentically as themselves is a surefire way to harm them, and ensure a lack of wellness both mentally and physically. Procedures and treatments are not sought out lightly, and are as necessary as other wellness treatments that ensure their wellbeing. All this bill does is signal ignorance, intolerance, and hate, while failing to address the real threats children face to their wellbeing (such as gun violence). I urge those who read this to reconsider what they are pursuing. Seek out the stories of adults who transitioned, listen to the accounts of young people and how accessing gender affirming care has helped them, and I am certain you will realize you are preventing them from being well, rather than protecting them.

Sharon Bailey, Ms.
Self. Registered Nurse
Fredericksburg, TX

Agree

Melissa Lux, Mrs.
Self
Denton, TX

Please support prohibitions for mutilating our children! Our children are our future and they must be protected! Government EXISTS to protect the weakest among us. Weak can mean simply to have lived to short an amount of time to know better or can be because of physical or mental issues ! Our children’s futures depend on YOU and what YOU do right now to protect them. If they’re not old enough to vote, they’re not old enough to know if they should have a PERMANENT, life-altering in every conceivable way procedure!

Virginia Burton
Conservatives of Little Elm
Little, TX

Please save our future by making it illegal harm a child that is old enough to make adult decisions that change their lives forever. Use common sense, there are only two genders... with Covid it was all about follow the science... it is biologically impossible to be
non-binary.

Yang Yu
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB 1686.

Elliot Schneider
Self
Austin, TX

Hello. My name is Elliot Schneider. I am 15 years old and transgender. Please listen to me, I am a person too.

I have always known I was not a girl or a boy and came out as nonbinary at the age of 12. I used to put on my brothers clothes, I cut my hair short, I hated when people called me a girl, I know who I am. Who I have always been. Many others like me have always known, we just haven't been able to express it. I hated my self so much I started self harming.

I should not have to be fighting for my rights at 15. Transgender kids are just normal kids, we don't have some secret agenda, we just want to grow up as our true selves. To the lawmakers considering these bills I would like to say- leave us alone.

This bill will have a devastating effect on transgender children. As a trans kid I can tell you people will die from this bill being passed, gender affirming care is life saving. I don't think I would be here without it. The decision for gender affirming care should be between the parent, the child, and a health care provider.

Please stop targeting transgender CHILDREN, focus on something else like homelessness, war, cancer, anything but stop targeting me and my friends.

Nicole Clifford
self
Austin, TX

Gender Affirming Care can be a life-saving treatment for transgender individuals. Gender reassignment surgery is virtually unheard of before people turn 18 and many transgender adults do not even engage in these surgeries. Banning procedures such as hysterectomies before a person turns 18 could keep people who are in need of these procedures for life-threatening health conditions from accessing them. There are also many reasons that a child may be treated with hormones like estrogen or testosterone, especially for people with hormone imbalances. Even if the bill has a written exception for health conditions, it will still deter physicians from prescribing these treatments out of fear of losing their licensure. These procedures should be between the parents, their children, and the doctors. Transgender children are at the highest risk of experiencing mental illness and committing suicide. The very proposal of this bill shows millions of children that the government does not protect their right to express themselves freely and be who they are. The passage of this bill will have harmful effects on both transgender and nontransgender children alike. Leave the government out of private medical decisions.

Gina Hand
Self homemaker
Marble Falls, TX

For

Amanda Kelley
self
Temple, TX

I am submitting my comment FOR this bill. I think lawmakers need to seriously consider the long-term impact this has on children and listen to the adults that are speaking up now that regret this being done to them. There is no reversing this - mentally or physically. I heard a woman say that schools won't allow children to carry their own EpiPens or inhalers the other day. As a mom of a child with asthma, I know this is true, yet some people say these same children are capable of making life-altering decisions. This doesn't make sense at all.

Margaret Watkins
Sole
Tx, TX

Approved

Loren Perkins
myself
Austin, TX

my name is loren perkins, i am a transgender person and the parent of a transgender child. i am here today in opposition to hb 1686, and all future anti-lgbtq+ legislation. a lot of these folks testifying before you have been kind. i have no such compunction.

in preparing for today i thought about sharing my difficulties coming out as a trans person. the challenges i faced navigating the healthcare system, the difficulties i had with my family and friends, loss, hurt, and pain.

and then i thought that perhaps my child's story would be more appropriate for this committee since it is their healthcare you are trying to take away.

how even in a supportive home with parents who understand in ways many others never can, the difficulty that they have faced in accessing care, being accepted by the school system, the abuse they constantly endure from fellow students with less than enlightened parents.

the nights we spend crying, managing anxiety, the documents i have to compile to prove that i am doing this because i love my child and the fear of them being taken away from us.

and then i thought, most of this committee is not worthy if the trust it takes to share these painful and vulnerable moments. my attempts to humanize this issue by sharing our blood and tears will likely fall upon deaf ears and hardened hearts.

i lost faith in electoral politics long ago. so you may ask, why am i here today? because you are threatening our lives, and a response is demanded.

the actions you take in this room, and on your campaign trails, and behind closed doors with your friends and family have an immediate impact on my and my child.

you allow fear and hate to spread through your actions, and we are left to deal with the consequences. our friends who are no longer with us, our family that disowned us, the psychosocial trauma of being rejected for jobs, housing, and opportunities.

a problem with me getting upset here is that most people do not see me, a scared parent, worried about their future, fighting for survival and respect. you just see an angry man, with large hands, broad shoulders, and i want you to look me in the eye, i want you to feel my animosity and rage, i want you to know that you will never be rid of us no matter what rights you take away and what lists your attorney general puts us on.

you want to criminalize us? well watch me become a criminal then. and if you continue to marginalize us, push us outside of your boundaries and guidelines of respectability and appropriate behavior we are going to he an even bigger problem for you than you think we are now.

that's not a threat, that's a promise.

the above was written for my original spoken testimony, which i was not able to deliver. denying me and so many others of the opportunity to face the representatives taking away my ability to help my child is shameful.

Theda Carpenter, Mrs.
Self Bookkeeper
Buffalo Gap, TX

Requesting affirmative vote regarding prohibition of gender reassignment, gender transitioning and gender dysphoria

Michael Guess
Retired
Haskell, TX

I am opposed to gender transitioning to minors.

Kathryn Hill
Self
Helotes, TX

Children are NOT born the wrong gender. Prohibit any treatments or transitioning or reassignment of gender in minors.

Kenneth mckee
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

Protect or Vulnerable children from adults trying to manipulate children for their own political gain. No child should have any procedures that will effect the rest of their lives . Let children be children these children have no idea what's being pushed on them children don't have the mindset that adults do let them be kids .

Katie Socia
Self
Whitehouse, TX

Tax payers should not be required to fund child abuse.

Sandy Sutton
Self, Realtor
Frisco, TX

I am FOR this bill. It is shocking to me that this is even happening and requires a bill. I am 1,000 times FOR it!!!

Lisa de Oliveira
Stay-at-home parent
Denton, TX

I am in total support of this common sense bill that we absolutely should NOT be using public funds to support this grotesque and abusive header transitioning procedures on minors!! Absolutely absurd!!!!

David G. Daffan
Joe R. Jones Construction Inc.
GLEN ROSE, TX

I support this bill, God Bless Texas

Marsha Harrell
Self
Miles, TX

Please vote to stop these body changing procedure on our children under 19 yrs of age. PLEASE!!

Christa Sadeghian
Self
Dallas, TX

It is not up to the government to dictate the health of a child. It's between the doctors, scientists, parents of the child, and the child themselves. Science is not in favor of your discriminatory and uneducated practices.

Emma Trimble
Self
Uvalde, TX

I am in support of this bill HB 1686. I am asking that you vote in support of this bill.
Thank you !

Shawn Hall Lecuona, Manager
Lecuona Law, PLLC dba Lecuona Life Ministries
Austin, TX

I, female in the beginning, remains female in eternity.
GENESIS 1:27; MATTHEW 19:6(a)(KJV)
So God created man in his own image of God created he him; male and female, created he them. Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh.

Maya Gonzalez
Self
Austin, TX

Don’t be the reason these children feel like they don’t have a chance for tomorrow. Give them THEIR AUTONOMY to choose. Life has continued to evolve regardless of those who choose to to live in darkness. You don’t need to understand someone to love them and let them choose to LIVE however they see fit. Happy children thrive and when in a safe space are given the best opportunity for growth and upbringing. But when these resources are stricken and the safety feeling like a commodity for the wealthy you ask yourself. If these so called politicians care about there constituents wouldn’t one of the highest priorities be the safety of those children? Do not take away their access. Do not take away their safety.

Annette Bennett
self/ retired
Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. The fact that we are allowing our children to be mutilated is unforgivable. If a person chooses to do so when they are of adult age - then OK, but this gender dysphoria is being promoted in the schools and is an epidemic among young children who want to be cool and keep up with their peers. Would we allow children to cut off their legs or arms? VOTE YES FOR THIS BILL.

David McAllister
None
San Antonio, TX

I’m in favor of any and all prohibitions on the provision to children of treatment for gender transition or gender reassignment and/or the use of public money towards the same.

Haloise Redding
Self, HR Staff
Houston, TX

These procedures and treatments can help save lives.

William Svadlenka
Self
Krum, TX

D
I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask th
e committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Ron Wicks
Self
Burleson, TX

Please represent your true constituency!

Katherine Enyart
Self
Austin, TX

Good morning. I am writing from Portland OR where I am visiting my daughter. I am on vacation and cannot be there or I would be. This bill is damaging to some of our most vulnerable Texans and I strongly oppose it. Please listen to the doctors, scientists and parents and do the right thing. Do not legislate to deny healthcare for these children and constituents. People I know and love are being hurt by this harmful legislation. I am not affected directly. I don’t have a transgender child. I do have a grandchild who thankfully lives in another state. She may or may not be non-binary. I DO have many friends who are directly affected. They tried to give their comments and were denied the right. How is that possible? Is this not a democracy? Don’t the People have a voice? Listen with your heart. Do the right thing. Pass laws that actually DO help the people of Texas! Do not vote in favor of this horrible legislation.

Suzanne Elizondo
self
Austin, TX

I am submitting in opposition to HB 1686. This bill affects the freedoms and liberties of Texans and their access to healthcare. The medical decisions and treatments for young individuals seeking healthcare should be left to the judgement of the individual, their parents and the medical providers working with them to provide essential care. If passed, this bill would inflict immediate harm to young individuals who are already receiving gender-affirming care and could strip healthcare providers of their licenses. This is not what the people want and is harmful to members of our communities.

Smith Emily
Self
Austin, TX

I do not agree with this bill as it is detrimental to the well being of trans kids.

Michael Samaniego
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is a NO!! Do not pass this.

Mitzi Higginbotham
Self
Reklaw, TX

I earnestly plead, and strongly urge you to vote in favor of HB 1686. We do not need to allow selfish, insane, mentally ill adults a pathway to destroy the lives of children permanently and support their sick ideology. If a 21 year old adult wants to change their sex, so be it, but heaven forbid cut the breast off of young girls and castrate and cut the pennies off of young males. Yes, I know the difference between males and females. I even know the difference of a female bloom and a male bloom on vegetables plants such as squash, watermelon and cucumbers. The world is laughing at the stupidity that taking place in Texas, When a child is 3 years old. adults are trying to get them to not eat their burgers, yet they want to say a child wants to change their sex? HOG WASH!!!! My youngest son thought he was Banana Man when he was 4. Children have a wonder imagination yet it seems like in this country we are doing everything possible to destroy it! If adults leave small children home alone for and extended amount of time, I believe the age is under 10, the parents should be reported. We protect our children by having them wear seat belts when riding in a vehicle and helmets when riding a bike. We protect children from walking out in the street, from drugs, smoking and alcohol. It is obvious that there are crazy, educated people in this world that want to harm Texas' most valuable resource, our children. . You have the power of a vote I only have the power of 1 voice. Let me leave with 1 scripture1: Matt. 18:6 But whoso shall hurt one of these little ones, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Please stand in the gap for the children of TEXAS vote with some common sense and vote for HB 1686.

Erin Miller
Self
Houston, TX

This is an incredibly hateful bill targeted to disempower and delegitimize our trans youth. Trans kids are valid, they exist and do not harm the wellbeing of anyone. But these laws do. There are so many legitimate harmful issues that need our attention. We should focus on laws that enact gun regulation and increase our public education funding. Trans youth and trans people (across all ages) are not the problem.

Rick Palmer, Mr
self
Cypress, TX

“I SUPPORT HB1686” Gender transitioning is demonic and insanity.

Matt Munoz
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It will continue the hate & bias of individuals. Please fix the grid instead of wasting time on racist archaic bills like this

Jasmine Jordan
Self
Tomball, TX

For

Alexandra Bates
Self
Austin, TX

This is life saving healthcare. This is about protecting our people

Montserrat Escobio
Self
Austin, TX

Opposition based on a wealth of child advocacy experience. Gender based care is medically necessary and approved by the Texas Board of Medicine.

Marci Matlock, Ms
Self, teacher
Carrollton, TX

Please consider the suicide rates for children with body dysmorphia and how Texans can help these children get help..

Taylor Davenport
Self
San Marcos, TX

What you are doing will lead to the death of children. You so badly want to “protect our kids,” yet you want to enact a death sentence for those who you deem unacceptable. So, which is it? Protect our kids or protect the ones that fit your norms? What you are doing won’t stop people from being trans. You will never stop people from being who they are. You will not win.

Colleen Boroughs
Title
Amarillo, TX

There must not be any option for children to be subjected to gender transitioning before their 18th birthday. Please no public money be spent on any of those procedures.

Kaye Anders
Myself
San Antonio, TX

I’m for it!

Barton King
Self
League City, TX

The continued demonization and ostracization of trans citizens from law makers in this state is an utter disgrace. They betray the principles this nation were founded upon as well as the very essence of common decency. Elected officials who support this bill cement their place in history as supporters of bigotry, and will be remembered in the same context as those who stood for Jim Crow legislation. I urge those elected officials to stop betraying their constituents by degrading this great state and making it a bastion for prejudice.

Vanessa McKeon
self - retired
Uvalde, TX

We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Shirley Belville
Self
Plano, TX

I support and am for HB1686. I urge passage. Minors are not able to make intelligent decisions on such irreversible life changes. They listen to what others tell them. Save our children!

Sherry Daffan, Mrs
Self project coordinator
Glen Rose, TX

Leave our children alone! Let them be children and leave their gender identity alone! Children do not have capacity mentally to know the extent of changing gender implications! If children cannot go to the doctor for a cold by themselves how is it acceptable for them to make such an important decision in regards to something that will impact their entire life at such a young age?

Tara Beck
Self
Tomball, TX

I support HB 1686

Timothy Casias, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Providing public monies to go to these types of procedures is nothing less than legalized child abuse. Texans will not tolerate such wanton disregard of our youths!

David Niegsch
Myself
Austin, TX

This bill will do nothing more than harm children. How can you possibly put forth such a damaging proposal with zero regard for research on the topic. Please reconsider.

Suzanne Armbruster
self
Austin, TX

AGAINST

Chris Neustaedter
Self
Houston, TX

The health needs of trans individuals are just as important as anyone else's and should be respected and treated fairly and equally.

Jeannine Armbruster
self
Austin, TX

AGAINST

Hayley Martinez
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Everyone deserves the right to gender affirming care. This is a human rights issue.

Dustina Bailey
Myself
Aledo, TX

Oppose of this bill.

Cindy Hoelscher
self (artist)
Leander, TX

It is unconscionable for Texas or anyone to allow anyone to assist any child with gender transitioning or reassignment procedures or treatments for any reason. Children do not have the ability to understand the life-long implications of such transitioning or reassignment. Most, if not all, will regret any such transitioning or reassignment once they reach adulthood, if not before. Doctors, therapists and anyone who assists a child in gender transitioning or reassignment should be prosecuted for child abuse. Gender dysphoria should be treated by counseling as would any other mental disorder. Certainly NO public money should be spent on any such transitioning or reassignment procedures or treatments. Children who have been abused by these practices should be able to sue into oblivion anyone responsible (including counselors or ANY adults who have promoted these practices to them) for these acts of child abuse. The child will suffer mentally, emotionally and physically for the rest of their life, so all adults who participate in transitioning or reassigning gender in any child should receive a life prison sentence.

John Redmond
self, co-founder of InspectIR Systems
Frisco, TX

Despite the 'fanfare' and political correctness associated with current transgender issues, children or minors not of the age of concent should not be allowed any provision for gender transitioning or reassignment. This would include any and all procedures, treatments, prescription medications, etc. to that end. And no taxpayer funds or public monies should be allocated to support, facilitate or aid a physician, physicians assistant, nurse practition or other licenced or unlicensed medical professional in either public or private practice.

If an adult wants to spend their out-of-pocket dollars for this, it is no different than any other elective procedure. However, that is not the case for children/minors. Even with parental or guardian 'consent', this should not be allowed until these individual can are of the age of legal consent here in Texas and live on their own.

Frederick Newton
Self, minister
WESLACO, TX

On behalf of the children of Texas I urge you to please take action to prevent gender modifications in children/minors, as experience has shown that these procedures do cause irreversible damage to those who have received them. It is my belief that with honest consideration they could be demonstrated to be at least as harmful as underage alcohol or drug abuse, and therefore should NOT be permitted until a person has reached an age where they can responsibly make an informed decision about their life and future, hopefully having matured enough to not make such a drastic choice (in many cases jeopardizing future happiness, health and even life itself) based only on peer pressure or the power of suggestion as is often the case with children. As long as children have existed it has been and still is the duty of adults and especially parents to protect children from dangers, and I am convinced that for the future of our children and our society our duty stands in providing this protection now through appropriate legislation. God bless Texas, God bless America.

Pauline Lesch
self; retired
Valley View, TX

I fully support this bill to protect children from irreparable damage. Please vote FOR passage.

Erin Cartrite
Self
Fort Worth, TX

For the bill! Support the bill!

Courtney Grimmett
Powerhouse Animation
Austin, TX

You are responsible for these lives. Let them choose.

Robert Bucci
Self
Murphy, TX

I support HB 1686 !

Sharon Cameron
Self retired
Bandera, TX

FOR

Kayla Gunn
N/A
San Antonio, TX

I oppose

William Taylor
self
Katy, TX

My name is Bill Taylor, and I thank you for allowing me to come before your committee. For the last six- and one-half years I have resided in House District 28 in Ft. Bend County, between Fulshear and Katy, just west of Houston. I retired there after 45 years as a United Methodist Clergy serving churches and districts from Houston to Texarkana, finishing my pastoral tenure as the District Superintendent in Longview overseeing 103 churches across ten mostly rural counties in Northeast Texas.

I strongly oppose HB 1686 based on my faith and ordination. When I was ordained, I vowed to follow the general rules of the United Methodist Church which are to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with God. My faith has always informed my political views as I have tried to follow my understanding of the scripture in both the old and new testaments which teaches me in order to follow God I must advocate for mercy and compassion as the prophet Micah instructs to "act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Over the last twenty years, I have actively worked to help persons born gay or intersex. None of those with whom I am acquainted chose their gender at birth. Prohibiting gender affirming care to these individuals will cause irreparable harm perhaps to the point of suicide. A 2015 report from the National Center for Transgender Equality found that 40% of the nearly 27,000 transgender people in the U.S. surveyed had attempted suicide – which is 9 times the average rate in the country. I believe we do not want the death of thousands, and the grief of their families on our hands. According to Dr. Jessica Zwiener, a physician who works with trans youth and adults in Houston, when trans youth are given appropriate hormone therapy, they become happier, more outgoing, and future oriented.

Three simple rules – do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. In my opinion and experience as a pastor for fifty plus years, denying trans youth proper medical care, would harm them and their parents; therefore, I implore you to let this bill die in committee because I believe it will cause more darkness than light, and do more harm than good.

Naomi Olivares
None
Orange Grove, TX

God gave each person their gender at birth, male and female. Any alteration is an afront to God's design for each individual. In addition, a child cannot make life changing decisions due to not having the capacity to determine long-term consequences of decisions. Many children dream of being someone or something else because they are growing to determine who they will be. Parents who allow or encourage alteration of their child is sending the child a message that they are not worthy just as they are made. This is a symptom of mental illness in the parent, whether the parent is seeking attention or other mental illness. We must protect the children. Mutilation of a child sets that child up for an adulthood of severe negative consequences.

Elizabeth Reyna
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I am for the Ban on Gender Modification for children.

Brett Hurley
myself
Crowley, TX

I am contacting here to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms offered to everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Muriell Ramirez
Self
Austin, TX

Please please please leave these deeply personal decisions between an individual & their medical provider. Please focus your energies on policies that actually help our youth survive this unsafe world.

Rain B
self
austin, TX

i have friends that are trans. i oppose this law because i don’t want my friends or anyone else i love to be hurt.

Minda Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

Vote NO for HB 1686. We need to provide life-saving healthcare to all Texas citizens, including transgender people.

Amy Bassett-Wells
Self / School Counselor
Dripping Springs, TX

Please vote against this bill and for the rights and lives of our transgendered community.
I am a public school counselor in Texas. I have seen firsthand how young children can be when they know the body they were born in doesn’t match with who they are inside. I have also helped parents who struggle with this— as they do not have an agenda they are pushing onto their child and are many times concerned about how their child will be accepted into this world. Transgendered children have higher rates of being isolated, bullied, and a higher rate of depression and suicide, especially when they don’t feel affirmed and accepted. These anti-LGBTQ bills do nothing but cause chaos and make people feel unwelcome in our state. These are children, please don’t drive them away or make them feel less than. Please accept people for who they are and give families the right to make medical choices for their children.

Zdenka Bucci
Myself
Murphy, TX

I support HB 1686

Lindsay Huber
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB1686 because this is government overreach, undermines parental rights to consult with medical professionals to determine healthcare choices for their children, does not serve the interests of public health. Please spend your valued legislative time on issues Texans actually need help with, like improving our infrastructure, addressing rising costs of food and rent, and implementing safety plans to protect us from gun violence.

Era Steinfeld
Self - austin public health
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill in the strongest possible terms

Francesca Freeman
Self
Austin, TX

As a taxpayer in Texas I need for the healthcare and welfare of children to be the responsibility of their family. This includes all healthcare decisions to be between their family and doctor. This is their right to privacy and not to be interfered with by the state.

Cathy Bernsen
Selg
Robstown, TX

For the health of our children in regards to mental emotional or physical health pleas vote against transgender changes or hormone blocks for children

James Krause
All Free Thinking Texans
Austin, TX

It is beastly for adults, whether parent of not, to decide for a child to destroy the child's body before the child is an adult and can make such a decisions for himself or herself. The parent is wanting to destroy the child's body, not his own or her own body.

Destiny Drake
Self
Houston, TX

This is something that should be between trans children, their parents, and the doctor they have chosen to consult. This is not an issue that deserves to be politicized. Trans children will exist regardless of this decision but they might not make it to adulthood based on YOUR choice. The only public health crisis concerning our children we should be voting on is concerning assault style weapons and how they're making it into our schools.

Claire Walpole
Self - Architect
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Protecting the mental health of transgender children is more important than how they present and what anyone else thinks of that. Parents deserve the right to take care of their kids without the government butting in. Please do not pass these prohibitions on gender-affirming care.

Jordan Greenberg
Self
Austin, TX

Hi! Healthcare for transgender youth is life-saving. If you are trying to limit government in our lives WHY are you trying to restrict the freedoms of young people to get the healthcare they need? There is so much research that shows rates of suicide and depression go down when trans kids get the healthcare they need. This bill is a horrific and makes me embarrassed to be a Texan. I vehemently oppose this bill.

Karen Hybner
Self
Slaton, TX

"I support HB 1686"

Aaron Yuhas
Self
Austin, TX

Medical decisions ought to be left to patients and TBD doctors helping them, the state has nothing to do with this. This bill cannot pass.

Miguel Bautista
Self
Dallas, TX

Dear Texas House Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1686, which seeks to discriminate against transgender individuals and deny them access to gender-affirming healthcare.

Denying healthcare to anyone based on their gender identity is not only cruel and unjust, but it also has severe negative health impacts. Transgender individuals already face significant barriers to healthcare access, and this bill would only exacerbate those challenges, leading to adverse health outcomes and increased rates of depression and suicide.

Furthermore, denying access to gender-affirming healthcare is discriminatory and goes against the fundamental principle of treating all individuals with dignity and respect. It is not the government's place to interfere with the personal medical decisions of individuals, and such legislation would only increase stigma and discrimination against trans people.

As elected representatives, you have a responsibility to protect the health and well-being of all Texans, regardless of their gender identity. I urge you to reject HB 1686 and instead support policies that promote equitable and accessible healthcare for all Texans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Miguel Bautista

Corey Maier
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

David Williams
Healthcare
Abilene, TX

I support HB 1686. Protect our children!

Carol Stephens, Mrs.
self retired teacher
Katy, TX

I strongly support this legislation.

Mina O'Connell
Self, family
Boerne, TX

NO tax dollars for the mutilation of children. Teen minor children's brains are certainly not fully developed. Think of yourself as a teenager before you vote for this horrendous bill. Teens are immature, growing, unwise, and not fully educated nor experienced in life. That is why human children have parents who raise them for the first two decades of their lives. These are minors! Do not allow life-changing body surgery for young, undeveloped minor children who are dependent upon wise, mature, loving adults to protect them as a stimulus barrier from the evils of this world. Protect our Texas children! They are our most valuable resource and it is our duty to protect them, not exploit, abuse, make money off of, and use them in perverse ways. If they have mental health, spiritual, or social issues, these are met in less draconian ways through talking, loving, researching, and providing developmental assets for the to grow and mature slowly until they reach adulthood. Thank you for your consideration. DO NOT USE MY TAX MONEY FOR THESE ISSUES!

Destiny Hellum-Leon
self
Plano, TX

We need to protect children, please do not allow transgender surgeries!

Patricia Quinn
Self
Dallas, TX

I am more than concern that we as Texans would allow such atrocities in our state. God is the giver of all life and in His creation He makes no mistakes. When man steps in and tries to play God with one's gender, the people (Texan's) will suffer with His judication on the land (Texas). Allowing this to happen in our state is one step further of breaking down the fabric of what makes Texas, Texas. It puts us as a state moving down a slippery slope morally.

I in no way want a penny of my tax money spent on something that is so anti-God. This reminds me of the "secret" research tests performed on people who were alive during the holocost.

Please, please do not let this pass and allow a different kind of holocost to be created in our wonderful state of Texas.

Deb Whisenant, Mrs
Self
Denison, TX

Please prohibit provision of treatments for any kind of changes in the gender with which a child was born and vote for HB 1686

Carolyn Hodo
Self - assistant professor pathology
College Station, TX

I oppose HB 1686. This bill will have dramatically negative impacts on the physical and mental health of thousands of young Texans and their families. We are already seeing an exodus of highly skilled and educated Texas leaving the state because of concerns for the safety of their family members. There is no legitimate medical reason to limit access to this treatment.

Elizabeth Clausen
Self
Austin, TX

Trans rights are human rights. Trans healthcare is lifesaving, necessary, and a human right. Limiting access to lifesaving healthcare is an attack on bodily autonomy and freedom.

Jade Joy
Self - business owner
Austin, TX

Trans rights are human rights and we should not limit healthcare to humans that are already struggling so hard in this world. Nobody chooses to take the difficult route and have a gender identity different than what they were born with. Let no let put any more obstacles in the way when it doesn’t concern anyone buy them and their families.

Nathalie Steinfeld Childre

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is ill-willed and aims to harm transgender youth which is already confronted with enough opposition and obstacles in life.
Trans youth who take puberty blockers are significantly less likely to experience lifelong suicidal ideation than those who want the care and don't get it.
Families are being pushed out of a state that they have deep ties to so that their kids can continue accessing hormone therapy and puberty blockers. New families won't move to Texas because they are afraid of the repercussions for their children.
Hundreds of doctors, medical groups and LGBTQ Texans objected to this bill because they know that it would cause a wave of mental issues and suicides.
Puberty blockers are also used for non-transgender youth. For example to slow down very early puberty hormon development in childhood to delay puberty. Used often to delay periods for girls or slow down breast growth which can be psychological difficult if it happens too early. So why are they being denied to transgender youth?
This bill reflects really poorly on Texas and Texas‘ image as a desirable place to live.

Rebecca Jones, MA, LPC

Self, licensed professional counselor

Live Oak, TX

I'm a licensed therapist in the State of Texas and one of my specialties is working with the LGBTQIA+ community. This bill is against my own moral compass and values, the ethical guidelines of my professional associations, and contradicts the science, research, and the experiences of the majority of trans individuals. I am asking you not to pass this bill or any version of it. The bill is discriminatory and could cause irreparable harm to the trans community. Preventing trans people, including children, from accessing necessary medical care has the potential to increase rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, among many other negative mental health effects. I am asking you to listen to the overwhelming majority of trans people and allies to the trans community who have commented in opposition to this bill, as it is trans people's very lives that are at stake. Do not pass this bill!

Lindsay Powers

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to you today because this issue is so important to me. Not only does it affect my family personally but it affects me so many others. I beg of you as a local austenite to please not take this healthcare from these children. Why can't you let them just be themselves. We are all too worried about what others are doing to focus on what's in our own backyard. I am speaking up for my sweet little cousin. And I am going to speak loud for her. And I am not going to shut up. And I am not going to sit down. And I am not going to let you take this opportunity for a happy life away from her either. Please don't vote for this bill. Please think of how many people you will affect by doing this. You are not looking out for what the citizens of Texas want. You are shaming people you are making families scared. And you are driving families out of our great state. We are not going away. Then we are not going to let you harm our children.

Jackie Loveless

NA

Freeport, TX

To all members of Texas House of Representatives-
Please vote in favor of the critical bill,
For the children.

Ruth Mitchell

MAGA

Crowley, TX

Denying access to healthcare is going to be detrimental to the health of a lot of children

Veronica Brodsky
Self
Austin, TX

For a country and state supposedly about the freedom of its citizens, it really loves to take those rights away from the most vulnerable of its people. Think about the children, about their health and safety. These kids are the future of America, and you want to tell them that they don't belong here. That you'd rather see them dead than be comfortable in their own body. These prohibitions are NOT good for America. These prohibitions are TOXIC to the nation.

Tracy DeBolt
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Children who are lightyears away from having a fully formed sense of self are incapable of understanding the full consequences of "Affirmative Care". Off-label puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries will at best help them "pass" as the opposite sex, but with frightening trade-offs in terms of bone density, brain development, sterility, and eventually - hard regret*. The sudden increase in recent years of the number of kids claiming to be transgender should be an alarm bell that there are other things at play here. Without knowing what those influences are, the only way to protect Texas children/teens is to pass HB1686 (and SB14). If we agree that a child or teen can't drink alcohol or smoke cigarettes because they are too young to understand the long term health implications, why would we jump to the conclusion that the same kid can understand the consequences of being medicalized for something they may or may not be sure about?
Parents of gender confused youth - the people who love and know their kids better than anyone else - are currently put in a position of "affirm of be vilified" by medical personnel, schools, even other family members. Therapists are in the same position. A byproduct of this bill would be to give parents and therapists room to deal with oft-occurring co-morbidities (ADHD, Autism, , eating disorders, Bi-Polar, etc.) since medicalization of their gander would be off the table. The current model insists that gender is the root cause of these co-morbidities and leaves them on the back burner.
The bottom line is that no one - parents, doctors, nor the confused child themselves - should be making the decision to sterilize and limit the future sexual function of a minor.

* You need only visit the Reddit sub stack "Detrans" - 45,000 members and growing - to read story after heart breaking story of transition regret.

Shannon Boxell
Self, Library Assistant
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. The care of trans youth should be trusted to their doctors and guardians. There is research showing that youth that recieved gender affirming care are less likely to suffer from suicidal thoughts. I do not believe this bill is ther best measure to protect trans youth and will instead risk marginalizing them further and make it even more challenging to find appropriate medical care.

HF Apple
Apple
Portland, TX

This Bill is cruel and an insult to me and my family and numerous others. I thought you guys were against the government controlling and limiting our freedoms. Why not show it by voting NO>

Kathleen Yoon
self
Austin, TX

I oppose the bill HB1686, the government has no place telling people what they can or cant do with their bodies. Gender affirming healthcare is life saving healthcare for people of all ages. gender affirming healthcare in youth can vastly improve the quality of life of trans youth. This bill clearly targets trans individuals and is attempting to eradicate the existence of trans people in the state of texas. It is a discriminatory, overreaching bill that invades peoples lives and their privacy.

Elaine Valagura
self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686.

Patrick Fleischmann
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Trans Americans deserve the same rights that those in a position of privilege have forced women, people of color, and far too many others to fight for. America is the land of the free. Please let trans Americans exist in peace. They deserve to grow and age and live in this beautiful country with the rest of us.

Armando Valdez
Self
Coppell, TX

I “I support HB 1686

Caleb Backholm
Self - Insurance
Ft Worth, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass this.

Kennedy Ritch
Self
Spring, TX

I am transgender I’m ftm meaning I was born a female but transition to a male. I have never went through female puberty and I’m so grateful for my mom support at a very young age. I wouldn’t be as happy or gone through as much trouble if I did went through female puberty. It would’ve put me in a depression and make me hate my body extremely more then I did. I’m 20 years old and having the puberty blockers and then at 16 switching to testosterone has made me love myself more than I ever thought I could. I have a lot of friends that support me that I thought they wouldn’t get my pov from my friends now being Marines, Air Force, and Navy to some being in college the mass majority of my friends aren’t even LGBTQ+ but they know who I am and show me so much love and respect just because they know I am!! I’m so happy to be in the space that I am in right now I’m going towards a career that is able to make me travel around the world. I couldn’t have done all of my accomplishments without my mom support of who I am. Please if you put this bill to go through you are going to make people that are transgender so much harder for them then they are already have to go through. I don’t know where would I be now if I didn’t have the treatment with hormone blockers and testosterone to make me into the person that I know I was truly meant to be.

Rebecca Teran, Mrs.
Fellow Texan
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686.

Waleska Town
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it further stigmatizes and harms young Texans from living as their healthy best selves, physically and emotionally. If we are to strengthen Texas and have the very best fulfilled lives as citizens, we need to be able to meet the medical and psychological needs of our transgender community of all ages. This bill arbitrarily tells trans youth, a vulnerable population, that to transition, to be themselves is wrong. I trust parents and medical experts to make these decisions under research and careful consideration for what's best for each individual.

Sofia Miranda-Fred
Self- Government Consultant
Dallas, TX

Hi- I am strong against this bill. Trans children deserve access to life saving and affirming treatments.

John Varvir
john varvir
Georgetown, TX

to forbid someone access of who they are should not be dictated by the government. they should be allowed the same assistance as anyone else because they are anyone else; no matter their age. please do not allow these horrible restraints to dictate how we the people can live our lives

Eleanor Boyd
self
Marshall, TX

I support HB 1686.

Teresa Beltran
self - concerned parent/stay at home mom
Liberty Hill, TX

I support HB 1686

Sydney Snowden, Registered Nurse
Self
Taylor, TX

This bill is unconstitutional and heinous. It's limiting the rights of Texans to make informed decisions about their health care. Bodily autonomy has already been stripped by to the scotus overturn of roe. Texas continues to ignore real issues while infringing on the inalienable rights of individual citizens.

Children are not in danger of being transitioned by force of a parent.
They are in danger because of guns. The ones that are manufactured by your donors. Can you be bought? Clearly you have been.

Focus on the real issues and stop taking money from lobby groups only focused on ensuring their Christian white nationalist agenda.
Shame on you for proposing this bill.
Texans will not forget how you treated our brothers and sisters.

Leighton York
Self, retired military
Cisco, TX

Please pass HB 1686 to stop the abuse of children with the chemical castration and gender changes to minors.

Cassie Villela
Self
Houston, TX

Please don’t do this. There are many ways that children are harmed in our state every day…being loved and supported by their families and doctors is not one of them. Voting for this will put you on the wrong side of history. Your descendants will be embarrassed of you. You’ll be remembered the way we currently remember people who hurled stones and insults at Ruby Bridges as she walked to school.

Cheryl Goforth
Self
Lubbock, TX

I support HB 1686

Winifred Riley
N/A
Austin, TX

Strongly oppose

Marian Embry
Self
Conroe, TX

I'm not sure why this is the Texas Politicans business. My health used to be of concern to only me, my family and my doctor. This should not pass now or anytime in the future. This is something between parents, their children and doctors. Most of you have no idea what all this means. What I see is that it's hateful, none of your business and why I am disgusted with all parts of the government. You over reach into personal lives to control people. I'm tired and it makes me sick at times to hear what is said by some of you.
I know transgender children and adults who have gone through the medical and counciling process. I've seen dispare leave their lives as they live as they are meant to. Nature makes mistakes but it seems that politicians don't.
Receiving money from your backers to do as they want is all our politicians have become. I'm not even going to touch on assault weapons and the amount of deaths they cause. It was designed as a weapon of war not to shot kids in schools or others in public places.
I vote and try hard to find a person that will do the least damage in our lives but it's really getting harder to do this everyday.
At the end of the day I hope you can live with what you govern. Being in my personal and medical life is truly none of your business.
This bill should not pass and if it does each of you will be responsible for each person that may take their lives or live in dispair. It's on each of you.
Not a Democrat or Republican anylonger. I'm just a Human trying not to hurt other humans unlike all of you.

irma Gonzalez
Luke 4:18 Ministries
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686.

Cherie Kane
self
Fulshear, TX

I support HB 1686

Mina O'Connell
Family/self
Boerne, TX

I support this HB 1686.

Emily Magee
self, IT Systems Administrator
Austin, TX

I am strongly against this bill. Appropriate medical care is important for all people and that should be decided by those individuals and medical personnel, not the government.

Suzanne Becken, Ms.
Self, retired
San Antonio, TX

NO to drugs and/or surgery on minors to make trans.

Samuel Frankenfield
Self -Retired
Sunset, TX

I understand this bill would prohibit so-called gender transitioning surgeries from being performed on children. As God knew us before He formed us in the womb, I'm of the opinion that God knows what He is doing, made us as He intended, and we shouldn't "play God" by trying to change God's workmanship. Therefore, I am in support of this bill.

Jose Soria
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

This bill is ridiculous! Trying to prohibit individuals who've demonstrated years of identifying as trans as certified by a doctor with the consent of their parents is disgusting! Furthermore none of the healthcare available to youth is even permanent, it's all reversible, should they even qualify for that much. Vote no on HB 1686

William L Hunt
Self
Lott, TX

Now more than ever we (Texans) need strong leadership to stop this trend of the woke far left pushing the narrative that you can be a boy if you are a girl and if your are born a boy you can be a girl. God has never in the past nor in the future made a mistake on gender.

Donna Lyons
Myself
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686

Ron Blair
Self
Mansfield, TX

“I support HB 1686.” There should be no gender modification surgeries on children in Texas.

Ashley Sacchieri
Self
Magnolia, TX

Please pass

Alyssa Macaluso
self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686. Protect the children!

Lynn Wright, Mrs.
Self - Retired
Raymondville, TX

It's especially an abomination to harm children! Every person is born either male or female - they are NOT born with gender dysphoria, which is instead pushed upon them by someone who has authority over such a one or by peers who know no better than they do. As such, it becomes mental illness. Therefore, it's incumbent upon those, with the authority to do so, to vote against any laws or provisions and to prohibit any provision that allows for procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and to use public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Claudia Padilla
Self - Retired Banker
Savannah, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Stacy Bielstein
self/paralegal
Brownsville, TX

I am in full support for HB 1686 and urge House Representatives to vote in support of this Bill. Thank you.

Beverly Belew, Col
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support passage of HB 1686. Stop mutilation of children for gender change.

Jessica Gaffney
Self
Austin, TX

Transgender youth deserve our support and love, not these hateful bills. It is not the job of the government to make these types of personal decisions for anyone. Stop the hate!!!

Robert O'Connell
Self
Boerne, TX

I support this HB 1686

Rebekah Scoggins
Self, Librarian!
Houston, TX

This bill is unconstitutional and extreme overstepping. The government should have no say over someone's body or what they choose to do with it or should they be allowed to parent.

Teresa Martinez
Self, state employee
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill, because it harms Texas children and their personal and medical freedom.

I also urge you to remember that these are human lives, with families and loved ones surrounding them, and trans people deserve to enjoy the dignity every other human in Texas has by not being targeted for how they identify.

History will remember how Texas treated trans people during this era. I appeal to you to be on the right side of history and vote against this bill.

Tom Thornton
Self / Real Estate
Austin, TX

Please stop taking away human rights from both parents and children by discriminating against the LBGTQ members of our state. Parents DO know what is best for their child. Please leave the decision making to parents and health professionals and stop removing rights from portions of the population you don't understand or disagree with. Texas is a libertarian state, and this heavy-handed government interference is disturbing in the precedent it may set.

Janet Beam
self
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 protecting our children

Alysha Hoffa
Self. Social Worker.
El Paso, TX

Trans youth are people. Listen to them when they tell you who they are. Trans healthcare saves lives.

Deja Roden, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Besides playing God and the immorality of denying your God given gender, pragmatically speaking, if minors cannot buy alcohol or cigarettes, if they need to be helped and navigated through life…then clearly they're not capable of making an irreversible and life altering decisions; such as cutting off healthy breast and healthy genitals. That is criminal and we are going to have a thousands of future adults wondering "where were the truth tellers who could have stopped this when I was young and dumb?" Texas needs to take a stand against this, just like we did with abortion. We will be held accountable and we need to stand for truth and common sense.

Rustin Tawater
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Medical decisions such as the ones at issue in this bill should be made by the patient, the patient's parents, and the patient's doctors -- not politicians.

Donna Hall
My faith votes
Wolfforth, TX

I support HB 1686

Lana Claycamp
Self
Burkburnett, TX

In regard to this bill HB 1686, I totally disagree that public money, tax money or any public assistance should be provided for these procedures to change genders for children or anyone. Adult are children. If they want this done then they need to provide the money to do it for themselves. Thank you for allowing me to input my opinion as a Texas resident.

Emma Forsyth
Self/Thetapist
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives. Transgender youth are seven times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. This is due in large part to discrimination and stigmatization within our society. HB 1686 would not only further stigmatize the existence of transgender kids, it would take away the rights of parents to provide life-saving care to their children. It ignores established medical best practices in order to use children’s lives as political pawns. Texas is better than this.

Sara G
Self
San Antonio, TX

The choice to give trans youth the gender affirming care that they need should be between a family and their doctors. Us parents don’t take this lightly. We do our research, we ask the important questions, we seek guidance from therapists, endocrinologists, primary care physicians and such. We do everything we can to learn and to educate ourselves on everything trans related. In my experience all gender affirming care does is improve the life of trans youth. ITS A FACT, IVE SEEN IT FIRST HAND. I implore u to speak to trans youth and really get a sense for what they’re going thru . Like really get to know them and their struggles. Don’t just dismiss them. PLEASE don’t take away the only thing that keeps our kids alive. It’s a matter of LIFE AND DEATH literally. Put urself in the shoes of parents such as myself that have trans children. That have literally gone thru tough times and have taken the time to learn and research what gender affirming care such as HRT really means. All us parents want is our kids to thrive and stay ALIVE.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I am a mom from Texas that loves her kid and only wants him to make it to adulthood and be successful just like every other mom wants

Audra Hughes
self, production sound tech
Austin, TX

Leading health care organizations in Texas — including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Counseling Association and Texas Pediatric Society — say gender-affirming care is the best way to provide care to transgender children. They’re not alone: the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and others agree — and have for years. Support the medical professionals. Support the families. Support Texans and let them make their own medical decisions. Live and let live.

Cynthia Dillard
self
Spring Branch, TX

I support HB 1686.

Amy Hamilton, Ph.D.
Amy Hamilton, Self, Research Associate
Elgin, TX

I’m a research associate at UT-Austin speaking for myself in favor of HB 1686. For over 3 years, I've studied this issue, contributing to assessments of the research for official reports.

I also was a gender non-conforming Texas youth. In the 80’s, I wore a tuxedo to my high school dance and was so androgynous I was often mistaken for a boy. I used this style as a shield to guard me from the vulnerability of being female which had, in my reasoning, exposed me to abuse. If it were today I would easily be trans-identified.

Please consider what psychiatrist and gender clinician Dr. Stephen Levine calls the “wider lifecycle view...” which many affirmative therapists lack. Levine writes: “the overriding consideration is the creation of a happy, highly functional, mentally healthy person for the next 50 to 70 years of life—not merely during a transient stage of childhood or adolescent development.”

Most trans-identifying young people today are dealing with mental health co-morbidities and/or have had adverse childhood experiences. Clinicians often do not consider the past—neither for what is absent (e.g., most presenting now have no prior childhood gender dysphoria) nor for what is often present--that in any other circumstance would be cause for concern and deeper exploration (e.g. trauma, family dysfunction, mental health issues, autism, or history of sexual assault). There also seems to be no future consideration that could possibly override the gender identity of the moment, which many clinicians admit can be fluid and change: not the long-term health harms, not the loss of fertility, nor the evidence of shortened lifespans and increased suicidality in the long run—all of which is well-documented in the data (e.g. Dhejne et al. (2011) Long-term follow up Transsexual...Sweden...).

I have every compassion for trans-identified youth and their parents, but as Dr. Levine says, families are being misled about the scientific-certainty regarding transition and pressured through overstated risks of suicide, as if there is no alternative to harming healthy young bodies through drugs and/or surgery. As I wrote in one article, "a group of Australian professionals reported that 'a large subgroup of children equated affirmation with medical intervention and appeared to believe that their distress would be completely alleviated if they pursued the pathway of medical treatment.' These magic-bullet beliefs were the product of peer influence, social media, and previous encounters with other healthcare workers. The clinicians lamented that their efforts to explain the risks and engage in authentic therapeutic exploration 'fell on deaf ears.' They noted that the 'same overall dynamic also put many parents . . . in a difficult and untenable situation.'"(Kozlowska et al. (2021) Australian children...Human Systems, 1(1), 70-95.) Finally, no parent has the right to sterilize their minor child to alleviate mental distress. Please protect Tx youth by voting yes.

Kailea Humphreys
Self Homemaker
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686

Carrie Bailey
Self
Austin, TX

As a resident of Texas I am against HB 1686 this bill is disgusting and dangerous to the youth

Elizabeth Green
Self, communications director for a health nonprofit
Austin, TX

This bill is misguided, abusive to children, and inappropriately steps between medical experts and parents, who have the actual right to make these decisions. The discomfort that some legislators feel toward trans people does not justify this gross overstepping of legislative power.

Pamela Ripley, Mrs.
Self
Porter, TX

I support HB 1686

Carol Cutler
Self Retired
McKinney, TX

This bill is needed to protect minors who might ruin their lives before they even know why they are making such decisions.

Megan Vasquez
Education Austin
Austin, TX

My name is Megan Vasquez and I am a Texas resident and an Austin teacher. I am vehemently against HB 1686 because it further stigmatizes and harms young Texans from living as their joyful and healthy best selves, physically and emotionally. If we are to strengthen Texas and have the very best fulfilled lives as citizens, we need to be able to meet the medical and psychological needs of our transgender community of all ages! This bill arbitrarily tells trans youth, a vulnerable population, that to transition, to be themselves is wrong. I trust parents and medical experts to make these decisions. Our trans kids deserve the right to live full and joyful lives. Our trans kids are valid, please do not try to erase their existence. They are exactly who they are meant to be. When it comes to education, I'm constantly hearing some of your voices regarding parent's rights. Where are those same concerns when it comes to parent's rights over their own child's health care? This is meant to be between the medical care provide and parents, not you. So please divert your attention away from attacking our trans youth and towards working on funding our public schools. Thank you!

Crystal Contreras, Mx.
Self
Austin, TX

"I oppose HB 1686 because it further stigmatizes and harms young Texans from living as their healthy best selves, physically and emotionally. If we are to strengthen Texas and have the very best fulfilled lives as citizens, we need to be able to meet the medical and psychological needs of our transgender community of all ages. This bill arbitrarily tells trans youth, a vulnerable population, that to transition, to be themselves is wrong. I trust parents and medical experts to make these decisions under research and careful consideration for what’s best per individual."

Wendy Chapman
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686

Our society does not allow children to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, fight wars or live by themselves. Children do not have fully developed brains or bodies. Allowing a child to change their body in such a manner will affect them their entire life. A child cannot understand the fallout of their body being changed. Please support HB 1686.

Louie Jenkins
self, retired
Dallas, TX

98% of children experiencing gender dysphoria outgrow it. Submitting them to irreversible procedures that may ruin their lives is evil. Protect our children!

Fernando Padilla
self
Garland, TX

I support HB 1686

Theodore Hennessy
self
Austin, TX

This bill is hateful and hurtful to trans kids and their families. It brings shame to the great state of Texas, and is an embarrassment to our country as a whole. Please strike down this hateful bill.

Kim Borchert
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Stop making medical decisions for people in our state. It is not your job to tell doctors how to provide care. Research has shown that gender affirming care for trans people lowers the incidence of suicide and increases their life expectancy.
Vote no and protect our trans children.

Andrew Pittman
Self
Austin, TX

This bill WILL directly result in avoidable deaths of children. It is inconsistent with treatment guidelines from every reputable association of care providers. It cannot be allowed to pass.

Madeleine Brunk
Self, citizen
Austin, TX

If accepted, this bill will signal to all trans children that they are not welcome in Texas. It goes against my values as a Texan to deny necessary healthcare to children on the basis of gender.

Becka Spellman
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this proposed bill. It prevents families from caring for their children, doctors from fulfilling their Hippocratic Oath (as countless studies have shown that age appropriate gender affirming care is the gold standard of care for youth with gender dysphoria), and it is at its core discriminatory towards an already marginalized group of people. This bill will cause real damage to real Texans and is a major governmental overreach. Parental rights for all families, not just some.

Scott Sticker
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care is lifesaving & I am very much against this bill.

Bonnie Wilson
Self
League City, TX

Remember Lobotomies? Life altering procedures and treatments of children for gender transition, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria, is another fool-hardy attempt of "so-called" experts for issues in children and teens that they will outgrow. Like lobotomies, once done, the harm has been done. Even with remedial surgery the physical and emotional scars will never go away. Remember Rosemary Kennedy, she was a beautiful, bright young lady with some mental health issues. Then she had a lobotomy - and instead of helping she became helpless. Many of these kids don't have mental health issues, just growing pains. Parents are the ones with mental issues to allow their kids to undergo this traumatic experience. Let kids be kids. When they grow up, then if they want to waste their money and their life, it's their choice. Not the government or the taxpayers.

Rachel DiMasi
Self - LMSW
Austin, TX

My name is Rachel DiMasi, and I am a native Texas, a mother of two school-age children, and a licensed social worker in the state of Texas. I am writing today to VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE HB1686. The information being spread about gender-affirming care is inaccurate, dangerous, and is risking the lives of transgender children. Young people have the right to lead healthy lives. They have the right to the health care they need to survive and thrive. For transgender young people, this might include specialized health care, called gender-affirming care, that has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and proven to help mental health and wellbeing. Gender affirming care is age-appropriate, life-saving, medically necessary care that is only provided after the consent of parents and doctors. The decision to pursue gender-affirming care is not taken lightly, nor is it an easy path for anyone. Families work with medical professionals for a long time and in great depth to identify a path of treatment for their transgender youth.

Suicide is the fourth-largest cause of death among 15- to 19-year-olds globally each year, and according to recent studies, transgender teens are 7.6% more likely to have suicidal ideation than the general population. Let that sink in. If suicide is already the 4th largest cause of death for teens each year, how many more lives will be lost with the passing of HB1686? Research also shows that for transgender children who are able to access gender-affirming healthcare, suicide rates drop approximately 70%. Rates of depression, and anxiety also drop drastically. These numbers are not opinion, they are FACT. As a society, we need to make sure these young people are safe, supported, and celebrated. We need to work on ending violence and discrimination against trans youth. We should be celebrating our trans youth and affirming them for who they are, not erasing, endangering, and vilifying LGBTQ young people. By supporting HB1686, you are risking the lives of countless children and teens who are already part of a marginalized population. You are telling them that their lives don't matter.

I urge you to think about your own children. If your child was facing a health challenge that had a solution, one that could almost assure that they would not attempt to take their own lives, I'm certain that you would do absolutely anything to ensure that your child received the healthcare they needed. I know that I certainly would. The decision to pursue gender-affirming care should be between the individual, their parents, and their doctors. NOT left in the hands of legislators. By supporting this bill you are not only infringing upon the rights of parents to support their children as THEY see fit, you are also sentencing children and teens to death.

OPPOSE HB1686. Protect transgender kids.

Meghan Doman, Miss
Self
Austin, TX

There are much larger problems facing Texans than your unfounded believe that gender transitioning and proper medical care is abuse. We face high cost of living, limited access to mental health services, gun violence and high property taxes among many real problems . To target a group of people who 1) are doing what is best for themselves under guidance of parents/guardians and medical professionals and 2) represent a vital but small part of the overall population is cruel. These culture war bills do not help constituents and makes our trans and queer community targets for hate speech and violence. I have family members who have been forced to flee this state after generations to ensure safety and medical freedom for their children. Texas used to be a place I was proud to be from but now it’s a breeding ground for political posturing to the alt right and hate. This bill will cause children to die and put them in harm

Sarah Reuther
Self
Austin, TX

HB1686 is harmful and unnecessary.

Leda Landers, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please protect our children from this demonic influence

Erica Sowder
Self
Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose HB 1686. This bill only serves to harm children and as a parent, I can’t stand for that. Our trans children need our love and support, not hate legislation.

Rebecca Smith
Self, research analyst
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 and this type of legislation as it infringes on children and parents' rights and freedoms. Individuals should make their own decisions about healthcare, not the Texas government.

Grant Turley
Self
Houston, TX

As a logical and caring Texan I demand that each if you vote against this bill. Allowing transgender people to receive gender affirming care has been shown to be the best way to treat gender dysphoria and prevent suicide by the most reputable scientific sources. Denying this care will be the beginning of a de facto genocide of transgender people, which any sensible person must oppose. Transgender people exist and have always existed. Providing gender affirming care won't cause people to suddenly become transgender, just as denying it won't stop them from being born.
Beyond the obvious disregard for actual living human beings in Texas, this bill also continues the unacceptable trend of the state interfering in private medical decisions between patients and their qualified health providers. The government should not be allowed to interfere in such a way.
This bill violates Texans' right to privacy. By forcing private medical records to be subject to state overview everyone's privacy of their personal information is breached.
Finally, this bill violates every Texans' right to free exercise of religion according to their own conscience. By imposing morals of a specific religious tradition on all people regardless of their own beliefs, the state is imposing a secretive de facto state religion.
This bill is regressive, reactionary, illogical and fully opposed to all the values upon which this state and nation we're supposedly founded. If you vote this bill into law, you betray all Texans and reveal that you do not care about human life, human freedom, or the values of the Founding Fathers of America.

Philip Zacharias, Mr
Self/School Crossing Guard
Grand Prairie, TX

I support this bill. I have read from two different sources that the vast majority of children who suffer from gender dysphoria decide to embrace their biological sex when they grow older. In my opinion, a sex change operation would only complicate the future life of a child who suffers this way.

Diane Gluskin
Myself
Frisco, TX

Please prohibit sexual surgical change for children under 18

Nick Cox
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

I support bill 1686

Bob Fello, Mr.
Self
Grapevine, TX

I strongly support HB 1686

Mellany Lamb
self
Flower Mound, TX

When Rep. Tony Tinderholt quoted Mark 9:42 to the Senior Pastor from St. Paul's UMC in Houston and the pastor could not respond, that should have told the committee everything that they needed to know about gender mutilation via cross hormones, puberty blockers, chemical and surgical castration. These procedures on minors should never be performed or legal. And, it is not the same as a person doing a nose job or eye lift, as the St. Paul UMC pastor eluded. Not even close. These procedures to more often than not set up a child to clinical depression and a life of woe. If they want to want to modify their bodies chemically or surgically, let them do that as consenting adults whose brains have fully developed by their mid-20's. Please protect children and support HB 1686.

Aaron Denman
Self
Kemp, TX

I support HB1686. Please move this bill forward. Children are not equipped to make these major life changing decisions. What are parents motives to push this on children? Money is a powerful motivator for medical professionals who push this on parents and children!

Marco Antonio Navarrete
SELF - ENGR
San Antonio, TX

Gender dysphoria is a private matter between the parent, child, and the personal medical professional of the parent's choosing. It is not a public issue and no taxpayer money should be used to support children, families, or public agencies including schools. Thank you!

Leilani Rogers
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I am the mother of a nonbinary child who wishes to have their options open in the future, for top surgery. The discrimination against them is already strong just from having appeared at the Capitol on Monday to voice their testimony. Their life should not feel threatened. Their safety should not feel threatened. Their rights to healthcare should not be threatened. If the constitution means so much to you people then at least make sure everyone has right to the healthcare they need.

Stuart Newberg
Mr./self
Austin, TX

Where is your empathy? Why don't you listen to the medical professionals regarding this very personal, family concern. Stop wasting time on culture war issues and start addressing important issues that impact the lives of Texans. You are embarrassing the people of Texas and giving Florida a good run for their money as to who is being run by the biggest bunch of idiots!

Daniel McQueary
Self, Video Editor
Bedford, TX

I SUPPORT THIS MEASURE.

Simone Salloum
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the passage of this bill. Ensuring that families have access to gender affirming healthcare is necessary to protect the mental health of our children. This is a decision that should be between a family and their healthcare provider.

Laura Perkins
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686 and denounce the intent of this bill to take away vital health care from the transgender community. Transgender kids, and adults, deserve the opportunity to not only live as themselves but to also thrive. It is actions like this bill that are detrimental to the transgender community and increase rates of mental anguish, self harm and suicide. This is bullying at the highest level and this bill needs to be defeated.

Valera Atkisson
Self
Bedford, TX

I support this bill.

Kalynn Quinn
Self/Server
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. It is gross negligence to deny healthcare to a living being. No matter their gender, age, race, or religion. This bill will violate Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and the Affordable Care Act that was implemented in 2010.

Why must we fight amongst each other in our own community when we should be supporting one another? There are more important issues we must focus on rather than strip people’s rights away.

Kathy Brittain
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please don’t allow children to be subjected to transitioning!!!! Please!!!!

Amelia Austern
Myself
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives! Prohibiting this kind of health care is not only hateful, but will lead to to deaths of Texas residents. This bill is abhorrent and must be voted against.

David Ramsey
David Rehm Ramsey
Allen, TX

No way should we provide gender transitioning to kids!
What do these kids know about sexuality? Have we lost our way!!

AnaPaulina Karlsson
self
Denton, TX

I support HB 1686 and I want you to vote in support of HB 1686

Sandra Cutrone
Self
Spring, TX

Hello. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to HB1686 of the current legislation session. I am an ally to the LGBTQ+ community and I personally know people who are transgender. This bill is a horrendous attempt at denying their rights to be who they are from a medical perspective. Transgender people deserve to have the same rights as anyone regarding their healthcare and what is best for them with consultation from doctors, therapists, parents and the trans person themself. If you take away their healthcare rights and deny them the ability to begin treatment or force those already transitioning to detransition, then you are subjecting them to a life that does not align with who they know themselves to be, or worse - no life at all. Let the medical professionals who are experienced in working with transgender minors and young adults, along with the parents and the child decide what is best for them. That is not for you to control. If this bill passes, then you will be adversely affecting the lives of these Texans, their families and all of us who support them. Once again, I oppose HB1686. These are my own opinions and thoughts on this matter. Thank you for your time.

Carolyn McClugage
Self- precinct chair 263
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686

Douglas Miller
Self-retired
Dayton, TX

Please support this bill.

Robert Hunter
Self, retired engineer
Ft Worth, TX

I support HB 1686.

Sara Orchowski
None
Katy, TX

My name is Sara. I am a married mother of three. As far as I know, none of my children is transgender. I don't believe I even know a family with a transgender child. It would be easy for me to denounce their existence or deny their struggle. But I don't. I lean toward believing a person when they share their lived experience. My heart hurts for the children and their families who are just trying to live a life which they believe reflects their true selves. Who am I or anyone else to say their feelings are invalid or wrong? How can anyone judge another person's feelings and convictions when they've never walked in that person's shoes? And why is the state compelled to interfere in decisions which should be discussed solely between a patient and medical doctor? What happened to personal responsibility? Why is it that limited government is favorable until it comes to something like gender affirming care - a concept which makes some people uncomfortable? And why is their comfort more important than someone else's?

Gender affirming care is healthcare. It is necessary and it is a matter of life and death. According to a 2022 survey conducted by the Trevor Project, more than 50% of transgender and non-binary youth in states across the US seriously considered suicide in the past year. Legislation which seeks to ban or limit gender affirming treatment ignores the wealth of information demonstrating its benefits. "The truth is that data from more than a dozen studies of more than 30,000 transgender and gender-diverse young people consistently show that access to gender-affirming care is associated with better mental health outcomes—and that lack of access to such care is associated with higher rates of suicidality, depression and self-harming behavior," Heather Boerner. "What the Science on Gender Affirming Care for Trangender Kids
Really Shows." Scientific American, 12, May, 2022.

I pray for those who back this bill. I pray for those whose lives would be gutted by this bill. I feel it deep in my soul that this bill typifies the LEAST Christ-like response to our fellow man. When confronted with a challenge we've stopped asking one another, "How can I help?" and the default now seems to be to denigrate and dehumanize whomever embodies that challenge.

Jacqueline Serrano
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. This will be detrimental to the children that this affects. What right do you have to pass judgement on the lives and needs of these families

Deanna DeHaven
Self - Video Production
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. This bill is an extreme overreach from Texas politicians, only for political gain and not in the best interest of any children or families. It also goes against all credible medical advice. If this bill passes, you are putting many children and family at risk of extreme harm and lasting physical and psychological repercussions.

Jenee Ovitt
Self
Austin, TX

I'm very against this bill. I know many trans people and having this kind of healthcare saved their lives. The lies being told about what "treatments are being done to children" is wrong and people should learn and tell the truth. Having access to gender affirming healthcare for kids saves lives. The end.

Ruben Cantu
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill not only because it’s disgusting to attack children but because there are actual problems facing children like gun violence (the number one cause of death for persons under 18 if you didn’t know)

This should be thrown off the table and locked back in the medieval times where it belongs.

Sara Burch
Self
Austin, TX

I am AGAINST HB 1686. It is an attack on the liberties of trans Texans and negatively interferes with and disrupts decisions made between individuals, their parents, and their doctors. It is a dangerous and unjust overreach of power. HB 1686, if passed and enacted into law, WILL endanger children's physical and mental well-being. I implore all relevant parties to NOT push this legislation forward and, instead, to stand up for the rights of trans Texans, regardless of their age. Trans youth in America face rates of suicide, suicide ideation, depression, and anxiety folds greater than non-trans American youth. Bills like HB 1686 only succeed in increasing those rates. Bills like HB 1686 will only continue to make life more difficult for Texas’ children. PLEASE reconsider any further efforts made towards progressing HB 1686 and ANY bills that aim to take away liberties of trans Texans.

Kirsten Padilla
Self, mother
Garland, TX

I support HB 1686

Andrew Rogers
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Why is our State Legislature taking away parents rights? As our state normally tries to balance the restrictions they place on people this seems to be over reaching. What parents with LGBQ children are asking for this? Consider what message this sends to all the families living in Texas not just those who are for it.

David Neese
Self
Porter, TX

I fully support and endorse this bill

Danny H Sierra Santana
Self
Austin, TX

Opposed

Anthony Castillo, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Children do not have the capacity to fully understand a decision of such magnitude. Parents are suppose to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
That means to teach them of things that are pure and undefiled. To live a life of selflessness and servitude. To be kind and compassionate. To show mercy and comfort their fellow man. To be content with how God created them. The become examples of all that is good and praise their Heavenly Father.

Kathy Wilson
Self
Austin, TX

Strongly oppose this.

Elizabeth Yarbrough
B
Sanger, TX

Gender transition surgeries and hormonal treatment should not be allowed for children, whose brains are not fully developed. We do not allow them to get tattoos if under certain age because of the permanence in nature. These life-altering surgeries and hormones should be disallowed as well. Please protect our state's youth by voting for HB 1686.

Jeremy Burks
Self, museum professional
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. It is a horrifying overreach of government into the personal, private lives of Texas citizens and an insult to the idea of parental rights. It rejects all best practices standards by acknowledged medical experts in order to support a cynical political project. Trans Texans are real people and citizens whose lives will be made materially worse by this bill, not just props for a culture war.

Carolina Kissell
Concerned constituent
Plano, TX

I support HB 1686.

Elizabeth Simpson, Mrs.
Self
Dallas, TX

Please let parents take care of their children as they see fit. This is not your devising to make. Every trans parent wants to do what is right for their child. They do not need you involved.

Elizabeth Funk
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming healthcare saves lives. This bill attempts to take control of a parent's right to judge what is good or not for their children. This bill is based of false science and is a clear attempt to create a wedge issue. There is no reason whatsoever for this bill except your own xenophobia and need to draw public attention away from the real business that you should be taking up. It's transparent, shameful, and does irreparable harm to all Texans.

John Hamak
self
Amarillo, TX

I whole heartily support this bill

Michael Stankard, Mr.
Self - Financial Analyst
Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

Healthcare in the United States, from a medical standpoint, is a point of pride of this entire nation. Our doctors, nurses, researchers, and medical staff provide care that is unrivaled anywhere else in the world. Diseases that we once thought were death sentences are now easily vaccinated against or manageable with modern medicines. Why should we deny that incredible standard of care to the transgender community? Every American should have a right to healthcare that will make them both happy and healthy. Numerous studies have determined that early intervention in gender dysphoria reduces suicide rates in transgender teens and adults as well as increases their mental health, happiness, and quality of life. We should strive to improve the lives of every American, regardless of race, gender, or political class.

It is currently legal under US law for many to undergo procedures that many consider elective, such as cosmetic procedures, weight loss surgeries, and body modifications. For example, it is legal and easily accessible for a woman to undergo breast augmentation surgery. Treatments like these are essential to both physical and mental health of patients across the nation, and are not proscribed under any US or state regulation. To deny any population access to treatments that are proven to increase quality of life just because of who they are is shameful.

Historically, government has been minimally involved in medicine, trusting professional organizations to regulate practices and treatments. The American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, and most other professional bodies have studied the treatments involved in gender transition and have deemed them safe and effective for both minors and adults. The Legislature traditionally devolves matters regarding medicine to the Texas Medical Board as they are the experts in the subject.

Representatives, I urge you to think of the people involved. They are going through a tough time in life, thinking deep and determining who they are. Every American has the right of self-determination, and to deny treatment to this community would be taking away that right from them. For any other people, psychologists, therapists, medicine, and support are available to them. Please don't deny this support to the transgender community. We are one people, and to deny treatment to one class while making it available to another is wrong and immoral.

Thank you,
Michael

Priscilla Paesano, Mrs.
Sslf/homemaker
San Antonio, TX

I do not want public money to fund such procedures on minors.

Callie Butcher
Dallas LGBT Bar Associaiton and Self, Attorney
Dallas, TX

This bill is blatant discrimination against transgender Texans, banning identical healthcare for some children but not others solely based on that child's gender identity. The bill specifically denies healthcare for transgender children, while allowing that same care to children that are not transgender. Denying this health care only for transgender young people is a cruel attack on some of the most vulnerable people in our state and will have a direct and devastating impact on the physical and mental health of these children.

And I know from personal experience the negative impact it will have. I came out as trans at 14 years old after struggling for years before that with how to tell my parents what I was feeling. My parents loved me, but my parents were afraid, and they weren't supportive of me being trans. I was denied affirming care, told it was a phase and sent to therapy to "fix me" or help me "outgrow it". But as with a vast majority of trans identifying youth, I did not outgrow it. Being forced to experience the puberty of my birth gender caused significant harm to me both physically and mentally and resulted in permanent changes to my body that could have been prevented if I had been able to receive puberty blockers.

I suffered from hair growth all over my body and on my face. My brow bone enlarged, my jaw widened, My vocal chords changed, resulting in a lowering in my voice. My hips never widened, but my shoulders did. All of these changes were significant and near permanent changes that require numerous surgeries and medical interventions to reverse, and some of which may never be fully reversible.

By banning healthcare for trans youth outright, and forcing them to go through the puberty of their gender assigned at birth, this significant harm and suffering that I endured will be inflicted upon all of the large majority of trans children that we know will continue to identify as trans for the rest of their life. These harms cause extreme anguish, which for me did not resolve until I was able to access gender affirming care.

Further, This state has long recognized that parents have the right to make decisions about the medical care and treatment of their children. Indeed, parents must make difficult medical decisions some of which will have permanent consequences on behalf of their children all the time.

A parent's right to consent to care that is medically necessary, recommended by their child's doctor and is consistent with the standards of care of every major medical association should not be curtailed by the state on the basis of the child's gender identity. This bill supplants the rights of a parent to make medical decisions for their children with the authors beliefs about what is right. This is an egregious overreach by the government into the lives of all Texans and sets a dangerous precedent for all medical care in our state.

Asim Sundrani
Self
Cypress, TX

I live in Cypress, Texas. I want us to protect trans kids that are being vilified. Who else would you trust with your own child? Lets not let kids be the pawns for adult agendas. Please support and protect these kids. Please vote no to bill 1686.

Janey Hayes
Self - student
Houston, TX

I oppose laws discriminating agains transgender people. Trans rights are human rights, and denying their rights over their body is unconstitutional.

Douglas Marsolan
self Designer
Round Rock, TX

Vote no on this bill. The hypocrisy of voting in favor of this bill on one hand, while simultaneously decrying the ACA as the government getting between patients and their doctors would be laughable if it wasn't so disgusting. Some children are piling on lunch debt they can not pay, and are forced to go home hungry. Others are being gunned down in their classrooms. And yet this governing body chooses to focus on parents getting their children treatments for gender dysphoria? Something that should remain between parents, their children, and their doctors. Having a loving family that accepts them for who they are, and gets them the treatment they need is not something the government should be getting involved with. You are not doctors, you are politicians, so who are you to say you know better than the medical experts? Voting in favor of this bill puts you on the wrong side of history, and your descendants will look upon you in embarrassment, the same way we look upon segregationists.

Sabrina Combs
Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

Children should not be making permanent decisions that disfigure their bodies. We don’t let children drive before they’re 18, why? Because we don’t feel they’re emotionally competent to do that. We don’t let children decide other things that have an affect on them. Parents don’t let children play in the street just because they want to, because parents know it’s dangerous. We don’t let children eat sweets all day, just because they want to. They can’t decide on their own many things because they are children and haven’t had time to experience life and learn what’s safe and what’s not. Parents are there to teach and protect. These treatments are not “affirming” if anything they are “dis-affirming”. These things should not be done to children period, and especially not before puberty. Hormone therapy has devastating side affects and long term health issues, they even shorten life spans. And to perform an irreversible surgery is just tantamount to abuse and torture.

Dawn Fowler
Self
Portland, TX

Gender transitioning should only be allowed on mature adults at least 25 years of age and only if they fund the procedures themselves.

Laura Roy, Mrs
Self
Killeen, TX

Please do not turn Texas into the hellhole that is California. Stuff like this wants to make me and millions of other Texans to secede. All gender surgeries for children need to be banned in the state of Texas. Period. It is evil and wrong.

Mara Adams
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I have trans friends who would he negatively affected, as well as myself.

Jordan Schwager
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill fully as it is prejudicial and hateful and does nothing to protect any at risk group and actively hurts and targets LGBT and gender non conforming individual for no purpose other than political scapegoating and grandstanding by conservative lawmakers who are using a marginalized group as a scapegoat for their ineffectual legislation and ineptitude as public servants.

donna godwin
Grace Woodlands Church
Spring, TX

Please protect our children!

Tammie Hansberger
Self
Little Elm, TX

I support HB 1686!

Sherry Ayres
Self
Buckholts, TX

Children are a blessing from God and represents Him in His image. They are wonderfully created. These types of procedures should be banned and for those who are opposed, we should not be paying the bill.

Diane Bradley
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support prohibiting these procedures and treatments for children and using public money or assistance for such procedures and treatments.

Robert West
self
Denton, TX

I am against this motion. I do not believe it is the job of the government to interfere in matters related to a person's decision to transition. This is already an extremely difficult process and adding additional hurdles to this process is unnecessarily cruel. If this bill passes the state will be on the wrong side of history.

Cindy Middleton, Ms
Self retired
San Angelo, TX

I support HB 1686

Taylor Marrs
Islander Feminists
Corpus Christi, TX

Denying trans children their healthcare will result in suicides. Gender affirming care SAVES children's lives. I do not support the HB 1686 and urge you to not let it pass as representatives of all Texans.

Luca Kisielius
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care is LIFE-SAVING. You are not protecting children by prohibiting access to gender-affirming care and treatment for children who need it, you are putting them at risk for depression, anxiety, sexual pain and discomfort, dangerous social situations through not being able to pass well when they are older, suicide, murder, homelessness, abuse and neglect by society.

I have gone through 37 years of my life living with gender dysphoria and depression as a result and had I had the care I needed as a child I would have led a much happier life. All children deserve the care they need to feel comfortable, safe and happy in their own bodies and environment and you do not have the right to take that away.

Your argument against is "what if they grow up and realise they are in the wrong body and can't reverse the changes" is the exact SAME argument for trans children who are unable to transition when they need to. What if THEY grow up and realise they are in the wrong body? Which is exactly what happens 97.2% of the time. You do not have the right to decide for children, their parents and their doctors to adminster care in the best way they see fit. These bills you are trying to pass are hypocritical -- you cannot have one bill that says parents have the right to say that their children do not recieve sexual education at school whilst at the same time taking away parental rights to provide care for their children and then calling it child abuse if they persue it. It is child abuse to prohibit it.

You cannot erase transgender people. We are here and we are not going anywhere. We have existed for as long as the human race has existed.

Melina Mallard
Self
Bulverde, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Anabella Gamez
Self
Austin, TX

I don’t support this bill, I have a lot of transgender friends and they don’t deserve this. People are people, we all are the same, some people and especially youth do not deserve to be treated different just because of their gender identity.

Martin Morris
Myself
Austin, TX

I support this HB 1686…. Please stop these procedures in the state of Texas

Alexander Favis
Self - engineer
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Medical decisions should be left to families and medical professionals. I do not believe the state has any place or need to be involved.

Cindi Castilla
Texas Eagle Forum/President
Dallas, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I was not called to testify during the public hearing on HB 1686. We support this bill to protect children from physical attempts to deal with gender confusion.

Texas Eagle Forum understands that doctors must be allowed to help children wean off of cross-sex hormones. This could be done via a simple amendment to state that Doctors and other providers may not provide cross-sex hormones/hormone blockers to children to further a plan to change the appearance and features of their birth/biological sex to match that of the opposite sex (except in cases of ambiguous gender issues discovered at or before the child's birth.) If a child goes out of state to start any of these "treatments" and comes home or moves to Texas, their only option is getting help to wean off any hormone treatments they are receiving. We can support a narrowly crafted amendment to meet this goal.

Texas must not help children damage their healthy bodies. A child cannot give informed consent to outcomes they cannot comprehend as a minor. Eighteen is still too young because a decision that impacts sterility, sexual sensation, and sexual function cannot be fully understood while the brain is still developing.

I had hoped to read a Texas parent's testimony into the record on Monday. This parent remains anonymous for fear of losing his/her relationship with his/her child. Their son went to college while still 17. He went to see a therapist who offered him cross-sex hormones on the first visit with no knowledge of the boy's autism, trauma of having been molested by a peer, and his past history with bouts of depression. He has since been castrated, and had facial feminizing surgeries, he will be a life-long patient of this industry. He is currently being told he needs vaginoplasty. He is counseled that his family is his enemy and he should cut ties with them. The parents are suffering through the near loss of their beloved child. They still communicate but he will not see them.

Texas cannot promote this agenda for children. Referrals DO happen on the first visit. We hear many stories of first-visit referral letters in Texas. Where are we offering real healing for children suffering from gender confusion? Who is asking questions like "what happened?" or "did someone touch you?" "Is someone scaring or hurting you?" When we hear the stories of those who consider themselves transgender we often hear of abuse, neglect, bullying, loneliness, or autism. Children can get help with any of these issues. Wrecking their body is not help. Teaching them coping skills, self-confidence, and affirming them as a human made in God's image, perfectly created and loved by Him will help them with these issues. Even if you leave God out of the help these suffering children will be far better off than when they undergo treatments that do nothing but damage their healthy bodies in an attempt to create a false persona.

Thank you,

Cindi Castilla
Texas Eagle Forum

Gayle McQueary
Self
Bedford, TX

I support fully!

Colleen O’Connor
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR HB1686 we must prohibit gender modification surgeries on minors to protect our children from the devastating effects that will harm them for life.

MARILEE RAFFERTY
Myself
Waco, TX

This is a hateful bill aimed at young people and should be voted down.

Anna Eastman, Me
Self
Houston, TX

My name is Anna Eastman. I am the former State Representative for HD 148. I oppose this bill. I have a transgender daughter who is thriving and living her life because we had access to gender affirming care. This bill does not directly impact her because she is an adult, but the ripple effects to her and the direct effects to younger trans children and their families put us all at risk. We need you to focus on issues that make Texas a healthy welcoming state instead of bills like this one that harm all of us. You persist in refusing to listen to those who are affected by the legislation and medical experts. Please do not pass this bill out of committee.

Dee Ann Samples
Self business owner
Perryton, TX

I support HB 1686

Adriana Rogers
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Hello,
My name is Adri Rogers I'm 24 and Im apart of the transgender and LGBTQ+ community as Non-Binary Gender nonconforming and gay.
Growing up in a very religious background I lived being bullied, feeling left out, and recognizing that I wasn't what I was supposed to be, I considered myself a bad kid and I was taught from as early as the age of 2 that there were 3 levels of heaven before what they called being with Satan and when you got there you wouldn't get to be with the people you love because you weren't what they called righteous enough.
As I got older leading into Highschool as well I felt so much disturbance about myself because other girls raced over the cutest boys and their crushes and relationships, it was isolating and it was hurtful, I was in my mind that I would rather be dead than be me, or exist in every way I was, I lost so many people that helped raise me or knew me my whole life saying I love you's in every single word or comversation, they disappeared.
When I finally connected as Non-Binary after coming out as gay, I connected with the part of me that did not identify one way or the other how I say it I identified as me.
I lost so many people as I felt pure joy inside myself, I recently lost a very close friend we came out together both gay and then later on also connecting in the trans community, she was the most beautiful soul and beyond loving and kind, watching as she went through her transition her smile was unmatched to anybody's you would ever meet, both raised in the strict church we felt stuck in, we both left, and we had stood by each other, her name was Quinn…
Quinn committed suicide almost a little over a year ago, it killed me, and knowing more and more of us have felt there was no other way because we are seen as wrong, sins, or confused.
How many more lives will it take for someone to actually open there eyes instead of sit here before you because it's at the point where we are fighting to save our selves and save the young lives of children who DESERVE the rights to be who they are.
How many of would would put this weight on your kids if in this situation.
All children are children and all children deserve to be protected
Thank you for time

Luke DeMoss
Self
Dallas, TX

Our children fantasize about being fairies, tigers, teachers, athletes, soldiers, dogs, mermaids, doctors & dragons. That is what they do, they fantasize. That is what they are supposed to do; play, imagine, create, explore, discover & learn. As their parents it is our job to provide for them an environment where they can do that & provide boundaries that are safe. They can try & fail. They can learn the easy way or the hard way. They can get hurt but should not be maimed. They can want & try to fly but we don't give them access to roofs. They can crawl & act like a tiger but we don't give them knives to use as claws. They can pretend & want to be soldiers but we don't give them real guns to shoot with. They can fantasize or even believe deep down that they are mermaids & can stay underwater, yet we don't give them unsupervised access to our pools. Our job as parents, is to protect kids literally from themselves as well as from outside dangers. Now as for me & my family, we will do that, we will protect our kids. Your job, as our representatives is to listen to your constituents & to do the right thing. Protecting kids is always the right thing. Defending their ability to grow up, live a full life, become the best that they can be, to have life, liberty & pursue happiness, is your job. As adults, with an ability to consent, to understand the ramifications of their actions, to understand the amazing differences between men & women, then they can then decide for themselves what they want to do. If as adults they decide that transitioning will make them happy, then let them. That is a decision between them, their doctors & families. What about women who want larger breasts, should we the tax payer pay for those? What about men who want a higher salary, should we pay for that? What about women who don't want body hair or men that want hair on their heads, that would make them happy, are we the tax payer responsible to make them happy too? Your job is to protect the pursuit of happiness, not to buy their happiness with our money. Keep our kids safe, protect our freedoms, do the right thing!

Jennifer Bell, Dr.
Self
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions!! The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Andi Stevens
Self
Austin, TX

This is a hypocritical bill that pretends to help children, but instead actively harms them. If the goal was truly to help children then we would be better served looking to reform our foster care, or help get more children insured. Two areas Texans fares poorly in. Trans people cannot and will not be erased, but bills like this can still cause harm. We are part of humanity and we are not going anywhere.

Channing Haye, Mrs.
Self - Elementary Academic Coach + Former Teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686.

Can you tell me what you want to be when you grow up and exactly what your life will look like in 8-10 years? No.
Can you go fight in a war? No.
Can you legally drink alcohol or smoke? No.
Can you vote? No.
Can you make a life-changing decision that will alter the hormones in your body including procedures that cannot be undone? Yes.

Opposing this bill is outrageous. Children's choices and preferences (favorite color, food, friends, etc.) change daily. Going through procedures or treatments related to gender transitioning, gender reasssignment, or gender dysphoria is NOT developmentally appropriate for children.

It is certainly not okay to use public money to allow this to be possible. If a family is choosing to go this route, they need to provide the funds or find private funds to do so.

Annika Wood Akinmusuru, Ms
self, student
Austin, TX

Protect Trans Youth!

Micaela Bacon
Self, gardener
Austin, TX

Support trans people! Give them the rights that they are overdue. Trans people live in and support this state. We know them and we love them. Let them live.

Patricia Jackson
My Faith Votes
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686..

Opal Schwager
self, Production Assistant
Austin, TX

I urge you NOT to pass this bill! This bill is not founded on any valid medical, social, nor psychological information and serves only to cause harm to an already vulernable minority group of people. Denying gender affirming care to any, particularly children, is known in every legitimate field of relevance to do significant damage to said person's wellbeing and increase their likelyhood of suicide. I have never once felt unsafe in the presence of trans person. Denying care to people on the basis of them being trans or gender non-conforming is deeply cruel, ignorant, and wrong.

As our goverment, your sole purpose is to protect and provide for the needs of the people in their pursuits of Life, Liberty, and Happiness. This bill would directly infringe on all three of those constitutionally protected inalienable rights. It would cause direct harm to children, families, and phycisians' ability to adequately care for their patients in myriad situations.

The poorly worded content of the bill also places needless obstacles in the way of many people seeking care for conditions not truly related to gender but that may be misunderstood as such; potentially requiring genetic testing to receive care will stand a significant barrier for most people on several counts. 1) There are not enough genetic physician specialists or testing facilities to serve demand as it stands. 2) Many insurance providers/plans do not cover genetic testing, posing a large out-or-pocket cost simply to learn if you can receive treatment. 3) Requiring genetic testing of any citizen very much sounds to me like a massive invasion of privacy. The majority of existing gene testing labs are private facilities and thus not subject to HIPPA in the same manner as a medical lab. None of these things can stand.

Please VOTE NO on 88(R) HB1686 for the wellbeing and will of the people!!

Betty Rindal, Ms
Temple
Temple, TX

Proponents of the transitioning of gender are being guide by Satan! He always attacks the children!

Matthew Lohr
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is unfairly targeting a small subset of the population who are already at heightened risk of suicide. Restricting their access to care will only serve to harm these individuals. Gender affirming care is proven to be effective and is backed by many doctors. These individuals know their needs better than the government, and it is an extreme overreach to restrict their rights to pursue healthcare decisions that would benefit them. There are many children that are in need, and focusing your efforts on harming a minority group is wasteful. You should be directing your governing efforts towards helping more children instead of drafting bills that target such a small minority.

Jennifer Foster
Self, Attorney
Austin, TX

Respectfully, it is not the job of the government to parent children. This bill risks so much harm, and sends an improper, and dangerous, message to children who do not relate to their gender identity as assigned at birth and to the families charged with caring for and loving these children. The bill creates an environment in which children facing very difficutly situations already will be pushed to self-harm, or worse. The message it sends it terrible, inviting children to hate themselves and creating a society in which overt judgment and discrimination become second-nature and blatantly accepted. This should not be the norm to which our society strives. I know more than one family facing these very realities on a daily basis, and they should be loved and supported, not made to feel that they are unwelcome in this state. For all of these reasons, I am strongly opposed to this bill, which should be rejected outright.

Jennifer Keyser
Self
Austin, TX

Please don't do this.

Vladimir De Franceschi
Self
Oak Point, TX

Support

Yu hong Shao
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Teresa Johnson
Self. Retired
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686

Rachel Bockheim
Self / director
Austin, TX

Worry about guns.

Lori Gorman
Self
Burleson, TX

I support HB 1686

D G
self
austin, TX

My brother (formally my sister) has wanted to be a boy since he was three years old. As soon as he could speak, he has always voiced his complaints about being in the wrong body. He often talked to my mother about how he wanted the correct genitalia, and questioned if he would ever be able to get it. He is now a pre teen, and has begun puberty. He wants nothing more than to fit in with his boy friends. I remember a time when he was texting a girl he had a crush on and she asked him “Are you a boy or a girl?” He knew he couldn’t tell her that he was a boy because the kids at school would make fun of him. His own friends would make fun of him. He has often made comments about how he wants to end his own life because everyday he wakes up in a body that isn’t his. I want nothing more for my brother than for him to feel comfortable in his body.

Jessica Ramirez, Mrs
Pinche Vote
Georgetown, TX

Please stop this inhumane attack on our communities. Trans kids are kids. If you care about children or humans in general gun reform now. God didn’t make mistakes. Let humans live their lives in peace like we let old white men. Hate has no place here.

Jesseca Bagherpour
Self
Austin, TX

I believe that this bill is a violation of basic civil rights. Healthcare decisions should be kept between a patient and their doctor, or in the case of a minor the patient, doctor, and patient's parents. Legislators who do not even have the medical knowledge required to understand these topics and are not personally treating patients have no right to make medical decisions for their constituents. This bill will not protect kids but will likely cause more harm.

I'm not going to repeat the suicide statistics of trans kids who don't receive gender affirming care, which I know you've read and heard. I will tell you about my own misery not feeling comfortable with my body from the moment puberty hit. In fact, I dreaded the impending changes because I knew how drastically different my body would be from how I felt it should.

My hourglass figure would be the envy of a lot of people, but it's not me. As an adult, the prospect of gender affirming surgery at once comforts and terrifies me. If I had access to puberty blockers (a treatment cisgender children have used safely for decades and need access to for a variety of disorders) I might not have cut myself or had multiple suicide attempts throughout my life.

You are not representing my best interests or wishes, or those of the millions of others who care about true freedom in this state, if you support this bill. It sets a harmful precedent, opening up trans people across the state to violence and making way for further legislation that takes the bodily autonomy away from more people. No government has the right to do that.

Rachel Fuerst
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not vote for this bill.

Jared Steel
Self - Teacher
Denton, TX

As a conservative, using legislation to combat this social issue is a violation of the rights of the people and a clear overstepping of government intrusion into our lives. It is important that we be able to care for our children and do what is best for *them* rather than use legislation as a cudgel against vulnerable populations.

Tammy Fayette
Self
Lakewood Village, TX

I am in SUPPORT of HB 1686 to pass as I do not want my tax dollars going toward gender modification. The damage to these people are devastating mentally and physically after these changes and leave life long issues that many regret. Thank you .

David Mason
Self, Writer
Austin, TX

This bill is taking Texas in the wrong direction. The state should not be involved in medical decisions between children, their parents, and their doctors. It's that simple.

Heidi Tso
Self, social worker
Austin, TX

I am a native Houstonian, current Austin resident, graduate of Texas public schools and public universities, licensed social worker, and a friend and supporter of trans people in our state. I very strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital to our communities and are vital to my own life. People experiencing gender dysphoria of any gender expression deserve healthcare just like anyone else. Suicide rates for trans people and trans youth are higher than their non-trans counterparts. To pass this bill is to sign a death warrant for trans children and trans people for decades to come, not to mention the pain and suffering of the loved ones they leave behind. Do the right thing for ALL Texans and stand against this dangerous piece of legislation.

Meenal Mcnary
Self
Round rock, TX

Please do not legislate hate.

Luke Ulitt
Pilots for Christ
Spring, TX

Should not be able to do till 21 years old.

Willa Brinsmade
Self, Student
Austin, TX

Healthcare is necessary for all people of any age, gender, race and sex, no matter who they are or choose to be.

Suzanne Zeller
Self, Art Gallery Director
Houston, TX

Transgender people have been under attack by the Texas legislature for far too long. They deserve access to gender affirming surgery, they deserve the right to exist in public and private spaces without facing discrimination, and they deserve to make their own decisions regarding their own bodies. The Texas legislature cannot control it's residents' bodily autonomy. This bill is overreaching, it is frankly unconstitutional, and it is un-American. Transgender people will not cease to exist just because a governing body wants them gone. The people of Texas overwhelmingly do not support these bills, and it is the duty of the legislature to listen to its constituents.

Shanti Duncan, Ph.D.
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives. Transgender youth are seven times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. This is due in large part to discrimination and stigmatization within our society, and difficulty getting appropriate gender affirming mental and physical health care. HB 1686 would not only further stigmatize the existence of transgender kids, it would take away the rights of parents to provide life-saving care to their children. It ignores established medical best practices in order to use children's lives as political pawns. Texas is better than this. This bill will result in deaths, which should not be acceptable.

Kristina Rago
Self - Manager
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this. Healthcare should be available to all who need it.

e s.
self, student
Austin, TX

why would you limit our access to health care, its already hard enough for me, at least, to have access to basic health care in this state. this won't do anything other than more protests rising about our rights. we're all just people trying to live and it would be best to not let this pass, i as a trans person am scared, other people like me are scared for whats happening to their basic human rights.

Carol Haye, Mrs
Self
Celina, TX

I strongly support protection of people from all forms of genital mutilation and transitioning treatment especially of minors.

Shanda Martinez, Ms.
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is dangerous and not safe for minor to start taking puberty blockers at such a young age. Y'all are wanting to sterilize children at a age where they are trying to figure themselves out. Y'all are preying on children that could just be gay or queer, instead we have professionals telling and grooming children into thinking they are in the wrong body. If you ever heard the stories of people that de-transitioned it's truly heartbreaking. Even if the surgery is a success they will still have multiple surgeries, infections, pills they will have to take for the rest of their lives. Please let children be children

Suzanne Newberg
Myself
Austin, TX

Where is your empathy? Why don't you listen to the medical professionals regarding this very personal, family concern. Stop wasting time on manufactured culture war issues and start addressing important issues that impact the lives of Texans. You are embarrassing the people of Texas and giving Florida a good run for their money as to who is being run by the biggest bunch of idiots!

Lin Bearden
Christian Men's Fellowship of Parker County (President), Parker County Center of Hope (Chairman). Trinity Bible Church, self (bank president)
Hudson Oaks, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686. It is critical that we protect our children from gender mutilation, which is a decision that impacts them for the rest of their lives. Why do we protect them from other critical decisions until they are 18 years old and 21 years old, and then propose to allow them to make this decision as a child or young adult? It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever and allows transgender proponents to influence them at an age when they can't begin to realize the long-term ramifications of their decisions.

Beth Thornton
self
Austin, TX

I firmly oppose HB1686. This will strip trans youth of their healthcare in Texas. The state of Texas should not be in the business of punishing children for being true to themselves. Gender-affirming care saves lives.

Melanie Cunningham
Self homemaker
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686.

Claire Wirht
Self, copywriter
Austin, TX

I am against this bill as it has no roots in medical guidance and goes against doctor-recommended, necessary treatments for those who qualify. This bill is discriminatory, dangerous and will harm countless lives if passed.

Victoria Glass
Self, Business owner
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686 which prohibits the procedures and treatment for gender issues for minors and the use of public funds to pay for these treatments. Children should not be allowed to make these kinds of decisions prior to being an adult.

Deana Johnston
self
Dallas, TX

Please, please, please, put a stop to letting adults harm children. These horrific attempts to change a child's gender are futile and cause irreparable damage. Children are too young, too immature, too fragile, and emotional to make life decisions. Give them love and help, not surgery or chemicals!

Courtney Rose
Self
Austin, TX

Children transitioning and receiving gender affirming care should not be regulated by the state. The state is not a doctor nor a parent and these medical treatments should be between the doctor, patient and parent. Everyone deserves the right to privacy in their interactions with their doctors -no matter what the issue that is being treated is.

Juanita Lux, Ms
Retired
Lindale, TX

Get this law passed to protect Texas children from using procedures and surgeries to mutilate their young healthy bodies. The false theory that you can be born in the wrong body (and therefore need to try to change it) is destroying the future reproductive ability and sexual function of these confused (and sometimes abused) children. They need healing.

Jacob Morgan
Self
Austin, TX

As a teacher of students of all walks of life, I work with transgender and nonbinary students daily. These students are some of Texas' best and brightest. The bill before you puts these children at risk. The decisions regarding the care should not be made by government officials but by them, their families, and the medical professionals they are in communication with. We know that gender affirming care reduces risk of suicide in these populations. As someone who has lost students to suicide and seen their families go through the most unbelievable pain, I cannot imagine denying these children the care that they need. We're not talking about pushing an agenda. We're talking about healthcare that is often lifesaving. If you sign this bill into law, please know that you are signing death warrants for some of these children.

Ouida Boyd
Self
Trenton, TX

I support H B 1686.

Owen Thornton
Self
Irving, TX

Yes this should be passed. These children are not old enough to consent.

Brian Cunningham
Self. Mortgage Underwriter
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686

Bonnie Adell
Self; lawyer
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I don't think the government should be able to interfere with private medical decisions of any person.

Todd Roper
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support House Bill 1686.

Megan Creydt
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill wholeheartedly. Please focus your energy on the real crises in this state - lack of funding for public education, health care, and so much more.

Lisa Roper
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support House Bill 1686

Peggy Stodola
retired
Carrollton, TX

I strongly support this bill and all efforts to protect minor children in the state of Texas from being exploited for a political agenda. Gender modification/transition is not "health care", it is unhealthy both mentally and physically. It's hard to believe that in a world that constantly tells us to "follow the science", we are actually having to defend the FACT that there is such a thing as male DNA and female DNA -- period. What is truly unconscionable is that the adults of this state think it's okay to allow for the mutilation of the bodies of minors with procedures, treatments, and surgeries that will permanently change their lives. Minors who believe that their body physiology is incorrect, need our compassion and professional assessment and counseling to address this disorder. If there is a child who is anorexic and truly believes that their body is fat, would a doctor agree and perform surgery to remove non-existent "fat?" Of course not, the doctor would advise professional psychological intervention. If a child feels that the act of "cutting" on their body gives them some relief from negative emotional feelings, would we provide them with a sharper instrument with which to cut themselves? I think not! I urge the committee members to pass this bill so it can be moved forward in the legislative process.

Kateri Brunell
Self
Roanoke, TX

I support HB 1686

Susan Kim, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

My Christian family and I are adamantly against this Bill. Whatever my strong beliefs for how to raise my children, I will not decide for another how to raise theirs. Until evidence shows long-term

Felina Vasquez
Self, barista
Austin, TX

TRANS PEOPLE DESERVE THEIR RIGHTS! Do not take them away. Do not make it harder for us to exist as ourselves. We are people.

Even putting this bill before the house shows how much less human y'all think trans people are.
STOP DEHUMANIZING US!!! We have always and will always exist. You can never take away our right to live as ourselves. You can only make it harder AND WE WILL ALWAYS FIGHT TO PROTECT QUEER RIGHTS.

As a constituent, LET THIS BILL FAIL! Acknowledge our humanity and protect ALL of your constituency like y'all claim to do.

Heather Hannasch
Self, Creative Director
Arlington, TX

We should not be limiting lifesaving care to children. Gender affirming care is shown to save lives of trans children across all experts in the field. How could we knowingly harm children with this bill?

Ashley Hedstrom
Self
Spring, TX

Keep Texas transgender kids safe! Vote against this bill. Let these kids be free!!

Thomas Hurst
Self
Austin, TX

Opposition to HB 1686.
Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1686 by Oliverson, which seeks to prohibit certain children from accessing procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria, and also restricts the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments. This bill is not only discriminatory but also violates the fundamental rights of individuals to make decisions about their own bodies and healthcare.

Denying healthcare to transgender individuals, especially minors, can have serious and detrimental effects on their mental and physical well-being. It is well-established that gender dysphoria is a legitimate medical condition that requires appropriate care and treatment, including gender-affirming medical interventions. Banning these treatments would only increase the stigma and marginalization already faced by the transgender community, and lead to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide.

Furthermore, it is not the place of the government to dictate what treatments are or are not acceptable for individuals to receive. Healthcare decisions should be left up to the individual, their families, and their medical providers. By restricting access to gender-affirming care, this bill undermines the doctor-patient relationship and could put children's health and well-being at risk.

I urge you to reject HB 1686 and support access to gender-affirming healthcare for all Texans, including transgender youth. Every individual deserves the right to make their own healthcare decisions and receive the appropriate care they need. Let us work towards a more inclusive and compassionate society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,
Thomas Hurst

Linda Fields
Self
Katy, TX

I support this bill. Children need to enjoy their youth w/o pressure. Why should public money be used for this procedure? Let the parents pay for it.

Esther Lum
self
Shenandoah, TX

I support HB 1686.

Wanda Hamak
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686

Delia Kleehammer
self
Argyle, TX

I support HB 1686.

Maureen Sweet
Self, accountant
Austin, TX

I implore the House to reject this bill, which has no basis in science and amounts purely to fear-mongering on the part of its authors and sponsors. Passage of this bill will undoubtedly harm children and interfere with the rights of parents to work with medical professionals to provide the care they determine to be best. In a state that prides itself on individual freedoms, this bill does nothing but take them away.

Donna McClure
self retired nurse
Sandia, TX

I support this bill. Please protect Texas children from mutilation and abuse. Ignore the bussed in, paid demonstrator weirdos, many of whom weren't even Texans.

Erin Cloud
Self; Family Caretaker
Corsicana, TX

Trans youth are at higher risk for many mental health issues, such as suicidal ideation. This is not inherent to being trans; instead, it is the direct result of our society's practices. Limiting the ability of trans youth to get gender affirming care will result in the death of more children. Please, put aside any preconceived ideas of what trans people are like or what their experiences are and listen to them. Listen to medical professionals. Listen to the people who are affected by this and do not limit their access to life saving medical practices. This bill will only do great harm; it will not benefit anyone.

Jennifer Margulies
Self, consultant
Austin, TX

HB 1686 bill is based on misunderstandings and misinformation; its effects will be truly disastrous for trans Texas kids, their families, and the state as a whole. Parents in Texas must have the ability, along with their children's medical and mental health providers, to determine the best course of action when caring for our children. This level of government interference is truly shocking. When our government prioritizes removing care that young people, their parents, and their medical providers deem necessary, when our government refuses to listen to the lived experience of the vast majority of trans youth and adults, when our government prioritizes reducing trans people's options for wellbeing, the message is very clear: your lives do not matter, and we do not want you here.

Trans kids can read the writing on the wall. While certainly no one can pinpoint any one cause for a particular individual's choice to end their lives, as one of the witnesses during the HB 1686 hearing mentioned, it is entirely clear that bills like this contribute to an environment of marginalization and hopelessness that leads to kids giving up and taking their lives. No less an organization than Human Rights Watch has found that state laws like this one increase bias against trans people, already massively vulnerable to harassment, employment and housing discrimination, and violence.

Being trans is not a social contagion. As a parent: does gender exploration look different than it did when we were young? Sure. Is this is a crisis? Absolutely not, however much it may initially confuse some of us. But Texas has a beautiful range of trans and gender diverse kids, those who don’t need healthcare interventions to live fully as themselves, and those who do. These are our precious young people, living their truths. They are not a social contagion.

Trans youth exist. Denying that or trying to convert them isn't protecting them. Bills like this are already depriving Texas of human capacity and economic strength. Businesses are already refusing to locate here since parents or potential parents on staff don't want to move to a state that would prohibit them from taking care of their children as they see fit.

Please be aware that the science is actually quite strongly in favor of current medical standards of care for trans youth. In fact, Dr. Quentin Van Meter, an invited witness for HB 1686, was discredited as an expert on this issue by a Texas judge, due to the his opinions being driven more by agenda than science. His organization, the American College of Pediatricians, has 500 members and is listed by the SPLC as a hate group. On the other hand, the American Academy of Pediatricians has over 67,000 members and is strongly in support of access to gender affirming care for trans youth.

Know that for every Texan who dropped a card, there are hundreds and hundreds more who agree and couldn't get to the Capitol. Scientific consensus and public opinion are against HB 1686.

Sophia Perroni
Self
Bee Cave, TX

As a Texan who believes in the principles of liberty and justice for all Americans, I strongly oppose HB1686. This bill targets members of our community and their ability to access the medical care that their highly educated and licensed physicians deem necessary. HB1686 is cruel and unjust, if we are to protect children, we must place trust in our Texas medical doctors to make the most informed and up-to-date decisions about their care without limitations. While I am aware there are some individuals who do regret their gender affirming treatment, they are an extremely small number of the total patients who receive this type of care. Many people regret other types of (non-transition related)treatments, but we don’t (and absolutely SHOULD NOT) see limitations being placed on general treatments just because a small minority have adverse reactions. Our goal should not be to restrict access to resources that help the overwhelming majority of the patients who utilize them. Transition related care for the treatment of trans individuals has a majorly high success rate, and limiting this care will directly negatively impact the health of our community members. HB1686 is a bill that sets dangerous precedents for further attacks on the health and autonomy of Texans, and I, a voting adult, find it abhorrent. I will be paying close attention to how the representatives act in regards to this bill, and I will keep this all in mind when it comes time for elections. Thank you for your consideration.

Karole Fedrick

Texas Eagle Forum and self, grandmother, researcher, writer, retired from anything that could make money

Austin, TX

HB1686 is needed by every child in this state to rescue those who are already on the path to transition and stop the flow of new victims. Please do not add the Senate amendment which does nothing to stop the harmful, irreversible treatments gender confused kids are already on while causing a stampede of new children targeted for treatment to make the June 2 deadline. It makes no sense at all. If we're so committed to help protect children from these treatments, how can we ignore the ones already in the trap?

South Dakota's law is a great example of legislation that cuts off the piple line while giving minors already on treatment the support they need and a deadline to be free from it. Please, please consider adding this amendment instead of using Senator Campbell's. Thank you.

"If, prior to July 1, 2023, a healthcare professional has initiated a course of treatment, for a minor, which includes the prescription or administration of any drug or hormone prohibited by section 2 of this Act, and if the healthcare professional determines and documents in the minor's medical record that immediately terminating the minor's use of the drug or hormone would cause harm to the minor, the healthcare professional may institute a period during which the minor's use of the drug or hormone is systematically reduced. That period may not extend beyond December 31, 2023"

Thank you..

Tex and Pamela Alsheikh, Mr and Mrs.

Alsheikh household

Fulshear, TX

I support HB 1686

Caitlin Coughlan

Self, social worker

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Removing and restricting this kind of health care is inhumane and cruel. People, especially children, should be allowed to live freely without judgement and ridicule of others. Stifling people’s ability to express themselves and live authentically is wrong. We are all worthy of dignity and respect but this bill strips dignity and autonomy away from children and their parents. Please vote no.

Belynda Montgomery

Self

Austin, TX

I 100% oppose this bill. Gender affirming care is needed for trans kids.

Barbara Passmore

Self, homemaker

Austin, TX

These prohibitions go against life saving medical practices and are pushing much needed medical professionals out of the state. I oppose this bill.

Dawn Pessa, RN
Self
Copperas cove, TX

We should not allow children to be treated or have a procedure for gender reassignment. They are too young and don't understand (sometimes neither does the parents) who they are or who they want to be. Let them be and have the choice as an adult not mess with their hormones as a child. There has been no long term studies on the effects of these hormones on young children as well too. Let's not damage the youth.

Lorraine Chavana
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote to pass HB 1686! I believe that treatments to medically transition a child is nothing less than abuse. As children are not allowed to vote or drive a car or drink alcohol due to their lack of understanding and inability to make such decisions due to the absence of a fully developed brain, and the inability to grasp the repercussions of such decisions, nor should a child be allowed to decide whether they want to change their sex and have their God-given body parts mutilated through "medical transition". Further, tax dollars gained from the hard work of individuals like We The People should not be used to pay for things of this nature, especially those that are controversial and go against one's beliefs!

Lora Blackwell
Self
Lakewood Village, TX

Dear Representatives please vote FOR this bill. I'm not able to visit Austin in person to support this, but I feel strongly about PROTECTING our children. These procedures do nothing but hurt those children and they can never go back. Children aren't allowed to vote for a reason-they aren't mentally developed enough to know the impact of their decisions. How can they be allowed to make life altering cosmetic surgery decisions like this at such a young age? Please vote to PROTECT their precious perfect bodies. Please vote FOR this bill.

Melissa Green
Self
Waco, TX

Please quit attacking children and their families who can not change who they are and who they were meant to be!

Margaret Young
Self, retired teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because the government should not infringe on parent and children rights to make health care decisions along with their medical providers. This bill will cost lives.

Ann Moss
self - retired
AMARILLO, TX

I support HB 1686

Gloria Harrison
Self
Deer Park, TX

I support HB 1686

Sandy Carroll
Self
EL Lago, TX

I don’t agree with legislation allowing anyone under 18 years to surgically or medically mutilate their body.
During children’s formative years they change their minds about a lot of things. They have the rest of their adult lives to decide to choose who they are, what they believe, and how they personally want to proceed.

Virginia Allen, Ms.
Self
Dalhart, TX

I support HB 1686

Andrea Rausch
Myself
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill. Adults must protect children and continue to allow them to be children UNTIL they are mature enough to make such momentous decisions for themselves.

If we DO NOT protect them. They will continue to preyed upon and manipulated by others.

Every physician should be reminded of their oath 'First, DO NO Harm'.

Lucas Widner
Self/engineer
Houston, TX

This bill is not for the people of Texas. This bill unrightfully imposes on the freedoms of texans to express themselves as their authentic selves. I am appalled at the thought of raising a family in this state where I don't have the freedom to give my child the care they need. Please stop this madness and help Transgender Texans, instead of trying to erase them.

Doreen Kent
non
Keller, TX

I am very concerned for our children

Susan Housen
self
Tomball, TX

I am a retired teacher and have taught hundreds of kids in my career. Please do not put these severe blanket restrictions on children who are already struggling with who they truly feel they are. There is a lot of talk these days about parents rights to ban books and limit what their child and everyone else's child can read or access, with the assumption being that the parent knows what is best. With this bill, you are saying that the parent of a trans child does not know what is best for their own child. How foolish it is to assume that the parent of a trans child cannot responsibly make the decision to help their own kiddo.

Mark DeMoss
self
Flower Mound, TX

Parental consent should be required for all medical treatments and procedures on children. Procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria should be prohibited on minors. These treatments should be only available to patients who are consenting adults...not on children. The cost of such should only be paid with private money. Public funds should not be available for these treatments as they are not medically necessary as basic life saving methods.

Ann Kurth
Self / Sales
Haslet, TX

I support HB 1686

Allison Watkins
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill in the strongest possible terms. This bill is rooted in bigotry and violence, and it's goal is very clearly to work towards the erasure and eradication of transness in society. This bill attempts to rob people of their right to physical autonomy, to exist in the world, and to live fully and freely in the world. The talking point that this bill aims to protect children is undermined by the very people who paid you to write it. Unlike supporters of this bill, they have the courage of their convictions to say that they wish to eliminate trans people from existence.

Ray Orsak
Self - IT Manager
Shenandoah, TX

I support HB 1686

Danielle Pedersen
Self
Round Rock, TX

As a parent, a friend, and an advocate for trans people within my local community, I need to speak up and voice my concerns of the negative impact this bill will have on the citizens this bill claims to protect. Denying trans kids the resources they need adds to future costs and needs on social services that this state already lacks. Trans kids that are denied gender affirming care (which under 18 is mainly puberty blockers and therapy) increases their rate of suicide, drug use, and future problems.

If the state cares about protecting its citizens, about their well being and ability to act as productive, active citizens, allowing the citizens to express and explore their fullest potential. The state is not staffed by medical and psychological professionals.

As Texas looks to strip more and more from citizens, it creates a more impoverished and authoritarian state it claims to fight against.

Lisa Horne
Self
Houston, TX

I am against HB 1686. Government should not dictate citizen's healthcare decisions. Those decisions are between healthcare providers and their patients and patient's parents.

Timothy Popp
self, retired petroleum engineer and manager
Weatherford, TX

I firmly believe that gender transitioning and gender reassignment for children and young people under the age of 21 is wrong in general, and is very harmful for these children and young people. They aren't old enough to vote or drink alcohol, how can they truly know that they really want this huge change, which will impact them forever? Surgery in this regard is genital mutilation, a barbaric practice. Giving children counseling and drugs toward this end is damaging to them. Not only should these things be against the law, there definitely should not be public funding of these things.

In addition, Texas public colleges should not teach these things, especially to those who may be counseling children. Children must be protected and allowed to keep their innocence as long as possible.

Thanks for listening. Sincerely, Timothy Popp

Rhonda Huettenmueller
Self
Sanger, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686. I oppose mutilating children. If a person is a full adult (and can pay for the treatment himself or her self) then that is their business.

You should consider wording these bills in every-day English so that their true intent is evident.

Nikki Fuller, RN
self
Dallas, TX

My name is Nikki Fuller. I am cisgender female and I use she/her pronouns. I am a nurse and a lifelong Texas citizen and I strongly oppose HB 1686. This bill seeks to prohibit life-saving healthcare to children and their families. This legislative body is attempting to deny healthcare to Texas citizens when you have no right to determine what is best healthcare practice. This bill uses the term "certain children" and I urge you to use the correct terminology of "transgender children". I would like for you to acknowledge that this bill is directly targeting transgender children and their families. I hesitate to bring religion into the house of the people, but it is important to me that I connect with you on a level that with which you may sympathize. I grew up in a First Baptist Church in Texas. I was an active member of my youth choir and youth group. I went to bible study every Sunday, Wednesday, and any other day the church doors were open. I actively prayed, read my bible, and participated in church fellowship and activities. I continued to preach the gospel through college and was president and vice president of Nurses Christian Fellowship at my university. I was the model child for my family and yet, something didn't feel right. The community I participated in did not feel warm and inviting to all people. It did not feel like the love Jesus teaches in the New Testament. Jesus teaches "love your neighbor as thyself", then why do you draft legislation that directs hate toward your transgender neighbors? This is the cold, hateful feeling I experienced as a youth that poured from the church and religion that claims to love. The place I have been most accepted and loved is the LGBTQIA+ community. This is a community that accepts people for who they say they are. The American Association of Pediatrics defines a gender-affirmative care model as "developmentally appropriate care that is oriented toward understanding and appreciating the youth's gender experience." (Rafferty et al 2018). The AAP also states that "pubertal suppression creates an opportunity to reduce distress...[and] it reduces the need for later surgery because physical changes that are otherwise irreversible are prevented" meaning that gender-affirming care can reduce the need for surgical procedures later in life and decrease the psychological distress on transgender youth (Rafferty et al 2018). Medical research and data proves this bill will cause harm and if you are not a medical doctor specializing in pediatric gender-affirming care, your opinion does not matter. This is a possible death sentence for trans youth in Texas and their blood will be on your hands. This bill does not protect, it hates. It is an act of violence against your transgender constituents and I am ashamed to be a Texas citizen with a hateful governing body such as yourselves. This bill will not stop transgender youth from existing. TRANS. LIVES. MATTER. And love will always win

Brent Mitchell
Self
Amarillo, TX

I Support this bill

Cheryl Brady
Self Retired
Nacogdoches, TX

Approve for the protection of children

Yvonne Burroughs, Mrs
Self/retired
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686

Kathy Martin
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill.

Jessimond McLaughlin
self
Austin, TX

All children deserve the care they NEED as determined by themselves, doctors and parents, not lawmakers. This is horrendous and hypocritical.

Duane Everett
Self
Leander, TX

Support the HB 1686 to ban transition-related care for kids.

Sade Spears
Self
Houston, TX

This is a breach of basic human rights

JOY SELLERS
self - retired
ARLINGTON, TX

These procedures harm children and should not be allowed. Do not use public money or public assistance to provide these procedures.

M B
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote to ban these inhumane, barbaric, and irreversible procedures and drugs for children, who are

Caitlyn Jackson
Self
Austin, TX

In favor of providing public assistance for procedures and treatments

Carly Stehling-Hart
Self- homemaker
Allen, TX

I FULLY support this bill.

Eve Molnar
Self. Graphic Designer
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is nothing more than a shameful attempt by Republican state legislators to hop on the nationwide bandwagon of a coordinated national effort to pass bills banning healthcare for transgender youth. There's been no effort to try to understand the lives and realities of transgender youth, and no effort to learn about what gender-affirming healthcare for kids entails. News flash: it's not surgery! HB 1686 wouldn't protect children, it would withhold life-changing and life-saving medical care from innocent children. Trans kids know who they are, and there's nothing un-scientific or unproven about gender-affirming care for minors. Gender-affirming care SAVES LIVES. The folks pushing HB 1686 seek to demonize transgender children and their parents in a blatant attempt to score political points and build their own power. Texas families are counting on the members of this committee to be leaders, not foot soldiers to an extremist agenda. Protect children, and stay out of family's personal matters. Oppose HB 1686.

Katie Raney
Self, program specialist
Bastrop, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Please trust parents and doctors to do what’s right for their children. I do not think the government should be making healthcare decisions for its citizens.

Dixie Sanders, Mrs
My faith votes
Amherst, TX

I support HB 1686

Carla Stevens
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support 1686.

Robin Nelson
Trans youth
Austin, TX

Medical providers, patients, and their guardians are the ones who should be making decisions about children’s health care - NOT legislators.

Angelina Alanis
Self - Communications Coordinator
Austin, TX

As a Texan, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would prohibit certain children from accessing gender-affirming medical procedures and treatments. This bill would deny critical healthcare to some of our state's most vulnerable youth and is deeply concerning.

Gender dysphoria is a recognized medical condition that can have severe and lasting consequences if left untreated. For many transgender and non-binary youth, gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, is crucial to their treatment plan. Denying these treatments to young people in need not only violates their human rights but also puts them at risk of serious harm.

Additionally, this bill's provision to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments is discriminatory and unfair. Transgender and non-binary individuals have the right to access the same quality of healthcare as their cisgender counterparts, and denying them this right is unjust.

I urge you to vote against this bill and instead support policies that promote the health and well-being of all residents, regardless of their gender identity. Please listen to the voices of your constituents and reject this harmful and discriminatory legislation.

Julie Ulrich
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB1668. This bill will harm children by denying them access to needed healthcare. Please protect Texas children by allowing doctors, patients and families make decisions about what is in the best interest of their children, not legislators.

Katherine Morgan
Self, account manager
Austin, TX

Listen to doctors, who as a strong majority disagree with this bill. Government should not come between a patient and their doctor’s care plan. This is the opposite of Representative Oliverson’s so-called beliefs in small government.

Krisa Smith
Self
Dalhart, TX

I support HB 1686.

Morgan Bartley
Self, political organizer
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care is healthcare. Classifying this any differently than any health concerns that affect ability to work and survive and live a happy life is unhinged. How does it affect anyone else negatively? Are you going to start lifting skirts and inspecting people’s genitals to ensure everyone is living by a strict binary backwards religiously-influenced definition of gender norms ? Who cares. Give people access to healthcare. You are failing the people of this country and picking and choosing your antiquated battles of hypocrisy and hate. Do better.

Kelsey Spencer
Self
Austin, TX

This bill would deny healthcare that has been scientifically proven to be life-saving for individuals that need it. Gender-affirming care is a moral and medical necessity. Leave trans kids alone.

Kevin Donohue, Mr.
Self
Crowley, TX

I support HB 1686 to stop the procedures and treatments for gender transitioning.

Katie Haber
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and I urge you not to pass it.

Jaden Davis
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose.

katie mcclure
Self/business owner
Austin, TX

Trans Texans of all ages are Texans and they are your constituents. If you cannot support them due to your own lack of humanity, decency, and morals, then you can at least do so because your constituents will not tolerate your hate. What would Jesus do? Keep that in mind whenever you consider a policy of hate. Be inclusive. Be kind. And remember, we are many. We support trans Texans of all ages and we vote.

Lisa Gauger
Self
Austin, TX

Please heed the guidance of the American academy of pediatrics - this bill is hateful, ignorant, and will hurt children. https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/4/e20182162/37381/Ensuring-Comprehensive-Care-and-Support-for?autologincheck=redirected

Ciara Cera, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would prohibit certain children from accessing gender-affirming medical procedures and treatments. This bill is discriminatory and dangerous, and would have a devastating impact on the transgender and non-binary youth in our state.

Transgender and non-binary youth already face significant challenges in our society, including high rates of bullying, harassment, and violence. Access to gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, is essential to their health and well-being. Denying these treatments to young people in need is not only cruel, but it also puts their lives at risk.

Furthermore, this bill is a violation of basic human rights. Transgender and non-binary individuals have the right to live their lives authentically and free from discrimination. By prohibiting them from accessing the healthcare they need, this bill would deny them that right and perpetuate harmful stereotypes about their identities.

I urge you to vote against this bill and to instead support policies that promote equality and justice for all residents of our state. Please listen to the voices of your constituents and reject this harmful and discriminatory legislation.

Adrian Gonzalez
Self
Alvin, TX

I value the knowledge and expertise of medical personnel in this state as well as the knowledge and expertise of transgender persons themselves. Until there is compelling evidence showing that is not only ineffective BUT harmful, I will not support a ban. It is our right as Texans to choose the best healthcare for ourselves and our kids by working with our providers. I ask that you please remove yourselves as co sponsors on this bill.

Sofia Martinez
Self: technical writer
Austin, TX

I oppose 1686: all medical care should be between the patient and the doctor.

Daniel Young
The independent vote
Austin, TX

If there’s one thing moderate republicans and independent/undecided voters collectively cannot stand for, it’s the misuse of taxpayer money and legislative time on frivolous, misguided, or outright hateful pursuits. The independent voters of Texas, a growing and increasingly crucial demographic in elections in all Texas counties, are watching and noticing where your priorities lie. Your time in office could be shorter than you wish if this bill passes.

Erin Helmholz
Self, Learning & Development
Austin, TX

I am a Texan AGAINST 1686. This bill is heinous. We need to protect children, not so further harm as this bill would do.

Alexandra Kleiman
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it further stigmatizes and harms young Texans from living as their healthy best selves, physically and emotionally. If we are to strengthen Texas and have the very best fulfilled lives as citizens, we need to be able to meet the medical and psychological needs of our transgender community of all ages. This bill arbitrarily tells trans youth, a vulnerable population, that to transition, to be themselves is wrong. I trust parents and medical experts to make these decisions under research and careful consideration for what's best per individual.

Tom Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

Every child deserves the opportunity to grow up without drugs to delay natural development or surgeries that pretend to be health care by the removal of healthy sexual organs.

Pass the bill

“ Affirmative Care Harms Children and Teens

Comprehensive studies show “affirmative care” is not safe and effective despite being seen by proponents as a cure to gender dysphoria.[4][5]

Many homosexual or gender nonconforming teens may confuse their anxiety disorders, eating disorders, autism spectrum disorders, or childhood trauma with gender incongruity and dysphoria.”

https://www.theparadoxinstitute.com/print/pamphlets/myths-of-gender-affirming-care

Pamela Martinez
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB 1686

Jennifer S Johnson
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

I support HB 1686! It is my strong belief that children do not have the maturity and full understanding of what these life changing/altering choices will mean for them down the road. They don't even fully know who they are. Children go through phases. Such decisions should be made once a child becomes an adult.

Penelope Nederlander
self
Austin, TX

This bill is ridiculous. There is no gender-affirming care of any kind that is done on a whim. It is a slow and deliberate process. And it saves lives. The alternative isn't that these kids don't find support and care. It often prevents them from self harm or suicide. During the process of any care such as this there is extensive counseling and therapy. This isn't meant to turn kids. This isn't coercion. There are times when people seeking care find out that they this isn't for them. But ignoring this is dangerous and irresponsible. This bill is dangerous. It is reckless. It is ill-researched or just cruel. As a Texan I stand against HB1686.

Megan Brunson
Self, Healthcare Administration
Austin, TX

This proposed bill that seeks to prohibit gender affirming care for minors in Texas, except for those who are intersex, is discriminatory and violates the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Denying access to medical interventions that can improve the mental health and well-being of young people struggling with gender dysphoria is not only unethical but can also lead to serious harm. Such a bill undermines the principles of medical autonomy and informed consent, as it restricts access to care and hinders the ability of minors and their families to make informed decisions about their healthcare. I strongly urge lawmakers to reject this discriminatory proposal and support the health and well-being of all Texans, including transgender and gender non-conforming youth.

Furthermore, it is evident that this bill and others like it are nothing more than political theater designed around a wedge issue, and this strategy diverges significantly from long-held "republican" principles. The Republican party has traditionally championed individual freedoms and limited government intervention in personal matters. This proposed bill would be a significant government overreach into the lives of individuals and their families, limiting their ability to make decisions about their own healthcare. The Republican party has also traditionally been a supporter of limited regulation and interference in the healthcare industry, allowing the free market to dictate the delivery of care. This bill would restrict the ability of doctors and healthcare providers to provide appropriate and necessary care to their patients, undermining the principles of the free market. Finally, the Republican party has traditionally been a champion of individual responsibility and personal choice. This bill would limit the ability of minors and their families to make informed decisions about their healthcare, taking away their ability to take responsibility for their own lives and wellbeing.

Overall, this proposed bill goes against historically held Republican party principles of individual freedoms, limited government intervention, limited regulation, and personal responsibility. It seeks to make a political issue out of an extremely small minority, comprising an estimated .6% of the population. This cruel and bullying tactic might play well in the GOP primary, but in general elections, the overreach and callous disregard for established and scientifically backed medical opinion will backfire. Wrecking the lives of transgender adolescents is ugly, nasty, cruel business, and it is an issue that does not deserve the legislature's attention or involvement - while so many issues in Texas desperately do. Please, focus on improving the lives of ALL Texans, not critically damaging the lives of a small and already disproportionately discriminated against minority. I have to believe that our elected representatives and the State of Texas can be better, and kinder than this.

Alissa Sughrue, LMSW
Self, social worker
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and am highly disappointed by the manner in which this committee conducted its business. Despite only 3% of nearly 3000 registrations were in favor of this bill, 38% of witnesses allowed to speak (out of nearly 500) were those in favor of the bill. A significant number of these witnesses were not Texans, and most of them were allowed to testify ahead of those who signed up before them. Testimony was cut off at midnight, and most individuals opposed to the bill who did get to speak weren't allowed to testify until 11pm, despite arriving hours before witnesses in favor of the bill. One legislator in particular was extremely disrespectful and hostile to opposition, and created an unsafe environment for Texans to participate in democracy. I witnessed hours pass wherein no actual trans people testified, despite the Capitol being full of trans people that day. In years of following the legislature, I have never seen such a blatant effort to push Texans out of the legislative process and create a false presentation that this bill had public support when it is overwhelmingly opposed by Texans.

Parental rights can't only apply to parents who are exactly like the leaders in power who want to do exactly what those leaders tell them to do. That's not freedom. Texas shouldn't dismiss the opinions of credible medical associations, and call those who disagree with this bill pedophiles and child mutilators. A serious discussion on appropriate healthcare absolutely cannot allow these bad faith assertions. Please listen to the Texans whose lives you are impacting when developing and moving legislation, and oppose this incredibly unpopular bill.

Megan Moran
Self, student
Bastrop, TX

I am against this bill. I stand with every major medical association.

Erin ONeill
Self
Austin, TX

I am not for this bill. Please do not prohibit treatments and procedures for transgender children.
This healthcare need is not easy for these kids. They do not wish to be different or scary to others, or hated. They only want to be free to be who they are, and to to protected just like any other citizen of this great nation. To deny them does not make them go away, it only causes shame for them, and apathy for those that don't understand them - and that can lead to dangerous situations for all sides.
If I have the right to modify my body and alter my hormonal levels as a cis-gendered woman for nothing more than vanity, over and over again, then a person to have the right to do the same for their body for whatever reason they feel is best for themselves.

Anne Griffin
self -- retired teacher
Red Oak, TX

Please open your eyes to the disastrous effect that a refusal to pass this bill, HB 1686 will have on children and society as a whole. Babies are not born in the wrong body. Gender is not "assigned" at birth. This is an abominable act to offer hormone treatments and mutilation surgeries to children who barely know enough to make basic decisions in life. Surely you can see how dangerous this is and how offering such treatments to those under the age of 18 would have lifelong, irreversible effects on the individuals. The only correct decision is to pass this legislation that would prohibit and/or limit the procedures that would create gender modification on those whose ability to see the lifelong effects is severely limited.

Children do not have the experience and reasoning to be able to make such severe decisions that would alter their bodies and likely affect their mental health for the rest of their lives. Do NOT make this available to them. Do NOT fall for the convincing words from the left that somehow have made peace with this kind of lifestyle and behavior. If adults chose to do something like this then that is their right. But children do NOT need to be confused, coerced, and convinced that they are born with the wrong gender and that modifications need to be made at this early stage of their life. I urge you to move this legislation out of this committee and into the calendar committee where it has a chance of making it to the House floor for a vote.

Molly Hicks, Mrs
Self-registered nurse
Frisco, TX

I am against providing state funding for gender altering procedures and medications. Children don't have the capacity to make life changing decisions such as this. I think it is wrong to promote this as an option for these young people who are going through confusing period in their life. They need support and counseling not mutilation.

Kathryn Bonny
Self
Lantana, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Grace Ratta
Self
College Station, TX

I oppose HB 1686 as parents deserve the right to choose the healthcare best suited for their children. I believe that these healthcare decisions should be made through the collaborative effort of doctors, children, and their family, not limited and ruled by the US government.

Christi Cox
Self
Austin, TX

Leave trans kids alone. Focus on real issues like gun control.

Ora Peters
Self retired
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686.

Jennifer Alley
Self and occupation- mental health therapist
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Patti Wilson
Self
Dalhart, TX

I support HB1686

Deborah Cavin
Self/retired
Austin, TX

This bill is cruel and morally reprehensible—and I say that as a Baptist Christian and deacon. No legislator should put himself and his views on medical issues between ethical doctors (which most are) and their patients. Period.
I didn't vote to make anyone king—or God. Shame on you!

Holly Anderson
Self
San Antonio, TX

We should protect our community and help trans people live safer and healthier lives

Mark Gorman
Self
Burleson, TX

I support HBO 1686

Melody Shaff
Self, law student
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 1686. This bill, if passed, will harm children. People deserve to live authentically as themselves, and it is not the job of the government to reach into people's private lives this way. The choices individuals make about their care should be their own—in some instances with the advice of their doctors. This bill is governmental overreach into healthcare, and if passed it will have enormous negative consequences. Further, it ostracizes trans people who already face discrimination. I again state that I am firmly against HB 1686.

Joy Gautney
Self/Home Health Aide
Mesquite, TX

I fully support this bill. Children should not be subjected to the physical and emotional harm that will occur with drugs and/or gender modification/mutilation surgeries. There are only two, and will always be, only two genders. No medication, surgery, or ideology will ever change the truth of that. Science shows that due to a person's brain development, they do not even have the ability to make critical decisions properly until they are in their twenties. This is why they are not allowed to make decisions for themselves. If a parent makes "gender-affirming" care decisions, they could leave the child scarred for life before they are fully able to understand what is happening to them and make appropriate decisions for themselves. These children and families need help, but not in the direction that the current transgender ideology would have us think or is trying to lead us. That path will only cause untold harm, affect future generations and families, and bring even further increases to the cost of healthcare as well.

Katy Allred
Self
Houston, TX

Texas does not need to join the extremely troubling and dangerous trend across the country to target trans people and trans youth. This is a moral panic the likes of which we've seen time and time again in America when it comes to children - freaking out about something that IS NOT happening. Children don't receive the "invasive" care Republicans seem convinced is happening at epidemic levels - this notion that children are having things like top or bottom surgery while they're still children is simply NOT HAPPENING ANYWHERE. It's patently false. It is a LONG process for children to even access gender clinics to get evaluated and approved for even the most low-stakes treatments, like puberty blockers, which by the way were invented for cisgender children experiencing early puberty. Gender affirming care is not limited to trans and nonbinary children. Many of these medications and treatments exist BECAUSE they were developed for cisgender people! The trans community is one of the most vulnerable in our country, and we should be providing them care, support, and resources they need to just exist. They just want to exist and live their life! It's literally none of the government's business to insert itself into private medical decisions made between doctors, parents and their children. It's a massive overreach and invasion of privacy, and denying access to this care WILL BE DEADLY to trans children. Being transgender is not a mental illness - and even if it were, we know you also have no interest in providing ANY mental health support to basically anyone, especially trans people. Bottom line, this bill will hurt people and it literally will not help anyone except who already have too much power and who are targeting trans people with the insidious goal to eradicate them. But trans people have always been here, and they will always be here. The government is supposed to provide services to those they represent and keep people from harm, not contribute to their suffering and make them more unsafe. There is nothing to be gained from taking away people's access to the care they need. It's cruel and ignores the many real problems that are endangering children in Texas - food insecurity, guns, abuse, poverty - those are actually problems. Please turn your attention to taking measures to actually help and protect children. This is not helping.

Carole Russell
Personal
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB 1686. Stop the mutilations of children and young people. Put a STOP to this evil!!!

Alexandra Buckner
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would prohibit certain children from accessing gender-affirming medical procedures and treatments. This bill is not only discriminatory, but it also ignores the reality of the experiences of transgender and non-binary youth in our state.

Transgender and non-binary youth often face significant challenges in our society, including high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Access to gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, can be life-saving for these young people. Denying them this care would only exacerbate the challenges they face and put their lives at risk.

Furthermore, this bill is a violation of basic human rights. Transgender and non-binary individuals have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and healthcare. By denying them access to gender-affirming medical care, this bill would deny them that right and perpetuate harmful stereotypes about their identities.

I urge you to vote against this bill and to instead support policies that promote the health and well-being of all residents of our state, including transgender and non-binary youth. Please listen to the voices of your constituents and reject this harmful and discriminatory legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Anitha Aadireddy
Self
Cypress, TX

I am against this bill, children should have the ability to choose procedures that can save their lives especially with the consent of their parents and medical providers. Allowing this bill to pass will open doors to other bills that limit our freedom of self and the ability to choose what procedures are done on ourselves as people of the United States. I do not want the government deciding what I can and cannot do to myself, it is not in the attitude and idea of America and actively works against it.

Jackie Boice
Trans people everywhere and myself!
Austin, TX

Trans people need our support and care! They should be able to get any form care and aid they need! They are incredibly valuable to our world in the way that they would like to present themselves in every aspect. We as a society should be willing to help without exorbitant costs instead of taking their supports away. Everyone has the right to be themselves.

Dustin Copeman
Cintas Corporation
Arlington, TX

Should not be allowed

Amor Ballestero, Mrs
My Faith Votes- Action Partners Community
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

Jeanne Sheets
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to also

Sandi Walker
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a mother of 6, I support this bill

Sarah Corbett
Self, writer and researcher
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB 1686 because it is in the best interest of children to prohibit these experimental treatments and procedures.

The Swedish National Council for Medical Ethics, the Australian College of Physicians, and the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom have characterized these interventions in children as experimental and dangerous.

To learn more about the harms of these interventions, I strongly encourage you to examine information from the American College of Pediatricians (ACPeds) at acpeds.org under the topic, "Sexuality Issues of Youth." Or simply listen to the story of Chloe Cole, an 18-year-old detransitioner who underwent cross-sex hormones and a double mastectomy at age 15. According to Chloe, ""“The therapists and gender specialists decided that it was a fact that I was a boy. They never really looked into what might be contributing to my gender dysphoria.”

If these practices continue, there will be more like Chloe who are victims of an out-of-control medical experiment that increasingly ignores the science. Please support HB 1686. Thank you.

Lou Olson
Self
Arlington, TX

Gender modification is by choice of the individual and children aren't mature enough to understand what the drugs and surgeries will do to their young healthy bodies. They need help and assistance to determine what is causing their confusion. They have no idea how this will permanently destroy their reproductive ability and sexual functions. If they are already receiving hormone and hormone blockers, an amendment would give doctors the ability to wean them off cross-sex hormones and hormone blockers. The best procedure would be not to let them be involved with such damaging actions when they are innocent as to the resulting abuse and harm it will cause them throughout their life. The mental health aspect is a very important part of every individual's success in life and this needs to be a top priority for our children.
Give them time to grow up and learn how their body functions before they make changes that will be with them forever. Learning to make satisfactory choices is one of the most essential parts of maturity.

Robert Morgan
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is an incomprehensible use of taxpayer dollars. When transgender youth are such a small subset of the population, why are our lawmakers wasting time writing bills like this?

Patricia Young
Self
Dallas, TX

Denying medical coverage to minors is cruel and inhumane. Stop virtue signaling with legislation and fix the electrical grid ffs.

Darl Easton
--Self
Euless, TX

I support the passage of this bill. Young children and adolescents below the age of 18 are not mature enough to fully grasp the consequences of gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria that would permanently affect their lives. So many of those that are seeking to transform from their gender at birth have been influenced to do so in our public schools which should be prohibited. Please pass this bill out of committee.

Samarah Meil
Amarillo Travel Network
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill

Victoria Stengel
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not limit access to healthcare for children or anyone.

Emma Donaldson
Self
Austin, TX

This bill puts the focus on the wrong issues that actually put children at risk. We should be focused on guns - not parents and doctors who make healthcare decisions for their children. This bill is misguided and hurtful to children.

Allison Hodges
Self /server
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed bill that would prohibit certain children from accessing gender-affirming medical procedures and treatments. As a resident of this state, I believe that this bill is discriminatory and would have a devastating impact on the health and well-being of transgender and non-binary youth.

Transgender and non-binary youth face significant challenges in our society, including high rates of bullying, harassment, and violence. Access to gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, is essential to their physical and mental health. Denying them this care would only further marginalize and stigmatize them.

Furthermore, this bill would ignore the medical consensus on the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary youth. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and numerous other medical organizations have all affirmed the importance of this care. By prohibiting it, this bill would ignore the expertise of medical professionals and could put the lives of transgender and non-binary youth at risk.

I urge you to reject this harmful and discriminatory bill and to instead support policies that promote the health and well-being of all residents of our state. Please listen to the voices of transgender and non-binary youth and their families and uphold their right to access the healthcare they need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

David Papas
self
Austin, TX

This bill is nothing short of a wasteful political distraction designed to amplify fear and misunderstanding. Although witch hunts are certainly nothing new in American history, they should remain in the past. Please leave the vulnerable alone, stop pointlessly moralizing, and tackle some actual concrete issues that genuinely, materially affect the citizens of Texas.

KayLynda BULL
Self
Amarillo, TX

HB 1686

Michael Meil
self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill to protect Texas children.

Anna Dolph, Mrs
Self, public elementary teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it further stigmatizes and harms young Texans from living as their healthy best selves, physically and emotionally. If we are to strengthen Texas and have the very best fulfilled lives as citizens, we need to be able to meet the medical and psychological needs of our transgender community of all ages. This bill arbitrarily tells trans youth, a vulnerable population, that to transition, to be themselves is wrong. I trust parents and medical experts to make these decisions under research and careful consideration for what's best per individual. This bill is NOT inclusive.

Vicki DeBusk
Self
Austin, TX

I am not a parent of a transgender child but a parent of a child and just like my child, a transgender child should have the same rights as all children. I oppose this bill. I
Oppose this bill, I oppose this bill!! Don't do it. It is none of your business.

Jo Stevens
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill

Adrienne Tinder, Dr.
self- psychologist
Houston, TX

As a child and family psychologist, I am appalled at the continued threats against one of our most vulnerable populations- our trans youth. This bill seems discriminatory in nature and based in personal opinions as opposed to the actual science behind our care of this population. Ethical psychologists and mental health providers who work with children and families, even those who do not specialize in this population, know that current research supports gender-affirming care for our trans community. There are established dangers in denying children gender-affirming care, including increased risk of suicidal thoughts and attempts, depression, and anxiety. Additionally, there are also known psychological harms in delaying gender-affirming medical care. There is already a serious lack of appropriately trained providers who specialize in this population, too many children and adolescents not getting sometimes life-saving treatment, and yet, bills like these seem to be certain to create yet another barrier to this vulnerable community. Please take a moment to research the science and current standards of care for this population, and vote based on science and not bias. Please protect our trans kids and vote against this awful bill.

Deb Finke, Administrator
Myself
Spring, TX

I don't see how a child could make a decision on a gender transitioning that will affect them for life! They can't even choose cereal! No public or assistance money should go to this!

Sophie Hamann
Self, Texan
Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to this bill. Health care is a human right, and all people should have access to comprehensive care.

Victor Landig, Mr.
Self
Georgetown, TX

This country, and this state, were founded on the solid rock of God and the values expressed in His word! Passing this bill will fall in line with the beliefs of the majority of parents and grandparents in this great state of Texas! Please protect our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren from this dangerous and evil ideology. Thank you and may God bless you.

Nicolas Yount
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686. Thank you for protecting families!

ricardo munoz
swlf
Zapata, TX

This bill is much more damaging to children than them getting a prescription or procedure that was recommended by a healthcare professional. To step in between a child their parent and healthcare professional is not what the government is meant to do. This bill is strictly anti LGBTQ+ and should NOT be passed based on the opinions of people that do not have to deal with actual body dysphoria or care for actual transgender children.

Ricardo Ramirez
Self
San Juan, TX

Children should not be subjective to any surgeries to alter their biological sex.

Pam Reed
Myself
Lakewood Village, TX

I agree that we should not be using tax dollars to support any gender related treatments or procedures.

Zarina Garcia
Self, Student
San Antonio, TX

I am commenting on the extremely discriminatory HB1686 bill that denies prohibits life saving healthcare from trans children. Restricting healthcare to any living breathing human being based off of the fact that their existence makes you uncomfortable is appalling and extremely harmful. Living in texas my entire life, the faith I had that this state cares about its own people is drastically declining and what a shame that is for a state that is so proud of itself. As low rated as this state is in healthcare (42nd according to the Harvard Business Review) there is absolutely no place anybody of authority should be speaking on who can and cannot receive it. Instead, they should be focusing on how they can improve that rating by actually making efforts to better the healthcare system for its own residents so we aren't such an embarrassment to the rest of the country. Who are you to say how somebody should feel about their identity when they've shown repeatedly that they are not comfortable in the skin they were born in? Let alone the youth who have more focus on their identity than most of us. Children will die because of this bill. The National Library of Medicine shows that over 40% of trans people have attempted suicide and suicidality is the highest among trans youth. That is a shame to those who have made them feel so alienated in their surroundings that they feel there is no other way out than to take their own life. To think that number won't increase because of this bill is very idiotic. How backwards the homophobic/transphobic bills that have been introduced this week are taking us. We are in the year 2023 yet what progress in society can we take credit for if we are seeing the same discrimination as the 1960s? The freedom to be who you want to be in this country and the differences in identity and culture is what makes life feel like living and is what makes this country so unique. Wanting everyone to look the same and act the same and live according to what makes miserably "traditional" people comfortable is such a closed minded, stale way of thinking that will lead this country to failure more quickly than you think. The LGBTQ+ community will exist whether you like it or not, we will not go back. For all of these reasons and more, I oppose HB1686.

Briana Anderson
Self- Education
Austin, TX

I am 100% opposed to this bill. This should not be the area of focus to protect our children. All of these house bills should instead be focusing on gun control.

Benjamin Romero
Myself
Austin, TX

It is necessary to respect what a kid wants for their well-being especially if it is a recognized medical procedure. Please understand that. Not everyone fits into a binary and should not be robbed of proper medical care by the “great” state of Texas.

Allison Hodges
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose this bill. I believe that the bill is discriminatory. I believe that it is harmful to the mental health of transgender and non binary youth. Not only is it ignoring medical professionals professional expertise, but it could put the lives of transgender and non-binary youth at risk. I urge you to reject this bill. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Jessica Hargrove, Mrs.
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill.

Reagan Cook
Self
Shady Shores, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. It infringes on one’s autonomous freedoms and is actively harmful against all. There is no gain or profit if this will were to be passed.

Diana Dull
Self
Austin, TX

I am not for this House Bill. I do not support it. I want public money and public assistance to support healthcare that reaches our entire community. It is in our best interest to protect our future. This bill will hurt trans kids by excluding their needs. I do not support such violence.

Margaret Savage
self
Austin, TX

HB 1686 will cause harm to trans youth. I urge you to OPPOSE HB 1686. Families know what's best for them and their children.

Jakob Marsala
Self / Software Engineer
Austin, TX

My daughter is trans. Receiving affirmative, gender-transitioning care made a significant difference in not only her quality of life, but keeping that life going. I was lucky enough to have a California-based employer so my insurance covered all necessary psychologist visits as well as specialists for confirming her gender dysphoria. The difference from before and after has been night and day. Anyone without a trans child will not know the pain of raising a kid who feels like they’re a mistake of biology, and not having the proper tools to express that. Nor should such people interfere with the process of discovering that expression that happens between a child, their parents, and medical professionals with expertise on the matter.

It’s an embarrassment that this is another intrusion brought upon our lives by government overreach. The state of Texas no longer feels like a state of liberty.

Katie Hallberg
self
Austin, TX

My name is Katie Hallberg. I am a 5th generation Texan and I am here today as a mother of three, one of which is transgender. My transgender son first disclosed his gender identity and gender dysphoria to myself and his dad at age 12. Had it not been for the access to gender affirming medical health care he received 5 years ago at age 16, I don't believe my son would have lived to see his 18th birthday. HB 1686 is damaging and life-threatening because it completely denies access to any life saving health care to transgender children.

My season of laminating and reconing my ethics, Christian faith and the fact that my first born child is transgender was the worst time of my adult life to date
Without years of psychological therapies, medical treatments from pediatric endocrinologists and surgeons, I may not have a living child today. Going thru puberty in the "wrong" gender for him was traumatic and led to serious self-harm, depression, anxiety, panic attacks and suicidal ideation. We chose to have a living transgender son over a dead daughter.

Like most mothers, I love my children. I would do anything medically to sustain their life so that they can live as healthy contributing members of society.
My husband cast a vision for our family soon after our child came out. The vision was that at the end of this journey, our goal and intention is to stay together as a family. Medical care kept our child alive and our family together.

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it." - Lee Harper

The science Tom Oliverson and other representatives and senators continue to base this bill on, is not the entirety of the story. I have a transgender child, do you? Have you walked in our shoes? Probably not. This topic is complicated and diverse. The laws around medical care for transgender Texans should not be based on science and studies alone. Especially since we have so little data and research. My son is an example of a minor who successfully transitioned his gender. No one has done a study or science research on him. Could it be possible that gender dysphoria is part of evolution of man and a change in our epigenetics? Texas needs to work towards the acknowledgement and care of transgender youth. Setting up guidelines for care, not eliminating care.

It has been 9 years since my kid first came out and 5 years since he first received gender affirming hormones. He remains happier, productive, has good relationships with peers and family. He is employed and a successful college student.
This bill is harmful and threatens the lives of Texas children. On behalf of my son and on behalf of other families with transgender children, I am asking you to oppose HB 1686. Thank you for reading as I was never called Monday 27, 2023 to testify in person.

Stephanie Byard
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

As a resident to the state of Texas who was born and raised and resides also in Texas, I am strongly opposed as it relates to any prohibitions on the provision to all and or certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. As such, myself and this household strongly opposes this bill.

Trude Jones, Mrs
Self; retired teacher
Wichita Falls, TX

I am totally against transgender treatments for the children in Tx. Please do not use public money or public assistance for these procedures and treatment! Thank you

Lynn McFarland
Self/homemaker & independent contractor
Austin, TX

I am absolutely in OPPOSITION to HB 1686. Parents and medical professionals need the ability to guide transgender youth through a difficult process without the interference and restriction of more government regulations.

David Herne
TENT and LGBT+
Missouri City, TX

As a Texas resident for my entire life, I have been presented anti-trans and broader anti-LGBT+ rhetoric for a great deal of it, and I once believed it as well. However, I have come to realize what I was told were terrible lies. Transgender people deserve to live in a safe state where they are given the care and support they need. That is the Texas I thought I grew up in, and that I was able to experience, not this fear-driven thing that attacks and demonizes what it does not understand. The Trans community is filled with wonderful people that have such an incredible perspective and view of life, who can do so much good for us and the rest of this nation. They deserve a happy lives, and this bill will doom that chance for many of them. Please, do not allow this bill or anything like it to pass, for all our sakes, trans or otherwise. We cannot allow ourselves to fall to this degree of evil acts against others.

Mitzi Money
sELF
Greenville, TX

I beg of you not to support any amendment that would grandfather in those who receive any treatments for a future date. Such legislation would have the unintended motivation for pushing as many children as possible into the treatments between now and then.

Beware of the motivations for anyone who would advance such an amendment.

If there is a medical reason to provide such a grandfather of certain children, this should be some date already past as determined by experts who are not in the business of promoting or benefiting from such treatments. It would seem that a child who has received a small number of treatments would suffer far less negative medical impact from discontinuation of such treatments than continuing the full treatment regimen.

Tim Merrill
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill

Nicole Bollier
Self
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming care is associated with better mental health outcomes—and that lack of access to such care is associated with higher rates of suicidality, depression and self-harming behavior.

Ayse Gursoy
Self - postdoctoral fellow
Austin, TX

Gender affirmation treatment (hormones, puberty blockers, surgery, etc.) is necessary healthcare and must be accessible to all. Please protect Texas children by ensuring their access to the best care possible in this State.

Autumn Riley
self, voice teacher
San Antonio, TX

As a teacher, I am able to see every day the effect on a child of supportive parents and a safe environment to be themselves. This bill attacks families trying to pursue gender affirming care for their children. Every person and every family has the right to work with medical professionals to make their own healthcare decisions, and this right cannot be taken away by the state. Gender-affirming healthcare saves lives, and attacking this will not stop trans kids from being trans, but it Will stop them from being able to pursue happiness in their own life.

I have many trans friends and have the pleasure to regularly interact with trans youth and their parents. Gender-affirming care is necessary for them to continue to survive. Eliminating that is a threat to lives in my community.

Adelaide Heck
Self
San antonio, TX

People who identify with LGBTQ+ are individuals (human beings whether we agree with their beliefs/decisions) who are AT RISK for mental illness and suicide. If these people do not receive gender affirming care, people WILL DIE. These are people already feeling ostracized from their communities. Children will die. Not only are children dying in schools, but in our own Texan communities due to the ignorance and closed-mindedness of our legislators.

This generation is beginning to understand how our government is in bed with organizations that are causing our nation to double-down on cultivating the Christian agenda.

America’s entire mission statement is “Land of the Free”. How free is an American when they are shoved into a Christian-shaped box? How free are Americans when they are not allowed the freedom to happiness.

True freedom comes from feeling comfortable in your own skin. Do you feel comfortable in your own skin? If you don’t, it’s on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. Feeling accepted and comfortable are needs that are on the same list as food and shelter.

There are people affected by political decisions. People like you. People just as worthy to happiness as you and your children. Take a look at your children and how you love them. Do you ignore them and their needs as well? When they are sick, what do you do? If they are bullied, what would you tell them?

Meg Sheehy
Self- musician/platform support specialist
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. These decisions should be between the parent, child, and physician. The State has no business infringing on the rights of a parent to do what they feel is best for their child's health based on consultations with medical professionals.

Aliya Kuykendall, Miss
Self, journalist
Arlington, TX

I support the protection of children from mutilation related to gender ideology. Save the kids! They can't consent to this permanent damage to their bodies and the healing they need is emotional and mental. Unless they're intersex, their bodies are normal, and normal, healthy bodies don't need treatment. Please stop the abuse of minors through puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, gender ideology surgeries, etc.

Cathy Tilton
Self
Austin, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill.

Michaela Stanch
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

As a civil engineer, I value the health and safety of every Texan. From a young age all I've wanted to do was to serve my community and provide resources. When I was 10, I felt a calling to enter into faith ministry on a mission trip. When I spoke with my pastor about this calling but that I wasn't good at speeches and liked math and science, he told me that "Christianity needs more builders than preachers right now." So, I pursued my talents for math and science and always had my faith and service at the center of my life.
Around that same time in my life, I also felt a strong sense of unease and distress around my body. I felt like something was wrong, that no one else felt this way so I must be wrong. A lot has been said during these hearings about childhood suicide and the risks, but i have not seen anyone speak who has actually lived through that experience.
At the age of 11, I attempted suicide because of the distress and mental anguish i felt around my body and the burden my "wrong-ness" had on my family. Representative Jolanda Jones mentioned that you never know what is going through someone's head when they attempt suicide. I only know what was going through my head because my attempt was not successful. If anyone is an expert witness on the issue so central to this debate, it is me.
It was not until I was an adult that I had the words for how I felt for my whole life: transgender, non-binary, and gender dysphoria. Luckily I am now in a place in my life socially, financially, and health-wise where it is safe for me to medically transition. I had to have multiple opinions before even being prescribed the lowest dose of testosterone.
I ask that this committee oppose HB 1686 and instead fund further research and studies. Dr Oliverson has stated that children that actually need medical gender affirming care are "a one in a million." Well that one in a million cares and needs you to care for that one in a million.
I know I'm not a medical or legal expert, and that I could tell you more about underground utility separation distances than medicine. But I do know that this legislative body values the safety of children, just like in HB 59. I know my own life experience and the experience of my community. And I know that after only a year of testosterone, I have never before in my life been more comfortable with the sound of my voice.
Please Vite against HB 1686 and fund research and studies into transgender healthcare.

Martha Long, Mrs.
my family
San Antonio, TX

Please prohibit gender reassignment surgeries for minors in Texas. Such a dangerous thing for the mental health of our children and future adults.

Catherine Grigg
Self - Women's Pastor
Fort Worth, TX

The State of Texas should not be using any public money or public assistance to provide these procedures, as the procedures are purely elective. Therefore, the State should not be involved or spending money on someone's personal preference.

Faith Tealsey
Self
Austin, TX

Stop this is hurting transgender people!

Derek Long
Self
Dallas, TX

Leave the decisions up to the parents, children and medical professionals.

Elizabeth Finley
Self
Austin, TX

providing proper healthcare to the trans community prevents suicide. Children deserve life, they deserve to be adults someday.

Javonna Fielding
Citizen of the great state of Texas
Waxahachie, TX

Please do not allow public funding for these type of treatments/surgeries. I make mistakes, I believe we all make mistakes, but God's design was not a mistake. If a young person who is not fully developed, has the surgery and later changes their mind, it creates even bigger problems. If someone chooses to do this, as an adult, I would say over the age of 21 then that is their prerogative, but public funding should not be used for this.
Thank you for your time and for your public service.

Katherine Laczin
Humanity
Leander, TX

Power over people without responsibility to one's citizens is not power at all - it's dictatorship. Either you believe in our freedom, or you believe personal opinions in government should control the individual and personal lives of Texans.

Shame on any who deny us our freedom.

Vera Kuhn, Mrs
Self
Richmond, TX

Children need to be protected from gender transitioning treatments which can harm them for life

Madison V
Self
Denton, TX

I urge you not to advance HB 1686 out of committee. This bill will have a chilling effect on health care providers who treat transgender youth and will make it even more difficult for youth to receive the care they need to stay healthy and thrive. All Texan youth deserve to grow up with safe and appropriate medical care. And given our state's dire health care provider shortage, Texas cannot afford to lose any more good physicians who might choose to leave the state if this bill becomes law. This bill will do nothing but harm Texan youth and Texan health care providers.

Erin Allen
Self, Analyst
Austin, TX

I am a proud lifelong Texan, born and raised. Preventing the use of public funds for these types of procedures and treatments actively harms a vulnerable population. This bill lacks compassion for a significant number of people, which runs counter to how we as Texans (and Americans) should conduct our society. How many more trans and gender nonconforming children and teenagers have to die? Why does one's freedom and right to exist have to be limited by the government? Children and teens who have access to gender affirming healthcare have dramatically lower levels of depression and suicide. Voting for this bill and letting it pass will literally kill the children you are pretending to protect. You are endorsing and encouraging the pain of children, their friends, their families, and their communities. The negative consequences of this bill will be your legacy.

David Newsome, Pastor
CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Temple, TX

Please vote for HB 1686! We have a responsibility to protect our children from every kind of abuse and our tax dollars should not be used to permanently scar a child as a result of unwarranted medical procedures and treatments. Thank you!

Kyle Ross
Self
Grapevine, TX

We must protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Cherith Newman
Self, mother
Clyde, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask th
e committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Livia DeHoyos
Self
Alamo, TX

I support HB 1686

Diana Markuson
Individual
Spring, TX

I am a registered voter and a psychiatric nurse. This political war on transgender kids need to stop. All major medical organizations are opposed to it and more kids will commit suicide if this bill passes If you vote for this bill I would assume you don't care and that's so sad. I am also close to 70 years old and I was able to educate myself and evolve in my thinking. Y'all might want to try the same.

Janna Daugherty
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686

Laura Gomez
Self
Belton, TX

Oppose it

Pat Abramson
Self
Celeste, TX

Please support HB 1686

Celeste Gamble
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives. Limiting this care is a violation basic human rights that are given by our constitution and takes the rights of parents away. My oldest identifies as non-binary, and getting hormones has saved their life and made them a productive citizen. Before this care, they were on a downward spiral and even threatened to take their own life. Imposing such restrictions goes against any freedoms we hold dear here in the state of Texas. I no longer vote Republican because of my viewpoint being changed in having a child in the the lgbtq+ community. My eyes were opened, and I will vote against those who threaten the lives of those in marginalized communities. Taking away gender-affirming care will cost us the lives of our most vulnerable children. If this bill passes, it will be a travesty. How many kids need to suffer because of this legislation? These children just want to be respected and to be freely who they want to be in a country that claims freedom. This bill isn't freedom. It's a death sentence and a straight jacket to families with trans kids. Do not pass this bill.

Soren Beregan, Mr.
Self/Scheduling Specialist
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1686, but instead of telling my own story, I ask you to consider the facts.
-The National Library of Medicine published that 56% of youth reported a previous suicide attempt and 86% reported suicidality (Source: National Library of Medicine. "Suicidality Among Transgender Youth: Elucidating the Role of Interpersonal Risk Factors." https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/).
- BUT, The Trevor Project research has found that trans youth are 40% less likely to attempt suicide if they have just one accepting adult in their lives. See more data here: The Trevor Project. "Facts about LGBTQ Youth Suicide." https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/.
- Calls to The Trevor Project's crisis hotline increased 150% when anti-trans legislation reached record numbers in 2021. That year 51% of trans and nonbinary youth reported feeling suicidal and 20% attempted suicide (Source: The Trevor Project. " 27 September 2021, https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-data-illuminates-mental-health-concerns-among-texas-transgender-youth-amid-record-number-of-anti-trans-bills/?fbclid=IwAR3uAG4kuMSqmcAuSntGLTy4Z3CjIAHm2K11OPgY1XQYo3a7Knt_KYlciQs).

Please protect trans youth. They are Texans who have just as much right to privacy and safety as any other child.

Rhonda Marquardt
Self
Brackettville, TX

My husband and I support this bill. We fill any permanent changes should be made after they reach 18. When their hormones slow down.

Laura Morgan
Self
Georgetown, TX

I'm opposed to HB 1686 and the governments interference in health and private matters. This is discriminatory towards trans youth.

Shelby Leopold
Self
Driftwood, TX

Every human deserves the medical care that they need.

Jenna Sullivan
Self
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is truly a step backwards and could endanger trans youth by stripping away necessary care. I am vehemently opposed to HB 1686 and I hope that those endorsing it can find it within themselves to imagine what it would be like if the shoe was on the other foot and what it would be like for them to be denied necessary medical care.

Heather Atwood
Self
Amarillo, TX

Protect our children from this madness.

Edward Daugherty
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686!

Lori Whitmire
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Politicians, especially right-wing hacks, don't have the best interest of children in mind. Parents, doctors, psychiatrists and the child itself know what is best for them. We need to find ways to support all children and adolescents, not find more ways to make them miserable or suicidal!! Please oppose this bill!!!!

Bertinand Gardner
Self
Fort Worth, TX

My name is Bertinand Gardner. I am from Fort Worth, where I work to provide an affirming and supportive community to many LGBTQ folks in DFW. As a transgender Texan, I am against HB 1686 and all bills that target the LGB and transgender communities. I am speaking on behalf of my self.

As part of my community work, I am privileged to be an older sibling to many transgender youth. We talk about everything from dream careers to friend drama, and laugh at random memes we send each other. I have watched these youth blossom into young adults that want to be doctors, cosmetologists, theatre tech hands, counselors. They want to grow up and be a part of society.

Bills like HB 1686 seek to remove trans youth from society by denying them the ability to access healthcare. This will not stop youth from identifying as trans, but it will increase the number of trans youth who withdraw from participating in life. I have already seen this with the passing of House Bill 25 in 2021 and in school districts that do not affirm transgender youth.

I am against HB 1686 in particular because I do not believe this bill was made in good faith or with Texas values in mind. This bill ignores the research and best practices established by medical professionals. Numerous studies have shown that mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ young people quickly improve with access to health care. But there is also evidence of long-term benefits. Trans teens who get hormone treatment are happier and healthier as adults. (Jack L. Turban ,Dana King,Julia Kobe,Sari L. Reisner,Alex S. Keuroghlian 2022)

Texas is known for our love of small government and privacy. So why is this legislative body considering a bill that would remove our ability to make a private medical decision. Medical decisions should only be between an individual, their family, and their doctor. It should not involve the government.

I am a 7th generation Texan. I was born and raised here. I attended a state university here and have obtained a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree. My family lives and continues to grow here. Texas is a great state and offers so many opportunities. The youth I work with have shared their fears of living in Texas and many of their families are talking about moving out of state. A few of them have. Those who do not have the resources to leave Texas are left feeling isolated and desperate. I worry about their mental well being and the bright futures we have discussed.

Texas is the second largest state in the nation and one of the most diverse. All Texans deserve to be able to access health care that is appropriate for their individual situation. I ask this committee to vote to dismiss HB 1686 in the interest of maintaining the freedom of medical choice for all Texans and encouraging trans youth to live their best lives.

Alix Waugh
Self- physician assistant
Houston, TX

I would like to state my opposition to this bill, which inappropriately intervenes in the patient/provider relationship against the evidence based practice of medicine as agreed upon by all major medical organizations worldwide.

Mindy Russell
Self, VP Marketing
Austin, TX

Please do not pass HB 1686. It would cause unmentionable harm to children and their families if Texas. If you have not know and loved Transgendered kids personally, you cannot begin to understand their needs. Certainly you, the state of Texas should not be making medical decisions for children and their doctors. No one is mutilating children. No one is forcing them to do things. For all of the families I have known, it was a multi-year discussion, full of fear, and angst and worry. Their final agreement to allow for hormone treatment was typically for the mental health of their child. It is a decision out of live above all else. No one wants their child to be trans. People shun them. They treat them terribly. They offer opinions that are unfounded. It is HARD. But they persist because it is what they believe is best for their child. How can the state be all about Parents Rights in relation to education, but suddenly give them NO rights in this most personal of topics. It is an appalling use of state power. I am embarrassed by the path to dehumanizing people that our state has taken. Vote against this terrible bill.

Tiffany Lawson
Self
Hudson Oaks, TX

I support HB 1686.

Holly Driggers
Self
Austin, TX

Please register my opposition to this HB 1686; I do not wish for my state to further inflict undue trauma on transgender children/teens by disallowing this population from receiving needed medical care.

Baltazar DeHoyos
Self
Alamo, TX

I support HB 1686

Cheryl George, Ms.
Self/retired
Austin, TX

The State of Texas should not prohibit treatment for minors declared appropriate by their parents. There are families moving out of TX because their children are threatened by state intervention in treatment they deem required for their children to live a life w/o shame and humility.

Kimberly Chafino
Self
Austin, TX

OPPOSE

Diedra Hopkins
eXp Realty
Plano, TX

I would like to oppose HB 1686 by Oliverson. This bill is a violation to HUMAN rights.

Ian Gerson
self, artist and teacher
Houston, TX

This bill cannot pass. I am a proud trans Texan and I am ashamed by this bill in our state. I am sickened by yet again another wave of anti-trans rhetoric, bills, and general violence against our community. This bill which proposes to restrict access to life saving care for trans kids is completely unethical and just cruel. Access to hormone blockers and hormone replacement therapy are proven as safe life improving and life affirming treatments and endorsed by all major medical organizations in this country. We know who we are. We know we have always been here and we know we will always be here. This most recent move to erase us will not work, just as it's never worked before. I am so moved seeing young people knowing and asserting themselves at earlier ages than I clever could. To be who you are, to literally exist, should be a basic human right but instead it becomes an act of bravery in this hostile world. The irony of writing this on trans day of visibility, a day which is created as a celebration of trans existence, is not lost on any of us. While our visibility opens doors for those who come, it also puts a target on our backs. How far have we come really when we have to fight for our lives, for our basic right to exist, to be. If you want to be on the fair, just, and kind side of history, do not pass this bill.

Luz Helena Wayman
Self
Austin, TX

Oppose! Please do not remove these humans's rights to the health care they need!

Pauline Everett
self
Leander, TX

Support HB 1686 ban on transition-related care for kids

Richard Allen
Richard Christopher Allen
Austin, TX

I oppose the interference by government regarding issues that only mothers, father's and their children should be involved with. STOP imposing on family affairs.

Michelle Seay
self, Senior Technical Product Manager
Austin, TX

HB 1686 (Oliverson) outlines an overreach of government into matters that should be between doctors and patients, families and their children.

The bill is a dangerous and potentially deadly attempt to deny medical care to transgender youth. It blatantly overrides the parental choice and medical expertise of providers to determine what care is best for their child.

The bill would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. These treatments are supported by every major medical association in the country, including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Psychological Association and Texas Pediatric Society.

Best-practice standards of care and hospital guidelines are carefully crafted in the best interest of each patient. HB 1686 (Oliverson) puts all Texans in jeopardy.

Please stand with the medical community and parents and stop this bill from moving forward.

Dennis Hunt, Colonel
Self, USAF(retired)
NOrth Richland Hills, TX

Based on the definition of child sexual abuse, an adult who assists, performs, funds, or coerces a child towards sexual procedures is no different than child sexual abuse from the trusting child’s perspective. Please support any measure that prohibits adult influence on children toward gender transition or reassignment.

Gerald Boyd, Software engineer
Christian fellowship of Anna
Trenton, TX

I support restrictions on surgery of children for gender purposes. I support HB 1686

Karl Steffes
Self
Austin, TX

I am strongly against this bill. Government needs to get out of people's lives and let families and their doctors choose what is best for individuals. This bill will only make the lives of young Texans significantly worse.

Emily Kaiser
Self
Austin, TX

Thank you for taking time to read this. Please don't pass HB 1686. Numerous testimonies provided by medical professionals and scientists have been significantly in support of gender affirming care --- arguing that these procedures are somehow unsafe is unfounded and is inspired by sources lacking in substantial credibility. You can always find a source to justify any claim, but when there are significantly more and better sources that are in direct opposition to the one you've found, you have to consider that your original info source may be seriously flawed. We understand that your true motivations behind banning this medical care originates from your religion. Your religion does not matter to people who are of other faiths. You should not be able to force your religion on other people --- That's literally foundational to this country.

People who are seeking gender affirming care are trying to find inner peace, happiness, and improved mental health. Yet here you want to create a law that then makes them and people who support them into criminals. What an absolute waste of time, effort, and resources.

I would also like to highlight that prior to 1933, Germany had a lively LGBTQ community, and Hitler and the Nazis brutally targeted them. If you're putting forth bills that align with Nazi values, you might be the bad guys.

Che Heinroth
Self, Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill!!!!
Government should not interfere with the medical care people choose to receive. Elective procedures and treatments are often done for the sanity of the individual. Gender transitioning, reassignment and dysphoria should continue to be a matter between the individual, their doctor, and those they wish to involve. There is no restrictions for women to get larger breasts or men to have longer erections. There should be no restrictions on gender reassignment or transitioning.

Kimberly Ross, Mrs.
self
Grapevine, TX

We must help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments, and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Patty Day, Mrs.
self/retired
AMARILLO, TX

Please do not pass this bill. it endangers children. .Please prohibit procedures for gender transitioning children.

Nancy Tienda
Self
Austin, TX

Children have no need for these procedures. They are not mature enough to know what they want in life. They are still growing and learning. Social media is the one pushing them to make these changes. What is this world coming to? The USA has strayed far from God. Enough is enough.

Macaela Gibbons
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is cruel and prevents youth who desperately need gender affirming care from getting the help they need

Mel Hutzler
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 for the following reasons. 1. So we Do not sexualize our Kids. Kids need to be concerned with learning the basics and don't need to worry about these things too early. Let kids be kids! 2. If a parent is concerned about this with their own child let them take them to the dr. We as tax payers do not want to foot the bill. I do not agree with this and don't want my money going towards paying for this child abuse.

Daniel Hurlbut
Self teacher
AustinAustin, TX

Do you think you can stop victimizing children to score political points with violent, hard right wing terrorists?

Miriam Xochitl Chafino
Self
Austin, TX

In opposition of these bills. They are irresponsible, completely disregarding basic health care. These decisions should be left to the medical professionals and parents.

Carrie Moody
Self. A stay at home Mom.
Austin, TX

I oppose the unethical abandoning of parents right to know what is best for their children. I oppose HB 1686.

Jordon Arnett
Self/CPLC
Mount Vernon, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Gender affirming health care saves lives.

Lets side with the American Academy of Pediatrics and many others on this topic.

https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2018/aap-policy-statement-urges-support-and-care-of-transgender-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents/

Alexis Martinez
Self, Engineer
Austin, TX

This will harm transgender youth, and serve no purpose but to reinforce bigotry and ignorant aggression against an already deeply slighted and vital part of our community while putting citizens lives at risk for nothing but the cowardly egos of those who are all too happy to enable suffering for political points. Access to essential health care obviously should not be denied on it's face, gender affirming care being no exception. The cancer of frankly bad-faith and disgusting attacks on the trans community needs to stop, and so must this ridiculous, degenerate, and regressive proposal.

Marlow Newton
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Dear representatives,

I support this bill, which prohibits certain children of procedures and treatments for gender reassignment. Europe and Scandinavian countries are now banning this legislation after being years ahead of the U.S in allowing these procedures for minors. Statistically, the suicide rates are higher for those who have gone through the procedures. This has been shown in studies in multiple countries. We need to take notice of these learnings and outcomes from other countries.

Please vote to support this bill to protect our children.

Sincerely,

Marlow Newton

Karen Crawford
Self- Sales Director
Austin, TX

Oppose this bill. This decision is up to the family and medical professionals.

Stacy Mann
SelfHB1686
Austin, TX

I do not approve of this bill as a voter and active Texas resident.

Zee Ber
Self
Austin, TX

I am 100% in opposition of this being passed. It goes against every right a person has to their health.

Melissa Richert
Self, RN
Saginaw, TX

In support of this bill

Natalie Houchins
Self, Designer
Austin, TX

Once again Republicans are using trans youth as a pawn in their game of grasping to power knowing that the majority of the country is against their views. It's pathetic and cruel. Instead of genuinely convincing Americans that their views are valid, they conjure enemies based on literally no evidence. Pay attention to the words of trans youth and their parents. Pay attention to the science. Trans youth, like all children, deserve to receive the care they need. As trans people become more and more visible and empowered to be themselves in public, we are discovering more and more about what they need at every stage of life. Leave decisions about healthcare to doctors and families. I am a proud Texan, a proud ally and friend to trans youth, and I vote.

Joshua Arnett
Self
Mount Vernon, TX

I oppose 1686. Gender affirming health care is crucial and life saving in many situations. Even the AAP urges the continued support of our transgender youth. Let's believe they know what they are talking about better than we do. We trust them with almost every other aspect of our children's health.

https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2018/aap-policy-statement-urges-support-and-care-of-transgender-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents/

Garrett Newman
Myself
Clyde, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask th
e committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Dulce Navarrete
CCDF USA
The Colony, TX

Support HB 1686

Courtney Kieke
Self
Carmime, TX

Opposed to the passage of this bill.

Melissa Savoie
Self, mom
Austin, TX

This bill is only harmful. Please leave medical decisions between patients and doctors. Stop using transgender kids and putting them at even more risk. Stop trying to chase families out of the state. Please check your humanity and use your power and platform to do something good.

Karen Hudson
Self
College Station, TX

Oppose

Patrick Payne
Self
Austin, TX

I (a voting citizen of Austin TX) am ashamed to live in a part of the US with such backwards thinking. First it was aboriginal people, then black, then women, now trans. If you all are so inclined to Remember the Alamo but not protect our future, all you're going to do is force unsafe preceedures to occur under your jurisdiction. This is the same for government ban on literally anything, be it abortion, guns, drugs, etc. Time and time again you think banning these things will stop them, when in reality all is does is makes it more dangerous. You should be protecting and providing safe and legal ways to do these things that are without question the best route. You are not protecting kids, you are putting them in direct harm. You are out of touch, you need to step down and let someone who knows what they are doing take your spot in leadership.

elisabeth Elisabeth
self- barista
Dickinson, TX

This bill spits on our American values of Liberty and justice for all. I don’t know what Im supposed to say at this point. You’ve heard it all. You know what you are doing. You know who you are killing. We are watching. We are not going down without a fight.

A.B. P
Self - social worker/therapist
Austin, TX

I adamantly oppose this bill as it will directly lead to the DEATH of children. As a therapist I work predominantly with trans and gender diverse children and see the daily struggles they face to exist in a society that does not support them with bills like this just increasing the hate, discrimination and bullying they face. Passing this bill will not only increase the external hate they deal with daily but will also increase the internal struggle they live with of having a body that does not match who they are. I’m not sure what to say to help you understand how these children, teens and their families feel but if you care at all about children’s well being and lives you will not pass this bill.

Darcy McGillicuddy
Self
Austin, TX

I wholeheartedly oppose HB 1686 and consider it uninformed, dangerous, and cruel. As mother who has experience with several transgendered children and adults. I can tell you that this medical care is critical. No child should be denied medical care, and it is not up to lawmakers to make such decisions for families. If you enact this, many will die- to depression, anxiety, and suicide. Don’t do it. It’s denying basic human rights and it’s wrong.

Meghan Healey
self
Austin, TX

People under 18 years old can get boob jobs, are prescribed actune (a dangerous acne medicine that has lasting negative health impacts), and can get other gender affirming procedures and chemicals. I think this bill would be violating equal rights because why does it specifically target the other opposite gender and not children who seek gender affirming treatment? Irreversible surgeries are the last step of a gender transition, if you are worried about "mutilation" then make the standards stricter rather for that rather than make it so no-one can get these surgeries- because some people do need these surgeries. Why are you making the procedures that are irreversible such as puberty blockers prohibited? Doctor's know best, leave it up to them, the child and the child to decide, not the government.

Kevin Sherman
Self
Austin, TX

Equal rights for trans kids please.

George Guckenberger
Self, Student
Austin, TX

"A 2015 report by the National Center for Transgender Equality found 40% of the roughly 27,000 transgender people surveyed had attempted suicide — almost nine times the average rate in the country" (Per Texas Tribune). If you care about protecting children you will listen to the medical and mental health professionals who universally agree that gender affirming care dramatically increases the mental health of children struggling with their gender identities. Kids will kill themselves if you pass this bill. It will be your fault. Stop virtue signaling about protecting children and actually do something to protect them by voting against this disgusting bill.

Sarah Serpas
Self - PhD Student
San Antonio, TX

Less than 1% of Texans identify has trans. Texas legislators needs to focus on things that matter instead of the small percentage of children who are questioning their gender identify and looking for help. Allowing for gender-affirming care in the childhood and teen years can vastly improve a young trans person's mental and physical health outcomes. Not allowing this care causes more harm than allowing it does. Trans children are not "confused." Trans children are not "brainwashed." This isn't something a parent chooses for their child because maybe some days they want to wear dresses. The reason parents seek this care is because they have heard continually from their child that they do not wish to be their gender assigned at birth and, as any parent would, they work to help them. For a party that proposes individual rights and a hands off approach to government, this law sure seems invasive, and a nanny-state tactic with the false premise of protecting children. Legislators shouldn't decide what medical care a child receives. This is between parents, their child, and their child's doctor. Please focus on issues that matter beyond the current political punchlines. Trans children should not be used as pawns in political discourse.

Christopher DiRaddo
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 2006!!!

Pamela Cowan
self
Lake Dallas, TX

I Strongly support HB 1686

Tom Hallberg
Myself
Austin, TX

Oppose

Veronica Chabert
self
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill. Your bill directly intervenes with medical provider/patient/parental relationship and will only lead to further stigmatization of an already vulnerable population of individuals in our human race. As a transgender adult I can attest that gender confirming therapy, both medical and psychological, are life-saving. Not only do children with affirming parents and care have a reduced mortality rate by suicide, but they also have the capacity to grow into healthy functional adults and contributors to society. I oppose this bill and any other bill that limit bodily autonomy.

Julia Kisielius
Self, Principal Product Marketer
Austin, TX

As a member of the queer community and the spouse of a transgender person, I'm appalled by the proposal to limit gender-confirming care for youths.

Gender affirming care is medically necessary care and can be lifesaving for trans young people. Studies have shown that suicide rates go down for trans people who receive appropriate gender affirming care.

Here's one representative source for the impact of gender affirming care for youths on their long-term mental health: https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2022/01/mental-health-hormone-treatment-transgender-people.html.
"The new study found that transgender people who began hormone treatment in adolescence had fewer thoughts of suicide, were less likely to experience major mental health disorders and had fewer problems with substance abuse than those who started hormones in adulthood. The study also documented better mental health among those who received hormones at any age than those who desired but never received the treatment."

Regarding the use of public funds: LGBTQIA+ youths are disproportionally affected by homelessness or placed into foster care after their parents reject them when they come out of the closet. Denying these young people the medical care they need to deal with gender dysphoria is cruel and will have long-term affects on their mental health.

Overall, the idea that the government should be involved in determining the type of medical care that's appropriate for individual children is inappropriate. These medical decisions should be research-based, evidence-based, and thoughtfully customized to each child's situation in conjunction with their guardians, centering the child's needs and voice.

It is hypocritical that the bill allows for genital surgery on intersex babies, which intersex adults oppose because the surgeries are performed before they have a chance to voice their own preferences or needs. Intersex babies are not struggling with their identities - it's their parents or communities who think they need to change. In contrast, trans youths are begging for this care, and the data does that they suffer if they don't receive it.

Please listen to the community and not to sensational headlines that rely on misguided assumptions about what it means to be trans and what gender affirming care looks like and does for trans youths. Allowing gender affirming care for trans youths does NOT mean making decisions on behalf of these children, or encouraging children to rush into rash decisions, but rather listening to the children's needs and making careful, evidence-based choices about their medical care. Puberty blockers, for example, can buy more time for these children and their families and medical teams to consider every potential path and evaluate the child's needs over enough time to feel certain about major decisions.

If passed, this bill will worsen health outcomes for trans children and drive some to suicide. Are you comfortable having that on your conscience?

Charles DiRaddo
Self
Austin, TX

Bill HB 2006 has got to finally pass!!!!

Breanna Rollings
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is full of ignorance and hate, pure and simple. LISTEN to trans people: gender-affirming healthcare saves lives. As a native Texan, I fully oppose this bill and call on our representatives to strike it down.

Fabiola Byrne
Self - retired
Bryan, TX

Please stop the madness. Please stop all work on bills such as HB1686. Parents are working hard to keep their kids safe. It us difficult enough accepting something that you know puts a target on your child's back. But then to have to fight tooth and nail in order to provide lifesaving healthcare to them, or worse yet, to be criminalized for trying to help your child live their best life -- this just shouldn't have to be. We live in Texas, a State that values autonomy and self reliance. Why are our legislators spending time to curtail our liberty? Please stop HB1686 and all such bills now.

Julia Keyes
Self
Aledo, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Becky Shaheen
Self
Austin, TX

I have emailed the committee my thought on this bill, but want to be on the record as opposed to this bill. I watched the hearing and was disappointed to see that so many witnesses were not allowed to testify. I oppose this bill because I know how harmful it will be to trans youth. So many medical and counseling associations oppose this bill as well.

Jung-Ha Kim
self/artist
AUSTIN, TX

I hereby write to you today to NOT pass this bill. This is going to do nothing but harm the children you claim to want to protect and deny LIFE-SAVING healthcare for those who need it. This bill has come out of listening to fearmongering rhetoric made about the most vulnerable people in our community. This will create more unsafe environments and even the likelihood of higher suicide rates amongst our youth. Children deserve safety and autonomy over their own bodies. We as adults and parents have no right to lord over them as if they are our property, and denying them gender-affirming healthcare is denying them their rights. Children deserve better. This bill will do nothing more than harm our society and give more power to those who want to hurt people. Every human being, be it cis or trans, deserves life and happiness.

Do not pass a bill that seeks to take that away and kill them.

Eepi Chaad
Self
Houston, TX

I am horrified by the totalitarian state mentality of this bill that regulates human bodies. For shame. We as Texans are losing the right to autonomy one piece at a time.

Linzy Foster
Self
Austin, TX

My testimony I wasn't allowed to give on Monday 3/27 because so little public testimony was allowed: My name is Linzy, and I oppose HB 1686. I grew up in a conservative evangelical home in Alabama. My grandparents had two pictures on their wall of people besides our family members: Jesus and Ronald Reagan. Those two photos hung next to the US flag.
I am the mother to 2 beautiful daughters ages 14 and 9. My youngest daughter, a 5th generation Texan, is the first out transgender person I have ever met.
When she was born, we thought we had a son. At the age of 2, any cartoon show she watched, her favorite character was always the most effeminate one . She would try on the dresses at preschool as many of the other kids would try on Spider-Man costumes. For months, my daughter would only take that costume off when she had go home, where she would use my t-shirts to wear as a dress. She told me that when she wore dresses, she felt safe. That she felt magical. That she felt powerful. She would say when I'm a girl, I'll have long flowing hair, mama. I would say "daddy has long hair. Boys can have long hair, too."
In preschool, she began exhibiting increasing aggression and anxiety. My husband and I were understandably worried for her. This was different and unfamiliar for us. So we went to therapy and read books and asked lots of questions. For months, she had been consistently saying that she was a girl which included saying this over and over to her peers on the playground at school. She is 9 now, and still she has never wavered that she is a girl.
When we finally understood how to support her, a major positive shift happened within her.
It's our job as her parents to protect, teach, and support. I cannot do my job as a parent if you pass this bill. I trust our doctors: her pediatrician and psychologist. We should trust adolescents and support them, BOTH the majority who benefit from this healthcare and the much smaller percentage who chose to stop care. We can do BOTH if we continue to give adolescents that option! If we continue to give doctors their capacity to help.
Please listen to the trans adults here tonight who have benefitted from lifesaving healthcare as intently as you listened to those who regretted their care. The overwhelming majority of trans children and adults have benefited tremendously from this healthcare. Please let me do my job as a parent to support my child. I understand your fear. I felt it once too.
If this bill passes, we will have to move. My older daughter I have a shared custody agreement with her dad and that means she stays here. This will literally split my family apart. I've already watched 11 families I've personally known move away. My daughter is a 5th generation Texan! She deserves to live a long life in Texas.
I wish I had more time to share her story. I would love the opportunity to sit and chat with any of you one on one.

Sincerely Linzy Foster

Michael Mann
Self
Austin, TX

I do approve of this bill. Please vote no to HB 1686

natalie beasley
Self
Houston, TX

It is not up to the state to make heath decisions for any human being. A child entering puberty is perfectly capable of knowing how exactly they should feel in their own body(being a mother of a daughter going through puberty). Stop trying to ruin children's lives because they know who they are and you don't, because you don't understand or that you have some made up story in your mind of perversion. I see people testifying for their lives and the committee members are chatting or preoccupied with other things. Listen and get to know the people you're affecting before you set them into an unknown future.

Emily Juergens
Self - Texan
Johnson City, TX

I support HB 1686.

Michelle Enman
Self
San Antonio, TX

Children-those under 18–should not go through gender mutilation surgeries at all. These are permanent and life altering. Only adults should make these decisions. Vote against gender mutilation!

Dacia Hausmann
Self, full time mother
San Antonio, TX

You need to be 18 years old to get a tattoo - children should not be allowed to make life altering decisions like these until they are considered adults and able to mentally process their choices and the repercussions. Gender identity is not a scientific fact or biological reality and those who do not like their biological bodies have mental illnesses and should seek mental health help. Sane adults should be reiterating biological facts and not accepting the very loud and powerful voices of a mentally ill minority group who aim to spread their mental illness to naive and innocent children.

Carly Burns
Self
McKinney, TX

Please don’t allow permanent life changing procedures to be done on minors.

Stacy Tokar
Self
Austin, TX

My friends sons life was saved because he was able to get the medical care he needed and I don’t want that right taken away from kids that need it. This care is between a kid, their parents and their doctor and not the government.

Kenzie Allen
Self
Austin, TX

Healthcare is for everyone. We need to ensure our trans neighbors receive the healthcare they deserve.

Hilary Roberts
Trans kids
Austin, TX

I do not support any bill that limits necessary health care for any child. Your personal religious and/or religious preference should not impact the well-being of kids and their families in our state. Trans children and trans humans matter and we should be supporting them not creating bills that harm them. Do not pass any bills that harm these children. Were elected to protect all citizens and trans children do not harm other citizens but you would be harming them.

Kathy Haigler
Self - election consultant
Dale, TX

Competent adults should have the right to alter their bodies as long as no one else is harmed, but elective life-altering chemicals or surgery on minors is unacceptable. If they aren't old enough to make wise decisions about smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol, how could they possibly grasp the gravity and permanence of gender modification. HB 1686 is a good bill, and I understand and accept the amendment made to it. This bill should pass in this session.

Brandon Story
Self
Savannah, TX

Support HB1686

Jonathan Swindle
Self
Bishop, TX

Please vote no on this and “stay out of our healthcare!”

Matthew Sato
Self, Beekeeper
Austin, TX

Anyone who has taken the time to work with or care for trans children should be able to see how important it is to provide them with care and assistance as they figure out who they are and how they fit into this world. This bill feeds off of a discomfort borne of misunderstanding and a fundemental lack of empathy for the children who need our help the most. People fear what they do not understand, so take the time to understand. Talk to trans kids, see what they have to say, and I am quite certain that you will find that they've done more self reflection and work towards understanding their identity than most adults.

Passing this bill is a blatant refusal to look an inevitable future in the eye, an act that chooses fear and cowardice over kindness and progress. Don't be misled by fearmongering. Trans people are among us, know who they are from a very early age, and can go on to lead very happy lives as long as no one stands in their way. Don't be a barrier to the lives and wishes of children who just want to feel comfortable in their bodies.

Victoria Sargent
Self - payroll and HR specialist
Burleson, TX

An extremely high percentage of the research and studies done on transitioning say that the root cause to wanting/believing you need a different "body", stems from deeper issues and mental challenges. The percentage of Trans that either later regret and de-transition, or regret it due to all the health issues that switching hormones WILL cause, or they regret it and end up taking their own life because they were helped to change their body before anyone checked on their mental health or mental state in anyway. Children pretend they are all kinds of things when they are young. It is apart of developing a healthy creative side and imagination. When I was a 12 year old girl, I swore I should have been a boy. But this was before being Trans was the "trendy thing to do". I played with boy friends mostly, I did Co-ed sports, worked on cars with my dad, went hunting with grandpa... as a young girl I acted like a boy and played like one. But I was a girl and I knew that I could do the "boy" things as a girl and that was ok! As I grew, joined the military as an aircraft mechanic .. an almost all male field. I started bodybuilding and I rode motorcycles. Now as a 33 year old women, I still enjoy all the "manly" activities but I grew into the person I was meant to be. At 12.... I was trying to find who I was. These children aren't in need of "gender affirming" care. They need to kids that play and can be different than their friends. We are shaping a whole generation of kids, telling them they need to be Trans to be a good person or to fit in or be liked. These kids need therapy, true therapy to help them understand what is going on with them and why they are going through whatever they are going through. Instead of allowing trend follower parents to pass their kids off to be mutilated .... give them therapy and when they turn 18, if they still feel they need surgery to feel whole, well they have plenty of life let to live at 18. So what is the big rush to give CHILDREN LIFE CHANGUNG SURGERY when they don't even understand puberty? What is the rush? Why at 10 and not 18? Is 8 years going to hurt them so much they can't wait? Don't we have age limits for driving cars? Drinking? Gambling? Joining the military? Tattoos? I can't take my 10 year old to a tattoo shop for her to get that pink princess pony tattoo she is crying over that she wants and she know she will love it forever.... isn't that close to the same thing? These are children. Innocent children that self entitled, self centered parents are USING to be "cool" to fit in. Because if you don't fit in, you are shamed and shuned and called evil names. Is that the type of country we want to cultivate? What happened to protectively Innocent children? Because this is not going to improve these children's lives, but it's highly likely it could end them.

Hayden Perez
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will kill kids. Trans humans deserve gender affirming care.

Amber Briggle
Self
Denton, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Leave trans kids alone and keep government out of private matters.

Erin Pierce
Self, Banking
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill, as it is an infringement on our rights and a immoral attack on US citizens.

Charlie Nater
Self, writer
Houston, TX

Please leave folks alone to make their own decisions.

Darcy Worsham
Self as a native Texan
Austin, TX

I am opposed to HB 1686. One of my childhood friends that I met in kindergarten, here in Austin, had a child that transitioned from Female to Male. At first they were in shock, they got him gene tested and he was more genetically male than female. They worked with top doctors and psychiatrist for 6 years helping their child and then ultimately their child chose to transition. Gender dysphoria is a real medical issue. My childhood friend was lucky they could afford to help their child. What about people who cannot and suffer because of it? I know the thought of this is an issue that galvanizes a certain percentage of our state, but it shouldn't be. We should ultimately be concerned for the welfare of each individual Texan equally. That is what our ancestors fought for.

KATHLEEN HESTER
self
FORT WORTH, TX

We must protect our children and society by not allowing gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria

Charles Gifford Gifford
Business Card
Savannah, TX

I support HB 1686

Jenny Hoselton
Self
Canyon, TX

I support HB 1686!!!!

Rocky Lane, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives at all levels. The state is purposefully misrepresenting this treatment as an issue for minors when i fact there is plenty of evidence to support affirming youth and young adults with information, representation, some gender affirming social support, and medical support as deemed necessary by trained professionals. This is a direct attack at trans people and should be considered an act of violence and discrimination, informed only by bias and an abuse of power.

Emily Crocker
Self. LMT
Austin, TX

This bill immediately puts the lives of children at risk. The American Pediatric Association is united in prescribing gender affirming care when indicated. Doctors and families can continue to make medical decisions for children wothout the government’s involvement.

Mary-Grace Tennyson, mrs
self
San Antonio, TX

Surgery to mutilate a child is evil.

Matthew Kurth
Self
Haslet, TX

I support HB 1686

Camille Johnson
self
Carrollton, TX

I strongly support this bill and all efforts to protect minor children in the state of Texas from being exploited for a political agenda. Gender modification/transition is not "health care", it is unhealthy both mentally and physically. It's hard to believe that in a world that constantly tells us to "follow the science", we are actually having to defend the FACT that there is such a thing as male DNA and female DNA -- period. What is truly unconscionable is that the adults of this state think it's okay to allow for the mutilation of the bodies of minors with procedures, treatments, and surgeries that will permanently change their lives. Minors who believe that their body physiology is incorrect, need our compassion and professional assessment and counseling to address this disorder. If there is a child who is anorexic and truly believes that their body is fat, would a doctor agree and perform surgery to remove non-existent "fat?" Of course not, the doctor would advise professional psychological intervention. If a child feels that the act of "cutting" on their body gives them some relief from negative emotional feelings, would we provide them with a sharper instrument with which to cut themselves? I think not. I urge the committee members to pass this bill and allow it to be moved forward.

margaret george
Self
Gordon, TX

The child is not fully aware or mature enough to make such life-altering decisions. Please vote for these prohibitions.

Stephanie Crane
self - Creative Director
Austin, TX

I believe gender affirming procedures and treatments are healthcare, and all humans are entitled to healthcare. Gender affirming care saves lives and should not be restricted by the state. I believe this is is a perfectly acceptable use of public funding to save the lives of our citizens including minors.

Meredith Chambers, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

Seek to testify in opposition of this bill.

Brenda Sendejo, Dr.
Self, professor
Austin, TX

As a scholar, fifth generation Texan, and the parent of a transgender child, I write to tell you that this bill is inhumane. Dehumanizing our children, in the name of your politics is despicable, and the most anti-Christian act of fear and loathing that I can imagine. We will protect our children and continue to love them for their whole selves. We will double down on protecting them and all of the other children this and other similar such legislation aim to harm. Denying the expertise of medical professionals shows how outrages and ignorant this bill is. Texans are smarter and more creative in our resistance and importantly, love, than you give us credit for. Do not vote for this discriminatory bill. Leave our children alone.

Shawn Ashmore
Self / Ministry
Dallas, TX

Hello, my name is Shawn Ashmore and my family lives in Dallas. I am a lifelong Texan and person of faith who has served in ministry and non-profit work with children, teenagers, and their families for 23 years.

Over the course of my ministry, I have served families who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and my own once limited viewpoint has been expanded and deepened when I see the love and acceptance of people who have a sexual identity different from my own.

To see that HB1686 would place unnecessary and devastating burdens on the lives of transgender children troubles me as someone who proudly calls Texas home. To consider how HB1686 affects doctors who provide gender affirming care for transgender patients goes against the Hippocratic oath to “Do No Harm.” I fear that the passing of HB1686 would be a stain on Texas history since it is discriminatory, cruel, and lethal. Everyone who calls Texas “Home” deserves access to health no matter how they identify.

I am asking you to vote “No” to HB1686 which if passed would place a burden on the lives of transgender children and their families.

You were a child once. Remember that children’s lives are at stake.

Nancy Tate
Self - Retired
AMARILLO, TX

I support HB 1686.

Martin Cutrone, Mr.
Self, college student
Spring, TX

I oppose HB 1686. What you are proposing violates the advice of medical professionals such as the APA, AMA, ES, etc.
If you cared about the lives of citizens and children, you would be listening to medical doctors who are telling you explicitly how you can help preserve the lives of many. This bill CANNOT pass.
I did not start hormone therapy until I was 17. I made that decision. No one pushed it on me, and I even desired it many years prior and only met pushback because I feared for my life if I came out. Transgender people do not feel safe, especially trans minors, in a country that is targeting us and our rights as people. Between the constant barrage of hate towards us, we suffer our own torment, which is medically called Gender Dysphoria, making it so we pick ourselves apart because we are not able to get the necessary procedures done to be able to live our lives authentically. The suicide rate is already high among transgender people. Passing this bill will undoubtedly increase it. At age 14, I was very suicidal and the only thing that kept me going was the real possibility that I can get help and transition. I did not tell my parents till I was 16, absolutely sure, and had reached such a mental low it would be dangerous to keep it all inside. A year later my transition would begin, and I am now to turn 20 this November and have never been happier.
That's a history of someone who had a sliver of hope. If that was removed, I'd be dead. Do not take that away from them.

Caressa Holland, Dr.
Self
Trophy Club, TX

I support HB 1686. Let's not maim our children.

Hannah Casey
self
Austin, TX

There is no one that knows you better than you know yourself. No one should be able to dictate what you can and can't do to your body, regardless of age. A child that needs a life saving operation to cure a cancer has the right to choose if their body will be cut open for the cause of correcting an error. Being transgender is the same. Children aren't having gender reassignment surgery. I don't know anyone that could afford it so young and I doubt doctors would feel comfortable performing that on a minor. There doesn't need to be politics in medicine, period. If kids can have hormone disorders that aren't related to being transgender and they can receive treatment, then a transgender kid should be able to as well. To deny someone the right to be who they are, to trap them in a body they don't feel is theirs is inhumane. To not allow that expression is ignorant, oppressive, and controlling. I was a teenager at James Bowie High School, and had many transgender and non-binary friends there, some who were able to start hormones as teens and some who weren't. You can tell the difference. The difference in mood and happiness. It's amazing to watch someone become more themself the longer they're on hormones. They feel real, it makes sense to see them transition. You can't even imagine them trying to be a woman or man anymore, because it's not them. I can't imagine my mom as a man or my dad as a woman, because they aren't trans. It's the same thing with trans kids. The sex they are just doesn't make sense with how they think or act. If you were forced to change your gender appearance to be the opposite of how you identify, it'd absolutely be an awful experience because it isn't you. No one would see you for who you are. No kid should be subjected to that. Some parents know their kids are gay and it's not a surprise when they come out. That was my experience, my mom knew I was gay. It was obvious to her. Some parents just know, and will have to watch their kids suffer for years until (hopefully) they reach adulthood. The people fighting for this bill aren't trans, and that should say everything. It's targeted, and it's disgusting. All it will do is cause kids to become isolated and suicidal. And even treating gender dysphoria is on the bill? Can a kid not receive therapy to discuss those feelings even before deciding if they want to start hormones or not? Creating these conditions for anyone is horrible, regardless of how you feel about an issue, that's someone entire life. These are kids, they can't handle that. That's additional suffering on top of the suffering many kids deal with growing up anyway. I had many friends, including myself, attempt suicide without also having to deal with being trans. I'm glad all my trans friends now are able to be themselves. I hope the generation of trans kids younger than me doesn't have to miss the happiness I saw my friends have when they were supported in who they are.

Anna Hoge
Self, landscape architect
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it harms and stigmatizes young Texans from living their full lives emotionally and physically. I trust parents and physicians to make these decisions under considerations of what is best for the individual.

Tal Wildman
Self / Parent
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and furthermore am horrified by this and every other anti-people-existing bill of this legislature. Your hate and discrimination is showing. When will the party of personal liberties start minding your own business and that of your own families and children and leave those of us you don't agree with alone? Instead you propose bills that will further divide our state and hurt people. Children continue to die in school shooting and over bullying and hatred such as this bill and it just doesn't seem to end and our legislature doesn't seem to care or lose any sleep over the real issues we face. But you still have blood on your hands and I hope your God will smite you for it.

Alison Guckenberger, Mrs
Citizen voter
Austin, TX

Stay out of private lives. Kids should get the care they need. Worry about real issues not stupid private health care decisions.

Dave Thompson
Self
Denton, TX

Vote to protect our children from these gender changing, life altering procedures.

M Mutrux
Self
Austin, TX

All people deserve adequate health care, and especially our most vulnerable family members, neighbors, and friends! Children need access to gender affirming care. To deny them this essential healthcare is to risk their lives.

Darlene Marshall
Self, salesperson
Port Lavaca, TX

Please vote to pass HB 1686. Children should not undergo procedures and treatments to transition their gender for any reason, nor should public money or public assistance be used to provide such.

Marie Oak
Austin
Austin, TX

No public legislation should prohibit children from expressing themselves as they choose to be. This bill should not pass or ever be considered again in any form

William Sullivan
Self
Houston, TX

I am against HB 1686

Kim Witcher, Pastor
Self / Pastor
Amarillo, TX

I support the prohibition of transitioning the biological gender of any child. Children must be protected from such harmful mutilation and sterilization.

Elena Savastano
self, host/server/vintage store shop assistant
Austin, TX

I am absolutely against this legislation. Trans children deserve the right to express themselves and live their authentically, as their true selves. The state should not be restricting gender affirming care for anyone. Focus on fixing the grid, gun control, funding schools, solving the homeless and housing affordability crisis, literally anything else that is far more important and would be life-saving instead of this.

Michelle Murphy
Self
Austin, TX

This is a human right!

James White
self
Houston, TX

This bill is relevant to maintaining and protecting God Given rights and preserving liberty in accordance with the Bill of Rights and the Constitution but first and foremost Biblical principals to maintain societal structure and strong national governance.

Kelly Kitch
Self; Children's Minister
Princeton, TX

There is a NORMAL range of development when children are curious about the opposite gender, their own gender, and even confused. THIS IS NORMAL. Once the child is through these stages in their mid-to-later teens, they sort it out and are agreeable to their gender assigned at birth. To support any measures that would alter a child, through surgery or treatments, before the age of 18 is unthinkable if you are aware of the normal developmental process. TEXAS, do not support ANY bill that opens the door to an increase to altering our children during their normal stages of curiosity and confusion. TEXAS, support parents in their God-given right to guide and support their child in this area of their development just like you do for every other area.

Heather Miller
self, teacher
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. These decisions should be up to the families and their medical providers.

Susannah Federowicz
Self, web developer
Austin, TX

I absolutely disagree with any attempt to prevent transgender children from getting the medical care they need and deserve. There is no argument in the medical community about the importance of this kind of medical care, and it makes no sense as to why Texas would ban these treatments specifically. People experiencing gender dysphoria or who are trans are particularly vulnerable to mental health issues, and banning this kind of care for any of these children is cruel and will only cause more harm.

I implore you not to pass this bill. It's bad for Texas and bad for our children. Parents and doctors - NOT the government - should be responsible for making decisions about the medical care their children receive.

Nichole Crosson
Self - teacher
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill! As a teacher I have had kids commit suicide due to this type of treatment! Inclusion only benefits our community

Kate Chambers
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is an obvious and despicable plot to strip our citizens of their rights. It is a clear play for the Republicans of our state to use their religion to legislate bodies and lives in which they have no part. It is truly disgusting and if they were actually good Christians, they would love thy neighbor and understand that the trans community is beautiful and powerful and more loved than those pathetic small minded hypocritical cowards will ever be.

Victoria Huber, Mrs
Self
Magnolia, TX

I implore our representatives to advocate for our children. This agenda of gender "health care" for children is totally wrong for any child. Please advocate for them. Do not allow
our tax dollars to be used for such criminal procedures/treatments under the guise of health care. It is not health care. Please stop this agenda.

Julián Villarreal, Dr.
Green Party of Texas
San Antonio, TX

The Green Party of Texas strongly opposes HB 1686. The state of Texas should not interfere in the private matters of families with transgender children and their medical providers. This bill does serious harm to transgender children and their families by maliciously targeting them for the sole purpose of furthering the cynical interests of ultra-rightwing politicians. There is no public good to be served by this bill. Transgender people deserve respect and love, not bigotry and hate. We urge all lawmakers to reject this bill.

Chelsea Dutton
Self
HIGHLAND VLG, TX

Full heartedly agree with the prohibition of these procedures. Children should not be able to make these life-altering decisions!

Lowell Thompson, MR
Self
Canton, TX

God created male and females. Science CANNOT change this. Children do not know what they want for breakfast tomorrow, much less should in any way choose to change something as important as their sex. Procedures attempting to change a child's gender MUST be prohibited and made illegal under penalty of law. NO public moneys should be used in any way, shape or form. Strict penalties will prohibit Doctors from attempting to assist innocent children from being mutilated and mentally scarred for the rest of their lives. Texas needs to have such laws in place.

Kaylee Gough
Self
Austin, TX

As a tax payer, Texan, and human I am strongly against this bill. We cannot and will not accept your intolerance. Love thy neighbor.

Erika van Zyl
self
Denton, TX

Please pass this bill. It is very important for the future of children.

Eruc Boudet
Self. Stock broker
Austin, TX

This bill goes against our human rights to be able to live happily as we choose. Being trans does not affect anyone in any way.

steve cook
Self
Austin, TX

I support the rights of trans people of all ages to be free to make decisions regarding their sex and healthcare decisions without and state intervention or laws policing such matters

Lauri Johnston
Self, illustrator
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it denies trans kids a chance at authenticity and tells them that they are not acceptable as their true selves. The state needs to stay out of the way and allow medical experts, parents and children make their own decisions about what is right for their physical and mental health.

Tracy Morelli
self
Austin, TX

Strongly opposed to preventing medical care for transgender children

Colleen McCollough
Self
Pfugerville, TX

I oppose this bill

Cristina Romero
Self - small business owner
Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose bill denying our constitutional right to life saving health care.

Ed Diaz
self/contractor
San Antonio, TX

I stand in strong opposition to this discriminatory bill. Depriving children of much needed healthcare is what is truly cruel and abusive about this bill. This should not be a political issue, but instead it is based upon the religious biases of the author and co-authors. Let the families and their medical professionals decide what is best for them.

Taylor Nelms
Self
Lakeway, TX

PLEASE do NOT allow gender reassignment procedures or treatment on children under any circumstances! Doing so is completely nonsense and evil. God does NOT make mistakes! These are children!! And MOST DEFINITELY I do NOT want public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatment!!

Julia Hopkins
Self, Teacher
Austin, TX

My name Julia Hopkins. I am a native Texan and an Austin resident of the last eight years. I am also a second grade teacher. As you can imagine, the protection of children is paramount to me and that is why I came to the Capitol on Monday and waited hours to speak in opposition of bill 1686.
I say this with out hyperbole— if this bill passes you WILL have blood on your hands. YOU will be responsible for the death of children.
I write to you not just with an impassioned plea, but with scientific facts— something your bill lacks by the way. Transgender youth are 5x more likely to die by suicide than their peers. When those children are called by their chosen names and pronouns, when they receive the medical attention that their parents and physicians have deemed appropriate for them, their suicide rate drops by 40%. If there were a pill on the market that had scientific data that it could drop your suicide rate by 40%, it would be heralded as a miracle, and rightfully so. I would also like to call into question your choice to strip away parents' rights. Are you of the belief that you know more about a child you've never met than their parents? What precedent are you setting about a governments right to dictate a child's medical decisions?
I urge you to end this bill, and any other anti-queer bills, here. I urge you to choose life for these children, and I urge you to protect the rights of parents and doctors to decide the best course of treatment for the young people under their care. Thank you.

Kelley Brown
Self
Dallas, TX

Please allow medical care for all transgender children

Linda Mack
Myself
Dallas, TX

If they are born female they are female. If they are born male, they are born male. What gives you the right to insult the mother that birth that child. You don't know what that parent through the 9 months they carried that child. Changing the sex without consent will be slapping that mother in the face and telling her the pain she suffered doesn't matter. How dare you

Matthew Teicher
Self
Austin, TX

As a physician I am strongly Opposed to this bill.

Marissa Coronado
Self
Dallas, TX

Discriminatory

Tamara Van Horn
self
Live Oak, TX

I do not think that any minor should be allowed or coerced into any type of body altering procedures or processes that can affect their long term health in any permanent way. That includes all drugs and surgeries. Also no sexual discussions with any minor child or drag queen indoctrination.

Sean Tipps
Texans
Austin, TX

This is not something the legislature should be in charge of!

Lola Hurt
True Texas Project
Addison, TX

I strongly support this bill and all efforts to protect minor children in the state of Texas from being exploited for a political agenda. Gender modification/transition is not "health care", it is unhealthy both mentally and physically. It's hard to believe that in a world that constantly tells us to "follow the science", we are actually having to defend the FACT that there is such a thing as male DNA and female DNA -- period. What is truly unconscionable is that the adults of this state think it's okay to allow for the mutilation of the bodies of minors with procedures, treatments, and surgeries that will permanently change their lives. Minors who believe that their body physiology is incorrect, need our compassion and professional assessment and counseling to address this disorder. If there is a child who is anorexic and truly believes that their body is fat, would a doctor agree and perform surgery to remove non-existent "fat?" Of course not, the doctor would advise professional psychological intervention. If a child feels that the act of "cutting" on their body gives them some relief from negative emotional feelings, would we provide them with a sharper instrument with which to cut themselves? I think not. I urge the committee members to pass this bill and allow it to be moved forward.

caroline gamble
Myself
Dripping Springs, TX

Not allowing for self expression and the affirmation of gender identity is hazardous to people of all ages. To restrict the rights of an individual to self expression is to take away their rights and send of self. That is truly unamerican. The only outcome of this bill is mental health decline of transgender folks who feel foreign in their own body. This is not your decision to make.

Clarissa Coronado
Self
Dallas, TX

Protect trans kids/youth/people! I am against any bill that goes against trans people/ non-binary/ gender non conforming. Let them live their lives

Darlene Shirlen
Self, foster mom and grandmother of many Texas kids!
Houston, TX

I strongly support HB1686!!

Paulina Ukrainets
self, writer/student
Austin, TX

As a trans person, I am vehemently against this bill — as is every reputable medical organization in the US and elsewhere. Gender-affirming care saves lives and is the purview of a person and, if they're under 18, their parents or guardians. This bill, if passed, will not only endanger the lives of children; it will also be serious government overreach into what a family, along with their medical professionals, think is best for their children.

Elizabeth Felthous
Self
Conroe, TX

I oppose this bill. Sat for over 14 hours waiting to testify and did not get my voice heard. This is based off of junk science and is hurting all of our kids.

Cara Tomanek
Self, mother
McKinney, TX

Please protect our children!

Rebecca Triplett
Self
Austin, TX

All humans deserve access to healthcare - health and safety are basic human rights. Taking away healthcare based on gender identity is a prejudice that doesn’t need to be in place anywhere but especially in our government. Take your gross laws off our bodies. Just because someone is different than you doesn’t make them wrong or bad - you don’t have to understand their experience to respect them as fellow humans. Trans Rights are Human Rights, and it’s time this state’s laws start reflecting Basic Human Rights for everyone.

Catherine Lovett
self, event planner
Houston, TX

I am completely against this bill. Trans people deserve the healthcare they want and need. This bill is spewing hate and dangerous rhetoric that will damage Texas youth for years to come. We need to protect our kids in general and, of course, our trans kids too!

Benjamin De Hoyos
Self
Alamo, TX

I support this bill to protect kids from life altering gender affirming procedures that are irreversible.

Shawn Henry
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am for prohibiting minors, children , etc from doing life altering gender transition surgery and having tax money pay for it. If they're over 18 that's their choice

Stephanie Shields
Self Nurse Anesthetist
Dallas, TX

This bill is horrendous. Why Texas feels the need to discriminate is beyond me. Worry about more important things like keeping our kids safe at school.

Shanna Swindle
Self/Project Manager
Bishop, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Stay out of our healthcare decisions.

Crystal Perez
Self
San Antonio, TX

No

Dr. Robin Burks
Self Employed, Robin J. Burks, Ph.D., psychologist
Houston, TX

My name is Dr. Robin Burks and I have been a practicing psychologist in Houston, Texas for over 35 years. Foregoing gender-affirming care can have tragic consequences. Transgender youth experience disproportionate amounts of bullying and have much higher rates of suicide. Access to gender-affirming care has positive mental health benefits for transgender individuals. Politicians should follow the science on this issue and stop trying to criminalize appropriate health care. The science shows that puberty blockers and hormone treatments are safe and save lives. I am writing to register my strong opposition to HB1686.

Carly Spraberry
Self Small business banking.
Austin, TX

Strongly Oppose this bill. Please stop concerning yourselves in these matters. These poor children/adolescents and families are going through enough without our government trying to run their lives.

Susan Condry
Self/ retired
Abilene, TX

I support this legislation.

anna franklin
Self - public engagement professional
Austin, TX

This bill would hurt, not help, trans kids and their families. Please do not pass this bill. If you truly bare about kids and their well-being, write a new bill about banning assault rifles or expanding mental health care.

Tina Garner
Self
Inez, TX

Stop this now!!!!

Jana Willborn
Self retired
San Antonio, TX

Gender affirming care should be stopped. They have a mental illness. They need to be adults and they need to be given informed consent. Too many do not realize the damage that has been done until it's too late. They also don't realize the costs add up to millions of dollars in their lifetimes for their transition. They are also likely to suffer with severe depression especially once they realize that the journey back to their former selves may not ever be a possibility.

Jerry Pena
Beyond The Masks San Antonio
Cibolo, TX

Children can wait until the are 18 yes old to decide for THEMSELVES if they want to "be a different gender "
I am against the genitalia mutalation of children

Mari Ann Ross
Self
DALLAS, TX

The choice of gender reassignment should be reserved until a child has matured and understands the pros and cons of a physical modification to accommodate what might be momentary mind shift.

Will Allred
Self
Houston, TX

The government has no right to infringe upon a person's self determination. Child or no, everyone has the freedom of expression and should not have their bodily autonomy dictated by anyone other than themselves. It is important for people to have informed consent for medical procedures, but that is not for a political body to determine. That should be up to doctors and experts. There is decades of research behind this kind of health care and it is proven to improve the lives of those who need it. It is also proven that banning gender health care comes with a body count. Please do the right thing and reject this bill from consideration, as well as any bill with a similar objective.

Crystal Poole
Self
AUSTIN, TX

The state nor the federal government does not have any right to stop or control the rights and bodily autonomy of individual children, the right of their families to make appropriate medical choices between themselves and healthcare providers, nor does the state retain or have the right to control or limit the rights of adults to make their own informed medical decisions.

Personal opinions on the matter of trans youths or adults are just that, personal. They have no merit, standing, or right to subject another individual into personal mores. The state of Texas needs to stop legislating personal opinions and religious beliefs on the lives of other individuals in the state of Texas and as citizen on the United States of America, who are endowed with inalienable rights. Your choosing to tread on the rights of the people.

Back off and mind your own. Leave people alone to live the quality of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness they hope to enjoy. Stop insisting on inflicting this great undue harm on the youth, adults and their families.

Stop making people feel unwelcome. You're making it clear that Texans Friendliness is truly a facade. Stop making families feel like they're in danger just living here.

Grow up. Leave the people alone. Leave trans kids alone. Leave trans adults alone. Leave us all ALONE!

Didn't your mama tell you to mind your own damn business? Do that, it's really easy. Give it a try.

Dawn Bain
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. This would be an inhumane measure to pass.

Clara Turk
Self - Construction Specialist
Bryan, TX

Limiting people’s assess to healthcare is proven to increase death rates. If you are prolife I would expect one to be oppose to any bill that is tied to an increase in death or suicide attempts. I want to keep Texan children safe too but this bill isn’t doing that and I would argue it is doing the opposite. Children are already facing a multitude of challenges in our state please don’t be the one to create another challenge for children to be able to be their authentic selves. We need to come together as Texans to protect children not keep them from being their genuine selves.

Sandra Salazar
self
Harlingen, TX

I support HB 1686

Jessica Morgan
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill and hold a Biblical world view that God created man and women and those that are struggling in this area of gender need mental help and counseling… not gender affirming procedures or help to transition… especially our youth!

Thank you for your time.

Wilfred Foehner
Self, retired
Savannah, TX

I support HB 1686

Jessica Garcia, Mrs
Self, Business Support Analyst
San Antonio, TX

As a mother of two young teenagers I implore you to vote for this bill to ensure the safety of all children and protect them from medical malpractice treatments that will cause them irreversible damage.

Priyanka Shanmugasundaram
Self, Data Scientist
Pflugerville, TX

I am in opposition to this bill. Children and transgender folks are both vulnerable groups that are already required to go through many hoops to get treatment that they need, and this bill is clearly discriminatory against these groups. The number of folks who detransition is around 2%, much less than the percentage of folks who regret having similar, bht not medically necessary procedures (for example - plastic surgery has a 65% regret rate). Children with gender dysphoria face many barriers to get the treatment they desire as it stands. This bill only makes the lives of trans folks, trans children, harder. Treatment related to transitioning IS medically necessary and life saving. Not just in terms of saving kids from suicide, but also in terms of allowing children to live their lives as they imagine it, allowing children to thrive and have autonomy over their own bodies, and preventing children from having to go through the additional trauma of living years without being able to transition.

Roberta Lance, Ms
Myself
Houston, TX

Please vote for this bill

Maia Churchill
Self
Austin, TX

Stop politicizing medical care. The state government has no business legislating decisions of a patient or doctor. Most of the procedures you are fear monger if about aren't even performed on children. This is a complete waste of time and resources. If the state of Texas cares so much about children's lives, where is the legislation around school shootings?

I oppose this bill, and everyone in Texas should, too. It's empty grandstanding, using children as a political weapon, and it's disgusting.

Melinda Beatty
Self
Austin, TX

In wholeheartedly OPPOSE this bill.

Kathleen Ocker
We the People Liberty in Action/Self
Kerrville, TX

I strongly support passage of HB 1686 to protect vulnerable Texas children. Minor children in Texas cannot vote, get a driver license or buy cigarettes or alcohol. They should absolutely be protected
from being given life-altering drugs or surgeries to change their God-given gender. Expert witnesses testified that most children outgrow their "desire" to change their gender by the time they reach adulthood.
Many who took puberty blockers or endured surgery to remove or alter body parts have experienced life-long medical and emotional consequences. No child should be encouraged or coached to change
their gender. Administration of puberty blockers and/or surgeries to "change" one's sex is an extremely lucrative business for providers. Follow the money and protect our children by passing HB 1686 as
quickly as possible. Thank You!

Janna Welch, Dr
Self physician
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this discriminatory bill. Children’s lives depend on it. Leave it to parents and doctors to help decide what is best for individual children.

Gary Lawson
Self
Dallas, TX

I approve of supporting the adoption of this bill into law. Until a child has matured into adulthood, their decisions on life altering matters like transition surgery is suspect and they may change their minds. Their parents may be swayed by undereducated knowledge, a desire to agree with their child's wishes even if they themselves would question the wisdom, so it is important that the state do what it can to protect children from potential life-altering irreversible mistakes. Also, the citizens of Texas have a right to require that our tax dollars not pay for such potentially life-altering mistakes.

Rhonda Foehner
Self, retired
Savannah, TX

I support HB 1686

Nick Hurshman
Self
Austin, TX

TRANSGENDER YOUTH DESERVE MEDICAL CARE AND LOVE AND SUPPORT FROM TAX PAYERS

Carly Banner
Self, paralegal
Austin, TX

This bill does not represent the interests or wishes of Texas. It doesn’t represent me as a queer Texan who was born in Austin and lived here my whole life. It doesn’t represent my vibrant community that has always been here, and has flourished in the face of your every attempt to suppress it. It doesn’t represent my trans loved ones who could have been spared so much pain if they had been able to find acceptance and affirmation as children. I feel sorry for those of you who support this bill. I can’t imagine what a scared, cold, mean existence you must live to be frightened by the idea of children who are different from you finding comfort, affirmation, and acceptance for their true selves. You are supposed to be public servants, not power hungry bigots who take out your fears and prejudices on your constituents instead of solving the vast amount of real problems Texans have. Shame on you.

Michelle Belcher
self
Austin, TX

This will kill Texas children. The trans community already has too much death involved due to the ostracism from society. The care that this is prohibiting from Texas children is proven to reduce suicide by 76%. By prohibiting this life saving care you are dooming trans children to live through the nightmare of the wrong puberty and a life time of mental anguish and that's for the ones who survive. Please reconsider.

Diana Brown
Self
Bastrop, TX

My name is Diana Brown and I've lived in Texas for 60+ years. Im a parent of 3 children and 5 grandchildren I urge you to leave these decisions in the hands of parents and doctors. No one knows a child better than their parents.

Jason Pena
Beyond the masks San Antonio
San ant, TX

I am against the gender/genitalia mutalation of children
They can wait till they are 18 yr old adults to decide if they want to be the "opposite gender"

Kathlyn Waller
self
Boerne, TX

I believe the passing of this bill will severely impact the mental health of trans youth, and that we will see higher suicide rates in the coming months. It is a gateway to further restrictions on the LGBTQ+ community.

I pray for the children this will impact and can only hope people will find it in their hearts to think of the wellbeing of children.

Rebecca Galindo
Childs way
Austin, TX

Equal care for all trans kids

Heaven Smith
Myself and my lovely cat ????
Euless, TX

Stay outta private citizens business. Protect trans kids!

Jana Kazazic
anderson plastic surgery
fort worth, TX

Our state cannot afford the consequences that approving this bill could case. I do not support gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria at any age, especially children. Please hear our cause in JESUS NAME!

Eliza Perez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Hello, my name is Eliza Perez and I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and they deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation. The people will remember whether or not you do the right thing.

Peter Brown
My family
Houston, TX

Please do not pass this bill. It will hurt many kids and it will hurt many families.

Kaitlyn Reyes-James
Self, Nanny
Austin, TX

As someone who has lived in many states, I never thought I would fall in love with a state as much as I have. I feel like I was always Texan, because this state is about community and freedom! But this bill isn't. Its not accepting people for who they are. This bill is controlling, and shaming. Thats not Texan, lets have a Texas we're proud of!

Lisa Railey
Self, communication director
Montgomery, TX

I am writing to urge you and the rest of the House Public Health Committee to report HB 1686 out of committee favorably. Much research exists showing that children's brains are not fully formed until age 25 or 27 (example: https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=141164708). Neuroscientists have published many studies, as well as insurance companies, stating that the prefrontal cortex which manages decision-making is not fully developed until around age 25. Children should wait to make important decisions such as changing their sex until they are adults. Making a decision such as this before their brains are fully developed has led to regret and even suicides. If this bill does not at least get a floor debate and vote, we will have abandoned our responsibilities to all of the children of Texas. Please allow HB 1686 to pass out of committee and receive debate and a vote on the House floor.

Tatiana Houston
self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. This is a blatant violation of human rights, and strips Texan children of their dignity, liberty, and freedom. As a fifth-generation Texan, I am absolutely ashamed of our legislative body for their anti-Texan, anti-American push to pass legislation that hinders our great state and seeks to punish the people therein.

Laura Gatannah
Self, family
Jonestown, TX

I'm getting in right under the wire here, however, I wanted to voice my belief that healthcare is between a patient and their doctor. If that patient is a minor, it is between the minor, their parents, and their doctor. The government has no right and no responsibility to intervene in the care that is in a patient's best interest, even if they disagree with that treatment. This proposed bill would do harm to so many children and so many people with trans identities. This does nothing to protect children and everything to harm them. If you do not know a trans person, or a trans child, then you have no idea how devastating this piece of legislation is. I urge everyone to vote against it.

Clarissa Grindle
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686

Mary Vo
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives and is a decision between a child, their caregiver, and their physician. This bill is discriminatory on the basis of gender and does nothing to protect children. This bill, if passed, will put many transgender people's lives at risk, and it is a waste of public resources.

Lindsey Triglia
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Trans rights are human rights!!

Veeny Revilla
Self
San Antonio, TX

We do not support this

Rachel Byrd
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. I have been a student and worker in the mental health field for the past 4 years and one thing is clear from my experience: These procedures and the social support that comes from having access to them provides very much needed life saving care to these youths. In 2022 "Transgender youth reported significantly increased rates of depression, suicidality, and victimization
compared to their cisgender peers. Notably, in the past year, one in three transgender youth reported
attempting suicide, almost one-third reported being a victim of sexual violence, and more than half reported a
two-week period of depression."

https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/data-on-transgender-youth/

One of my personal friends was kicked out of his house as a teenager because he was trans and while living on the streets he seriously contemplate suicide. It breaks my heart thinkijg about the impact this bill with have if passed. These kids deserve to be protected and supported much better than our state is doing. Please stop trying to elminate trans people, our children deserve better than this.

Stephen Elam, Mr.
Stephen Elam
Katy, TX

Let's get on with doing whatever it takes to protect our children from the pro gender modification groups.

Kelli Condina
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I'm opposed to this bill. Healthcare decisions should be left up to medical providers and parents. Trying to override medical providers' decisions to provide care to their patients is dangerous and an attack on our freedoms.

Ash Romero
Self - College Student
Austin, TX

Access to gender related healthcare has changed my life; I spent the majority of my youth believing I was too young to make my own decisions about transitioning, and that I would be distracting myself. However, as soon as I began hormone treatment and received resources at no cost to myself, every facet of my life made so much more sense and became so much easier to me. I can now get to class and work in a lab without having dysphoria-induced panic attacks, something I was dealing with at 15, with no assistance from adults and no hope of transitioning medically at my own restriction. Had I gotten the help I needed then, I believe I'd be farther along in discovering who I was and what I wanted. Instead, I was experiencing mentally and emotionally crippling amounts of stress due to gender dysphoria that I was told would not be helped by any amount of medical treatment and that I was "too young" to be worried about. I'm only a few months into my journey now, but I've been able to improve so many aspects of my life in my third year in college that I would've benefited from so much earlier. I see myself, I feel like myself, and this confidence extends to talking to classmates and professors, PIs and potential employers; I can spend less time worrying about my dysphoria and isolating myself because of the care I've been receiving, and more time worrying about normal college things. I wish I could've said the same in high school. Trans kids deserve to feel confident and safe and like themselves, and they deserve to experience youth the way they want to without the extra stress of laws places on their bodies. You cannot dictate whether kids are trans or not - we're always gonna be here. By limiting access to gender related health for trans kids, you would be worsening the quality of life of these individuals during a time in life that is already full of so much stress and turbulence where an affirmed self identity is all kids can rely.

Natalie Svacina
--None--
Houston, TX

I do not support this gross and harmful legislation. This directive heavily discriminates against trans youth and prevents adults and healthcare providers from giving young transgender people the accurate and affirmative care they need. This directive could have deadly consequences. In fact, The Trevor Project found that the use of gender-affirming therapies is significantly related to lower rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts among transgender and nonbinary youth. It is our job as a community to protect our neighbors who are members of the LGBTQ+ community — especially youth who are exceedingly vulnerable to rejection and loss of support. Creating safe, welcoming environments for LGTBQ+ youth to be their authentic selves is integral in protecting their futures and creating inclusive communities.

As a public servant, you have a responsibility to provide the LGBTQ+ youth of Texas the same care, access, and support as their straight, cisgender peers. Your constituents implore you to do the right thing to protect trans kids.

Ashley Schwengler
Self
Arlington, TX

I am in support of Bill HB 1686. The development and maturation of the prefrontal cortex of the brain is fully accomplished at the age of 25/26. Research gender modification hormone therapies and the long term effects. Experts state that these types of therapies are irreversible. Girls having healthy breast removed and boys being medically castrated are irreversible. Children and young adults whose brains are not fully developed should not be able to consent to life altering medical decisions. There are laws that enforce age restrictions on drinking, smoking, voting, piercings, driving, and joining the military. It is reasonable and responsible to put age restrictions on irreversible gender medical surgeries.

Alexander Shqwver
Self
Austin, TX

Hi y’all. I’m Alex, and I’m from Wichita Falls. I'm not a transgender person, but I am a gay man. I'm sure you know that when it comes to civil rights and healthcare, there are many gay people who believe in separating the LGB from the T. I want the members of this committee to know that there was a time when I felt that way too. I didn't understand the trans experience then, and even today there are many facets of being transgender that I cannot understand because I haven't experienced them. But now I know that you don't have to understand someone's experience to believe them and respect them.
I started believing trans people when I started listening to them. I started respecting trans people when I realized the spectacular degree of bravery that every trans person exhibits just by getting out of their house in their chosen clothes - just by introducing themselves by their name - just by living the way they know to be true as experts on themselves. Despite all the hate that they knowingly face, they bravely choose authenticity every day.
As an educator, I'm even more inspired when I see children make brave choices. Kids know more about themselves than we give them credit for, and kids should be listened to and believed when they make the simple but brave decision just to be themselves. This simple brave act, just being yourself, is something a lot of grown-ups in this room should take inspiration from as well.
If this bill becomes a law, it won't stop all brave trans kids from receiving LIFE SAVING healthcare. Some families will be forced to leave the state, political refugees from their home, Texas, in the year 2023. I'm a proud Texan to a fault, and this reality just makes me SICK. The reality of loving families leaving their loving communities in this beautiful state just because your primary voters hate them based on children's genitals is shameful. Now is the time for leadership and for you to use your immense power to advocate for our most vulnerable citizens, not victimize them for political gain.
I know beautiful joyful trans people who only deserve to live in peace. Please allow them to do so.

Meghan James
self
Austin, TX

In a report conducted in 2015 by The National Center for Transgender Equality 40% of the roughly 27,000 transgender people surveyed had attempted suicide.
This is almost 9 times more than the average rate.
How much more blood do you want on your hands?
https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf

Sandra Salazar
self
Harlingen, TX

I support HB 1686

Heather Dority
self, massage therapist
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. It is not the State's business to meddle in the medical choices families make to care for their children, unless you want to start banning things like circumcision as child abuse as well. Time would be better spent fixing the state’s broken child welfare system.

Meredith Horning-Rao
Self, Senior Operations Manager
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming care is a private decision between individuals and their doctors and should not be prohibited. The cultural attitudes and political decisions that treat gender nonconforming people as less than drive up suicide rates among transgender people, making access to this care a public health issue that absolutely deserves the use of public money or assistance.

Luz Romero
Self
The woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Ivy Taylor
Self
Amarillo, TX

Please consider the HB 1686. We need your help to protect our Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization. Also, to not use public money or assistance. This advocates entitlement and victim mentality. I support this bill and hope you do what is morally right for the people.

Jake Wilson
Self-CPA
Fort Worth, TX

Please support HB 1686. Thank you to my Representative Stephanie Klick, to my Senator Kelly Hancock, to Dr. Tom Oliverson, to Dr. Donna Campbell, and all the legislators who support HB 1686.

N Salado
Self
El Paso, TX

I ASK for your SUPPORT of HB 1686!

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. Prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Our job as parents, and community members is to PROTECT the next generation. Let them make their own decisions in adulthood! While minors, they are under our care!! #DONOHARM!! PLEASE!

Ashley Blentlinger
Myself
Corpus Christi, TX

My name is Ashley. I am writing this testimony to speak out against HP1686. I am an educator and the mother of two daughters, and one son for all of my life, I would make trips to the capital until pride. You see, my father was an avid Republican, who believed in family values and he served as a member of this house and the 67th legislature in 1981. my toddler picture actually hangs on a wall in the capital building. As much as my father loved his family, and as much as you all love, your families, I love mine as I mentioned, I have two daughters and a son, but all three of my children were assigned female at birth. We have been on a journey, and like any life journey you learn, grow and see from a different perspective when my son was in seventh grade, we started noticing changes. Honestly, the signs were always there, but you know what they say about hindsight to make a long story a little bit shorter he was first diagnosed with ADHD, then depression and anxiety by freshman year. His social anxiety was so extreme he could barely leave the house. He became paranoid that people were watching him and following him little did we know all of this stemmed from how he was feeling in his own body one evening after a frantic call from one of his friends we rushed home to find that he was in the middle of attempting to take his life, at that time he was still living as she. We rushed home and found him in that attempt and we are so grateful that his friend contacted us to notify us of what he knew my son was going to do. He was done feeling like he didn't belong don't feeling like he was in the wrong Bonnie and down feeling ashamed of who he was he begged for help. He said if he had to live like this, he wouldn't be here anymore. He spent a week at a mental health facility he saw psychiatrist therapist, and was on an uncountable amount of indications that had serious side effects. They made him angry he couldn't stay awake at school. He gained weight and he was like a zombie we scraped by through high school, barely he didn't walk the stage of graduation, and at that time he still has not come out to us and so I didn't really know why, but I did have a very good idea after he graduated he officially came out and he was excepted by his family with love and support. He started his transition about two years ago after graduation and guess what? He is happy and thriving. He is on zero medication. He goes to college has a full-time job and it is in a wonderful relationship all because he's able to live as his authentic self but like many of us here he is scared. He doesn't understand why people are after him. He's almost 21 years old. He's living a great life. He just wants to live in peace just like every other person who has testified against this bill. If I had had the knowledge and the foresight when he was a minor, I absolutely would've sat out, gender, affirming care, such as puberty, blockers. Please don't take away Parent rights oppose HB 1686.

Darlene Schmidt, Dr
Self
San Marcos, TX

I am opposed to spending public money on these procedures for gender transitioning of any kind.

Jory Jolivet
Self, nonprofit fundraiser
Austin, TX

Hello,
My name is Jory Bowers Jolivet. I live in Austin, and I married my husband, a born-and-bred Austinite, here in our beautiful city last May. I grew up in Minneapolis, and lived in the Pacific Northwest for ten years before moving here, to be with my now-husband. I have come to love the warmth here, both in terms of the weather, and the genuine kindness of my neighbors. Texans value community, and we take care of each other. I lived here during winter storm Uri, and I saw my community come together to make sure that we all had what we needed during that time of crisis. It's a beautiful thing.
This bill goes against those values. I believe that those of you who support this bill are well-intentioned, but you have bad information. You may think that transgender people are deviant, or unwell. I'm here to tell you that that is not the case. I have known and loved trans people for a long, long time. One of my best friends in high school transitioned during that time, and he is a happy, healthy adult, because his parents supported him during that time. Conversely, my sister is also trans. And while my parents loved her, they had created an environment in which she didn't feel like she could be trans. She struggled in school, in life and in her relationship with God. She tried to ignore her true feelings about her identity. She dropped out of high school.
After many years of trying to be the boy, and then the man, that she was told she was supposed to be, she finally gave up a few years ago. She embraced the identity that she had known was hers for decades, and now she's happier and healthier than she's ever been. I felt that I had lost her during those long years of depression, anxiety, and trying to fix the problem with drugs or with prayer. Living as an out trans woman has saved her life, and I have my beloved sibling back.
I'm sure many other testimonies have told you the statistics about how trans youth's mental health suffers greatly when they're not allowed to live their true identities, often resulting in suicide. Passing this bill would kill beautiful Texan children. And for those who don't take such extreme measures, they will suffer. Please do not make the choice to enact such suffering on our children. Please, instead, reach out and get to know some trans people. Learn from them what their experiences are like. They are simply people just like you, who have hopes and dreams, beloved families, pets, and hobbies.
Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.
-Jory Bowers Jolivet

Bud and Shirley Schmidt
ourselves
Burkburnett, TX

We support HB 1686

Jennifer Hollander
Self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Parents and physicians - not politicians - are the right people to make decisions about their children’s lives and health. Trans rights are human rights. Texas politicians need to stay out of the lives of trans children and focus on lifting Texas children out of poverty as well as reforming our foster care system and protect children who suffer real abuse at the hands of their parents.

Jill Glover
Republican Party of Texas
Double Oak, TX

Thank you committee members and Dr. Oliverson for this bill. RPT state delegates selected Banning Gender Modification of Children as our third highest ranked Legislative Priority for the second legislative session in a row, Additionally, 93% of March 2022 Republican primary voters agree these abusive medical practices should be banned on minors.
Since 1988, I have been licensed as a professional counselor in Texas, and until retiring some years ago I worked in a variety of treatment settings including out patient and adolescent in-patient. Very rarely (and I don't remember an in-patient case of this) a child presented with what we then referred to as gender identity disorder, and mental health practitioners knew that the remedy to this problem was simply time..children outgrew this confusion with a little encouragement and a little parenting instruction. Many more children did not seed counseling for what everyone knew then was normal behavior, deviations from the standard stereotype of male or female, such as when little girls behave as "tomboys."

Fast forward to the last few years, and now every child is targeted online, in the educational system, and in our culture by politicized institutions and treatment providers that find billions of dollars in cross-sex hormones, puberty blockers, and surgeries to remove healthy body parts in vulnerable children and young adults.

Anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation is off the charts now in young people who are confused about who they are. A Barna study in 2021 indicated nearly 40% of Gen Z's self identify as LGBTQ. Clearly since the advent of increased online and social media use in the past 10 years, we are seeing generation experiencing unprecedented struggle with normal identity development. We must reverse this course by restoring sanity. We must stop the cultural onslaught against children, including a disproportionate number of those with an autism diagnosis and those who are female.

We must provide the real gender affirming care...which is to prohibit these barbaric medical practices and help children align their minds with the sex their bodies inform them they are, male or female. Now is the time to stop this before it's too late and we have allowed Texas children to be rendered sterile and unable to experience normal sexual function.

David Savage
self
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686!

R Odell
Myself
Waxahachie, TX

I support hb1686

Gareth Prqti
Trantexas
Austin, TX

Fuck that support trans people health care bastards

Megan Sparks
Self
Austin, TX

Opposed

Kirstyn Litchfield
Self - business owner
Austin, TX

Strongly opposed

Laura Hellinger
self
Round Rock, TX

Gender-affirming healthcare is literally life saving healthcare that has been thoroughly proven to severely reduce suicide rates among our youth, even despite all of the restrictions and precautions that medical professionals ALREADY practice out of professional, informed discretion and patient safety. Allowing the government to step in to patients' private medical decisions and information in this instance will only lead to more dead kids, not more gender-conforming kids, and will set a precedent for state and/or federal government across the nation to step in on any and all manner of other medical care.

Valerie McGilvrey
Self
Spring, TX

I demand that Texans are allowed to vote to exit the Union. We need desperately to get away from the insanity of the United States Government. LET US VOTE!

MARSHA LAW
Self
DALLAS, TX

I don't believe that "children" have matured enough before their brain is fully developed to engage in such a radical change to their bodies. The hormones necessary will be a lifetime commitment that can likely cause other unwarranted and unnecessary hardships.

Madelynn Moore
Self
Austin, TX

Good evening,
I am writing as a member of the LGBTQ community and a fervent supporter of the trans people in my life. HB 1686 is going to result in a massive mental health crisis among LGBTQ youth, as it is a violation of the 14th amendment and attacks specific individuals based on their identity alone. Gender affirming healthcare is suicide prevention, and prohibiting it is extremely dangerous. Not only will trans youth be even more susceptible to suicidal ideation than they already are, but their peers will suffer alongside them as they watch their loved ones face utter dehumanization. Children who lose people to suicide become significantly more likely to take their own life, and growing up with your support system constantly undergoing hate will result in life-long struggles. I have personally experienced the loss of someone younger than me within the past year, and my grief is debilitating at times. My trans loved ones are now contemplating their livelihoods because of bills like this one and the future it implies for trans children who may not grow up. I cannot lose any more people to suicide, and your family members/children/coworkers shouldn't have to experience this loss either. Healthcare providers and doctors will lose jobs and deny children care simply because of their identity. Vote no on HB 1686 and save lives.

mary kurth, mrs
self
Haslet, TX

I support house bill 1686 to ban transgender surgery on children

Paige Rodges
-- please select a prefix --
BEDFORD, TX

I support HB 1686. Despite recent tragedies, just people need to take just action to protect the vulnerable. Violence aimed at those who do is an act of terrorism. Please don't let "activists" sway you away from justice. Do the right thing.

Marcela Carrillo
Self
El Paso, TX

I support HB1686

Amy Patek
Self
El Paso, TX

I support HB 1686

Nelson McKeown, Ms
Myself
Austin, TX

Trans kids and adolescents deserve healthcare and the law should not restrict that. My friends in the trans community deserve rights, respect and health.

Elijah Taylor
self
Little Elm, TX

For anyone who does research on peer reviewed studies (basically meaning looked at by multiple parties before publishing), it is extremely beneficial to provide transgender youth with proper medical care regarding gender identity. Statistically leads to way lower rates of suicide, to less than a quarter of the original number. I don’t think there are any good alternatives to letting trans youth get the medical care that they statistically need to, if not at least live happily, survive.

Rachel Whalen
Self - sahm
Austin, TX

Do not pass this bill! Please let families and doctors decide what is best for their children and patients. Let’s keep our kids safe by making sure they have the care they need. You don’t have to fully understand a person to still treat them with dignity and respect. Everyone deserves to safety and love!

Veronica Esparza
Self
El Paso, TX

I support HB 1686

Carla Hansbro
Self
Humble, TX

I support this bill 100%

Sonya Martin
Household
New Branfels, TX

This transition process should be stopped

Hector Esparza
Self
El Paso, TX

I support HB 1686

Julie Hernandez
self homeschool mom
El Paso, TX

I support HB 1686

Rebecca Watts
Self
Magnolia, TX

I support HB 1686.

Mary Christensen
self
San Antonio, TX

As a constituent, I am appalled that representatives of the "Freedom" State would prevent the bodily freedom of gender minority youth. This bill is patronizing, oppressing, stigmatizing, and harming gender minority youth and their affirming caregivers. The US medical community is in strong support of providing gender affirming care for youth (https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Latest_News/AACAP_Statement_Responding_to_Efforts-to_ban_Evidence-Based_Care_for_Transgender_and_Gender_Diverse.aspx).
And current research shows that bills like HB 1686 harm the mental health and wellbeing of gender minority youth (https://www.thetrevorproject.org/blog/new-poll-emphasizes-negative-impacts-of-anti-lgbtq-policies-on-lgbtq-youth/). It seems that Texas Representative Oliverson is anti-science, anti-bodily autonomy, and anti-freedom. That is not a state where I want to live. That is not a state that I am proud to call home.

Jacob Dixon
Self
Plano, TX

I will always stand with my trans friends. They are Texas residents and DESERVE to be given equal human rights. Gender-affirming care is PROVEN to be LIFE SAVING!!! I am not trans myself, but the joy my trans friends give and receive is made more possible because they get to be themselves!!! They don’t feel like they’re pretending to be someone they are not. I LOVE my trans friends exactly as they are! That’s a lesson I learned from my parents, but also from Sunday school at my Methodist church growing up, and also from my teachers and mentors and guidance counselors. I am constantly appalled by how our government does not show compassion to my trans friends the way it does to me as a straight white male. My trans friends deserve the same treatment as everyone. Do NOT pass this bill. PROTECT our trans kids, and protect access to gender affirming care! IT IS PROVEN TO SAVE LIVES IF YOU LET TRANS KIDS AND TRANS ADULTS BE THEMSELVES!!!! To my trans friends, I love you and see you for who you are and will always support you. For my government, it’s time you finally practice what you preach. Love your neighbor. Save lives.

Laura Little
Miles
Miles, TX

I agree with this bill, children SHOULD NOT have gender reassignment , no one under 21 , PERIOD

D R Hoplins
Self
Dallas, TX

Please keep government agencies out of medical decisions for children.

Elizabeth Haseltine
Self
McKinney, TX

I would like to respectfully request that you help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments by passing HB 1686. There is no doubt that those who believe that transitioning/reassigning their gender are hurting, but the decision to mutilate their bodies or use puberty blockers is not the answer. The effects are life long detrimental and they are far too young to even be making these decisions. For the wellbeing of our children, please pass HB 1686. Thank you!

Angela Loyd
self
Austin, TX

This is a gross misuse of governmental power in personal health decisions. I object in the most profound manner and this is an assault on my human rights and my freedom. Keep your laws out of personal decisions.

Barrett Brown
self-orthopedic surgeon
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686.

Best regards,

Barrett S. Brown, MD

Frances McAnear
Self. Administrative Professional
Houston, TX

Support this bill unequivocally for the protection of children’s health and safety!

Trina Breaux, Dr.
Self- Veterinarian
Pflugerville, TX

I support HB 1686.

Julie Smith
self
Austin, TX

Do not pass this bill. This is extremely harmful to so many! Let parents do the parenting!!! Not government.

Mahaily Rogers
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that would ban gender affirming care for minors. I believe that it is important to protect the rights of parents to make decisions about their children's healthcare and to uphold individual freedom and personal responsibility.

Banning gender affirming care would be a direct violation of these conservative values. Parents should have the right to seek the medical care that they believe is in the best interest of their child, including gender affirming care. It is not the government's place to interfere in such a personal and private matter.

Furthermore, denying gender affirming care to minors could have serious negative consequences for their mental and physical health. Research has shown that transgender youth who receive gender affirming care have better mental health outcomes and a lower risk of suicide compared to those who do not receive such care. Banning gender affirming care could put the lives of these vulnerable youth at risk.

We should be promoting individual freedom and personal responsibility. Banning gender affirming care would be an infringement on these values and would do more harm than good. I urge you to reconsider this proposed bill and instead focus on policies that promote individual liberty and parental rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mahaily Rogers

John Martin
Self
Godley, TX

Trans children deserve the same kindness, love, and safety that we assure every cis child. If you don't support that fact, you do not care about children.

Jennifer Howell
Self
EL PASO, TX

Children means under 18 years of age.
Children means they have not matured enough to make this kind of decision about their future.
The state of Texas has no business funding such a disgraceful act of violation of children in our state.
VOTE NO ON THIS ABOMINATION!!

Erin Tague
Self - SaaS Project Manager
EL PASO, TX

I support this bill. I say again, I am FOR this bill.
No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children.
#DoNoHarm

Amanda Jenkins
Myself
Houston, TX

For this bill to protect our nation’s children from these surgeries

Chloe Cook
Self, non-profit administrator
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. It is murderous, pointless, cruel, and it is overreach. This legislative body has no business making decisions in medical care, and to do so with the express intent of harming and disenfranchising certain children is beyond reproach.

Kate Ginsberg
Self/Founder and CEO of Queen of To Do LLC
Austin, TX

Trans children and adults in ALL stages of their transitions deserve to have support, including medical treatments that align with their self-professed gender WITHOUT intervention by politicians and the government. I support all my friends, family, employees, and loved ones who are currently making medical decisions that allow them to live as their most authentic selves. Doctors and parents should NOT fear supporting their patients and children in pursuing medical treatments to transition to their authentic gender. Most transition medical treatments (such as hormone treatments) ARE reversible and result in better outcomes for the trans individuals, including decreased suicide/self-harm rates, decreased dysphoria, and better mental health overall. Insurance companies, including medicare/medicaid SHOULD absolutely cover these procedures and treatments as part of holistic health care.

Janna Hopkins, Director
Self
Dallas, TX

Hi, my name is Janna Hopkins and I have been in Texas my entire life. I'm a parent of 3 children and I urge you to leave these decisions in the hands of parents and doctors. Parents are the ones who know what their children need.* Please vote against bill 1686. People should be allowed to choose how they live their lives and not have a dictated because other people don't agree with their choices. Legally, anyone who is choosing a different lifestyle is not breaking the law. I urge you to remember that a lot of kids like this have problems already and they deserve support. The suicide rate for children And young adults who are transgender or gay is higher than it needs to be. Please remember this and help them.

Katherine Foley
self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1686. Gender-affirming care is life-saving for many trans youth and is a private matter to be settled by individuals, their families, and their doctors. Texas needs to STAY OUT of peoples' decisions about their own medical care!

River Ambrose
Self/ Self employed
Tyler, TX

Transgender children deserve rights to their own body

Tammy Ward
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686.

Patricia Vandehey
Self, retired
Kilgore, TX

PEDIATRIC GENDER MODIFICATION.....I support for HB1686 which BANS pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas.
A child cannot legally get a tattoo until they are 18 years old let alone decide they can change their gender. These children need mental evaluation, not physical bodily changes!

Lora Vogelsang
Individual
Mckinney, TX

I oppose children having a right to make changes to their body through surgery and medication to change their gender. I oppose keeping parents uninformed of children's gender exploration in the schools. Please protect our children in the state of TX.

Thad Zak
Self
Dallas, TX

I am for this bill and support it 100%. We need to protect our children.

Jennifer Smith
self
Cedar Park, TX

NO public money or public assistance shall be used for these damaging surgeries!! Protect the children of Texas!!!

Lijia Gan
Self
Rockwall, TX

For HB 1686

Jesse Arriaga
Self
Somerset, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. God does not make mistakes. You're either born a boy or a girl.

Christine Tostado
Self - Financial Manager
Denton, TX

I am for this bill to pass. May God bless and save our children. Thank you.

Olivia Arriaga
Self
SOMERSET, TX

FOR-I Support HB 1686.

KangBin Wang
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill.

Keegan Goethals
Self
Austin, TX

This bill undermines the privacy of children's private parts and sexual make-up. It explicitly takes interest in their sex characteristics and aims to ban healthcare on that interest alone.
I'm appalled that the committee is seriously considering supporting forced control of kids' sex characteristics. Their sexual make-up is their own business and the business of their parents and doctors, not adult strangers such as the committee members.
Gender affirming care saved my own life as an adolescent. I couldn't imagine myself growing up. After transitioning, I feel great to have my body and my life. Now, I have the chance to grow old now, and I'd really like to.
The massive rise of anti-trans, such as this one, has taken a massive toll on me and my community. We're antagonized and hated as ever. It's harder for me to go out in public. It's hard for me to imagine growing old, again, if I can only do it in a nation that hates who I intrinsically am.
I'm disgusted that this committee may knowingly deny children their honest pursuit of happiness.
You have to take your legislative hands off of these kids' bodies.
Do not let this bill leave the committee.

Dina Wolff
Individual
Murphy, TX

I oppose HB 1686

Carrie Perry, Mrs
Self
Bulverde, TX

I support this bill! No child is born in the wrong body! Stop mutilating our children! Do no harm!!

Jiafeng Liu
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686 strongly!

Meg Wingard
Self- childcare worker
Big Sandy, TX

FOR

Kyle Sims
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please stop all gender mutilation surgeries on children

Heidi Zurlinden
Myself
McKinney, TX

For

Alton Rocker
Self - Operations Manager for DGV Enterprises Inc.
LINDALE, TX

I am FOR HB1686. Gender modification of minors should be banned. It is absolutely ludicrous that this type of mutilation could be done on minor children. Use some common sense. Just because a majority of people think something should be done does not make right. Let children be children, they can decide for themselves when they are old enough to even understand all the implications of such a life-altering surgery.

Hailee Harris, R.Ph.
Austin Parents of Rapid Onsent Gender Dysphoric Kids
Austin, TX

To the Texas House of Representatives, Committee on Public Health

Hi my name is Hailee Harris. I'm speaking in favor of HB 1686. I'm a pharmacist and my adult child is transgender.

In Texas a parent can't consent for a tattoo for a minor and tattoos can be lasered off.

You have to be 21 years old to buy alcohol and you could be an alcoholic for 5-6 years and quit, and most of the damaging effects from alcohol can be reversed.

In 2019 Texas raised the legal age to buy cigarettes to 21 years old and someone could smoke for 5-6 years and quit, and most of the damaging effects from cigarettes can be reversed.

But the damage done by cross-sex hormones and puberty blockers are irreversible. These are being used off label at high doses and people of all ages are guinea pigs for the profit of drug manufacturers.

Gender clinics affirm the child's delusion that they were born in the wrong body. Therapists have been told to not do conversion therapy, so they just affirm the child's self diagnosis. But isn't that conversion therapy? Without medical intervention most of the gender confused kids will grow up to accept their bodies and often realize they're same sex attracted. Gender clinics often start by prescribing puberty blockers or cross sex hormones to kids who have never even kissed anyone, making puberty a disease that needs eradicated. This makes them a life long patient. As soon as they turn 18 years old, the surgeons pounce on them to chop off healthy body parts for a mental health issue. Would you allow an anorexic a gastric bypass surgery or diet pills? No, you would use psychological therapy to get to the root of the problem and help them accept their bodies. Often the root of gender dysphoria is sexual trauma, autism, ADHD, bipolar disorder, personality disorders like borderline and histrionic with comorbidities depression and anxiety.

I facilitate the Austin Parents of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoric (ROGD) Kids and four years ago we had 4-5 kids represented. Now we have 31, with 4 in middle school, 16 in high school and 11 college aged, a third of these are male and almost all are caucasian. These are the first generations of kids to be influenced by social media. The opposition to this bill would like you to think that there is no such thing as a social contagion. My parents have see what the COVID lockdown did to their kids with the increased screen time and time on social media.
Parents in my group won't come testify because they are trying to maintain relationships with their gender confused kids. The opposition seems to think agreeing with their child's self diagnosis is good parenting. Maybe they let their kids eat donuts everyday for breakfast too.

The reddit sub stack "Detrans" has grown to over 45,000!
This is the canary in the coal mine!

We have all been minors, but minors have never been 30, 40, etc.

No parent has the right to sterile their children.

Hailee Harris, R.Ph.
2001 Karen Ave
Austin, TX 78757
512-627-7583

Valarie Brown, Mrs
self
Hooks, TX

These procedures seem to be child abuse! Children cannot vote, join the military, purchase alcohol, etc.! They role play to learn about life (like pretending to be spiderman)! To say a child is mentally capable of choosing a medical procedure that they could in no way understand or research that is not reversible is not just ludicrous but, criminal! It destroys any chance to become a parent when the reach adulthood if they so choose or decide it was childhood fantasy role playing & not a true knowledgable understanding of their role, body, or life! Anyone participating or allowing in this is/are a party to this child abuse & should be also held accountable for it! Children depend on adults for protection & to allow medical mutilation of children is/are crimes against them & humanity! I beg you to not only consider these atrocities but, the future issues these could cause. Mental instability & trauma that can and does cause not only suicidal thoughts but, opens up some to want to seek revenge on those who perpetrated the abuse &/or who allow it while not providing protection! Lawsuits of immeasurable amounts because of loss of reproductive capability & PTSD brought on by this. Could it also be compared to nazi doctor's experiments! This must be considered as the nuremberg trails even held the press as guilty! It therefore stands that courts could rule in favor of a plaintiff even holding government officials guilty of these atrocities that could & should have been prevented to protect the most vulnerable of all … the children. I beg you all to consider your part in this child abuse should you not vote to protect our children who hold your future in their hands as you age & they become the adults of our future! Raise a child up in the way you wish them to go! Texas must lead the nation in the facts! As adults their decisions to change their gender or not would be a more responsible life changing decision! Even then such a decision should not be taken lightly. At least six months of counseling and six months of research along with side effects of during and after the surgery should be required of anybody under the age of 25. You wouldn't give a two or a five year old the keys to a car and say it's their decision if they want to drive it is absurd to give them the ability to make a decision that is life altering and irreversible! If you failed to protect the children you are as guilty as those committing the abuse to those children! And no parent should have the right to transition their child because the child's rights come before the parents or any adult around the child & if they didn't we would have no need for child protective services! Any adult partaking of this child abuse should immediately face charges of 25 years in prison which is just a drop in the bucket of water compared to the lifetime of harm that it could cause these children! I beg you to weigh all of the facts and to really consider the future fall out that could come about! Ty??

Mitchell Wu
Self
Plano, TX

I support this bill as it stops the gender change. God created man and women,and purposely make them different. Crossing the line of gender is insane and inhuman, and it is detrimental to human body and create marks that are not reversible. The gender change does not only hurts the health, but also create a big problem to parents when their kids are misguidedly led to perform gender change operation.

Pass this bill and stop gender change.

Sarah Garcia
Christian community
Cedar Park, TX

Compassion is needed for those who have gender dysphori, medical and psychiatric help should be afforded to them.. a child is given parents to help guide and develope their minds so they can make sound judgements in adulthood.. children are ill equipped to make such judgements.. Let us be responsible adults protecting the well being of our children with good councel, wisdom to navigate their feelings and an appreciation for the marvelous being they were intentionally created to be. Loving self is learning that each individual is precious and their identity includes their intended gender determined by assigned DNA. A place of leadership decisions should not be granted to those who do not have a grasp on reality. This does not secure sound thinking for the next generation but indeed threatens not only their sanity but the very fabric of society

Elissa Harrell, Mrs
Self, self-employed consultant
Hollywood Park, TX

Support this bill! No child is born in the wrong body. My nephew has been irreparably harmed by adults who should have been protecting him. #donoharm

Tim Hill, Business Analyst
Self
Plano, TX

I am FOR this bill. The government should not support any sort of gender modification to children whether physical or emotional.

Joan Zhang
Trinity Chinese Church
Dallas, TX

I support HB1686.

rebecca Hoke
Self
Anna, TX

For 1686

Li Zhao
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Sarah Burgess
Self - operations manager
Galveston, TX

I am writing to you today to strongly oppose HB 1686. I oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on their gender identity. Transgender people are vital to the makeup of our great state of Texas, and they deserve the same freedoms to exist and live their life in liberty and happiness.

Furthermore, medical professionals with deep and extensive knowledge of how harmful a policy like this would be have spoken up to oppose the bill. These groups to my knowledge include: Texas Pediatric Society and Texas Psychological Association, as well as on a national level of opposition from American Medical Association and American Psychiatric Association support providing trans people with social support and healthcare treatments that affirm their identity.

I urge you to stand against and oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Burgess

Victoria Rowe
self, homemaker
Frisco, TX

I am submitting comment to strongly oppose HB 1686. | strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Nancy Cunningham, Ms
Self (retired)
Red Oak, TX

I have an adult daughter that came out as “trans” , left her husband and “married “ a woman. I have prayed for years that she realizes she is a woman and embrace it. She has dysphoria which by definition means confusion. Don’t let anyone mutilate a child that is confused to appease the woke agenda to destroy the family.

Lisa Earnest, Ms.
Self retired
San Antonio, TX

I support this

Alice Mouch
Self
McKinney, TX

I oppose HB 1686. My child (15) is transgender and will not be able to receive the care they need if this bill is passed. Vote no!!

Fangwei Zhang
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686

Rachel Gonzales
self
Frisco, TX

I am FOR this bill. Please do not allow minors and children to make life-altering decisions regarding gender ideologies. NO public money or public assistance should be used to provide procedures or treatments for gender concerns.

Jo Moring
Self
Somerset, TX

I support this bill and want my representatives to support it also. Protect minors!

Jennifer Perkins, Dr.
Self, teacher, mother
Anna, TX

FOR

Carol Clowes
Myself and any family with Transgender child
McKinney, TX

Bill making gender affirming care illegal

Lisa Healy
Self
Midlothian, TX

I am commenting in favor of this bill. We must protect Texas children. Our children are under attack from indoctrination in government schools to body mutilation. Puberty blockers and gender mutilation is diabolical and since the medical professionals will not police themselves the state has to.

Echo Yin
self
Plano, TX

I FULLY SUPPORT HB1686

Izza Andrade
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for the bill

Kathryn McWhorter
Self
Carrollton, TX

I'm against gender reassignment of children. Also I do not support the use of public assistance to provide any treatments or procedures.

Shelly Jeansonne
Self/Homemaker
Hockley, TX

I can't even believe we are having to take a stand against mutating children. Children's development should not be at the hand of government, medical professionals, education systems,demonic deities or any mentally unstable guardian. Bring Health Education back to the TRUTH. Healthy development comes with living in full dependency of God, our Creator. Before creation He knew us and formed us in His Image. Our world is facing a disturbing amount of mentally & gender confused individuals because they are living their lives independent from God. The result is devastating humanities original intent to live in freedom from the enemies snare.

Shawn Purcell
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR

Linda Dawson
Self
Granbury, TX

The state does NOT need to support public funding for this!!!

Tory Morris
Self; public school administrator
Austin, TX

I am representing myself in strong opposition to this bill. I was raised in an evangelical, Republican home in the DFW suburbs; my mom comes from a military family and my dad comes from a law enforcement family.

We've heard a lot of testimony in favor of this bill citing claims that gender affirming care reduces rates of completed suicide in trans youth, but does not necessarily reduce thoughts of suicide in trans youth. It frightens me that this committee, and the expert witnesses it called to testify, seem to think this is a good enough outcome for Texas children. This indicates to me that in addition to allowing parents to decide when, whether, and how their children receive access to gender affirming healthcare, this committee needs to also be committed to going further and investing in research and support to improve the quality of life and mental health outcomes of this vulnerable population.

Over the span of six years growing up, I lost three friends to suicide. These friends were not only classmates, we also belonged to the same congregation and church youth groups. One of them was a devoted worship band leader and Sunday school teacher. Losing these young people scarred our community and deprived Texas of what could have been vibrant, contributing members of society.

I now work in public education and in addition to lockdown trainings and active shooter drills, I am also required to participate in trainings on identifying and responding to suicidal students. I already know from talking to and learning from trans adults - who faced incredible difficulty in growing up as closeted trans children - that identifying as LGBTQ+ is a risk factor for suicidality - and every year I have to learn this again through mandated trainings. I know how to respond to these students, and I wish I didn't have to be vigilant about this.

We heard a lot of testimony from adults who began their transition in late adolescence or early adulthood, then had regrets and made the decision to detransition. In their own words, they came to this conclusion suddenly during the 17-21 years old age range, and they can cite specific traumas that led to their initial gender dysphoria. It is incredibly clear to me from listening to testimony from noon til midnight that these unfortunate situations are incredibly rare and incredibly different from what the majority of trans Texas youth are experiencing - a deep and persistent sense of being in the wrong body before they even knew there was a word for it, before knowing there are other people like them.

I implore you to vote no on this bill - on behalf of the families who will be forced to move out of state to receive care, on behalf of the families without the means to move, on behalf of the parents who know their children better than anyone else, and on behalf of those of us who are not trans but care deeply about this population telling us they are hurting.

Thank you for your time.

Joseph Cerquitella
Allied Universal Security Services
McKinney, TX

This is not a hard decision is it? The key word here is "children". Why this is even a question is shocking and sad. Adults can make such calls, children can not. Do the right thing Support this bill, your vote will be remembered for eternity.

Lon Wimberley
Self
Granbury, TX

For/support the bill.
No child is born the wrong gender.
God doesn't make mistakes.

Marty Sutton-Garner
Texas Citizen
McKinney, TX

These types of surgery’s should not be allowed until 21 years of age or older and on at their own cost.

Ren Morris, Esq.
Self
Austin, TX

I'm Ren Morris (attorney) and I oppose HB1686

First, the bill is not concerned not with the types of treatments to which children are subjected, but the reasons for that treatment. The bill prohibits only procedures intended “to transition a child’s biological sex."

No one batted an eye putting me on hormonal birth control to treat severe menstrual cramps and hormonal depression at age 13. However, had I been assigned male at birth, this bill would prohibit prescribing similar hormones to treat depression and suicidality. I.E., the defining factor in the legality of my medical care would be whether my gender identity sufficiently conforms to stereotypes of my assigned sex at birth. SCOTUS has already acknowledged this as sex discrimination: "[T]ake an employer who fires a transgender person who was identified as a male at birth but who now identifies as a female. If the employer retains an otherwise identical employee who was assigned female at birth, the employer intentionally penalizes a person identified as male at birth for traits or actions that it tolerates in an employee identified as female at birth."

By prohibiting exclusively treatments “intended to transition a child’s biological sex,” this bill creates classifications on the basis of sex and is subject to heightened constitutional scrutiny per the U.S. Supreme Court’s holding in Craig v. Boren. This bill could never survive such review.
• It does not define “biological sex,” but assumes it is determined by “the child’s sex organs, chromosomes, and endogenous profiles”—yet it does not define any of these terms.
• It doesn’t tell you what sex organs or chromosomes correspond to which sex category, nor does is “endogenous profiles” defined, despite the exceedingly broad definition of “endogenous,” meaning “caused by factors inside the organism."
• Nevertheless, the bill assumes that some combination of these completely undefined features come together to sort a child into one distinct sex category—it just can’t define those categories or any features of those categories.

Yet, despite being unable to define what it is we are even legislating about, this bill threatens to deprive trans children and their families of life and liberty in the form of access to medical care, and physicians of property in the form of their medical licenses. It is incredibly telling that supporters of this bill quibble over whether affirming care decreases COMPLETED suicides, while openly acknowledging such care demonstrably reduces suicidal ideation. For whatever reason--transphobia--such supporters fine leaving children in such severe emotional distress that they constantly fantasize of death.

To anyone with legal knowledge, such a bill should present immense concern from a due process perspective. I implore you to vote no on this abominable bill.

TINA CLARKE
SELF
LUFKIN, TX

Minor children do not have the thoughts to process what these types of treatments would do to them or how they would affect them for the rest of their lives. The parents should have enough sense to know this and not let the children make these decisions or let anyone coerce them into it. Children need to be allowed to be children.

Alisa Albers
Texas resident
Mckinney, TX

In favor.
Please stop the mutilation of our children and protect them from harm.

Sonya Hesseltine
Self
Sinton, TX

This is wrong. People of the Islamic faith did not have to obtain Obamacqre because it was against their region. People, taxpayers, who KNOW that medical transgender treatment is against their religious beliefs will not pay for this destruction and abomination to God against an innocent child.

Heather Mcelhannon
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

Removing access to transgender youth is barbaric. Everyone has the right to access any medical care that they see fit for themselves and their children. This is a direct violation of basic human rights. Transgender individuals are human just like the rest of us. They deserve the right to care, the right to live freely, the right to survive without ridicule, depression, anxiety, and everything else that goes along with not being free. To strip their rights away to access medical care is equivalent to stripping your rights away to access the hormonal medication for your wife that has ovarian cancer, or the viagra you picked up to live a "normal life". Texans didn't want mandatory vaccinations for covid because that was encroaching on medical freedoms, yet this bill would strip SO MANY of their medical freedom for absolutely no reason other than to control a population that you don't understand. Trans kids deserve love. Trans kids deserve to be free. Trans kids belong.

David LeNeveu
Self
McKinney, TX

I respectfully am against HB 1686 in its entirety. Thank you.

Brian Kramer
Self
Dallas, TX

Any bill which prevents the destruction of the human personality and prevents mutilation of children should be supported by every sane human being. I support this bill.

Robert Buker
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this bill. It does need to be amended to say no children unless they are born with both parts. I support this bill regardless.

Alisa Miller
Self/Content Lead
San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it is dangerous and risks the lives of trans children. It goes against solid medical standard of care. It takes away the rights of parents. And it limits physicians who have sworn to do no harm. This is not a bill in the best interest of the state of Texas and its people.

John Moring
Self
Floresville, TX

I support this bill to prevent trans gender medical procedures for minor children

Daihao Tang, Ms.
Self
Garland, TX

Please do not use public money to do it. Period! I am a taxpayer. God will never make any mistakes! Thank you!

Don Smith
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Leveraging public funds for a private, personal decision is a misappropriation of public money and taxpayer trust

Sonya Hesseltine
Self
Sinton, TX

This is WRONG. People of the Islamic religion did not have to secure Obamacare because it was against their religion, yet they qualify for Public Healthcare Assistance at the expense of the taxpayers. Taxpayers who believe that childhood transgender medical treatment is against their religious beliefs will not pay for this abuse and destruction of an innocent child.

Lilly Anderson
Self
Allen, TX

FOR this bill

Mary Huls
Self
De Kalb, TX

I support the ban on using public funds for any gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria treatments for children. Adults may make their choice, but children must be allowed to be a child and make these life altering decisions once they have become an adult.

Baowen Li
UTD
Allen, TX

I support prohibition of procedures and treatment for gender transition, disorders, reassignment on children

Stephani Bercu
Myself
Leander, TX

Hello, my name is Stephani B and I am opposed to HB 1686 and any bill which allows the state government to decide which health services are available to individuals.

Thank you Chairman Stephanie Klick and committee members for your time and service this legislative session.

I am a native born Texan. I was educated in Texas Public School and I graduated from a University here in Texas. Throughout my education I was taught not to discriminate based on sex, race, etc.

I am troubled and concerned to see HB 1686 has been brought to committee especially when it starts with "prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments."

The fact that it says CERTAIN CHILDREN tells me immediately this is about discrimination. If it wasn't discrimination the need for "certain" as a descriptor would not be necessary.

The fact that this bill would allow "certain" children to have access to the care mentioned shows that the authors understand that this healthcare is safe and viable options for healthcare under a doctor's guidance. As discussed/mentioned by Representative Ann Johnson discussed in this hearing earlier today.

I as a Texan do not support or stand for discrimination in any form.

In addition, I think we can all agree that liberty and guardian rights are important and worth maintaining. Each guardian should always have the right to make medical decisions with their medical providers and without the interference of our State Government.

I don't think our government should make a law that determines healthcare options. Healthcare is a dynamic field where research and knowledge grows and changes each and every day/year. Healthcare decisions should only be made by guardians in consultation with their physicians and healthcare providers. Physicians are best able to determine treatment options based on current knowledge, research and the best standards of practice.

Again, I am opposed to HB 1686 and any bill which allows the state government to decide which health services are available to individuals and/or discriminates against any specific group of individuals.

Thank you for your time.

Stephani B - constituent

Cayti Hart
Self-homemaker
Whitehouse, TX

This is not about the well-being of our children but about sick agendas that are trying to be pushed on the American people through the most impressionable and fragile people group: our children. Leave them alone!

Jeff Garner
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR this bill.

Judith Shelton
Self
Midlothian, TX

We need to protect our children. They don’t have the capability to make medical decisions let alone change their genders by getting mutilation surgery as a minor. These surgeries are often non reversible m, they cause a lot of complications and permanent scaring that will lead to a different set of mental and medical problems. Children change their minds constantly and this is permanent decision.

You wouldn’t allow a child to consent to cancer treatment therefore we shouldn’t allow children to mutilate their bodies forever.

These children need mental health treatment to cope with their dysphoria and to prepare for whether or not they will do a transition as an adult. Teach them to love their bodies. We all suffer from some type of body dysphoria, but we are not encouraged to go change it. We learn how to deal with it or how to just love our bodies the way they are.

Please protect our children from their crazy parents and from insane doctors that are just looking to make some money and don’t care about the real wellbeing of these children.

Evan Rapp
Self, Senior Administrative Associate
Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill and the irreparable damage it would cause for the trans youth of Texas.

Monica Davis
Self
Wylie, TX

Vote yes! Protect the children.

Pat Moore, Ms
Self
Arthur City, TX

God determines the gender. Our world is upside down!!

Mei Chao
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I support HB 1686

Rae Kramer
Families in the state of Texas
Mckinney, TX

I affirm we should pass HB1686.

Chad Uretsky
Self (Occupation: Network Engineer)
Kingwood, TX

HB1686 - This bill NEEDS to pass. Children who dealing with gender dysphoria are suffering a mental illness akin anorexia or schizophrenia - the mind is unable to accept or deal with objective reality. These children should not be mutilated or permanently altered whether through pharmaceuticals or surgery. They should instead receive proper counseling to find the underlying cause of the dissociation and help in dealing with it. When even adults who are transitioning of their own volition are coming out en masse regretting their decision, it would be a crime of absolutely heinous proportions to put a child through such a devastating change only to find later that the child was either going through a phase or had suffered some other underlying trauma that continues to haunt the child despite the transition. If a child cannot even get a tattoo, which (semi)permanently alters the outward appearance of the skin, there is certainly NO justification for procedures that will permanently alter the body in ways that have been shown to cause physical and emotional pain and other distresses. PLEASE pass this bill and protect those who most need the protection of responsible adults!

Kind regards,
Chad Uretsky

Ling Li
Self and family
Brookshire, TX

Fully support HB1686. Anyone who performs gender transformation or drag Queen freak show to children should be subject to criminal charges.

Bianca Downs
Self
Mansfield, TX

Please vote FOR.

Linda Showalter
Self-retired teacher
Midlothian, TX

Please, please, please vote for this bill. Children don’t have a clue to what is going on in their bodies and should wait until their brains are completely developed before making this choice! I do not want my tax dollars to provide or support this atrocity.

Richard Morgan
Self
McKinney, TX

For

Teri Satterwhite
self
Fairview, TX

Please pass this bill. It is harming our kids and has no need to do these assignments until they are an adult.

Tessa Dawson
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it is infringing on the rights of parents to make decisions for the care of their own children. Gender affirming care is also the standard of care put forth by every major medical association.

Lynne Huckabay
Myself
Midlothian, TX

I believe that the parents should not have this responsibility and that each child might change his/her mind by the time they are considered an adult.

Helen Ann Elder
Self
Friendswood, TX

This bill will harm thousands of young transgender folks and their families. It is discriminatory and vile. This bill will force families to chose healthcare for their child over living in the state of Texas. Countless young transgender children will suffer mental anguish and suicidal ideation.

Carol Carr, Realtor
Self
Frisco, TX

Do not permit gender modification of children

Katherine Gray
Self
Highland Village, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686. Do no harm. Gender transitioning for minors is harmful and should not be supported by public funds

Todd Ratliff
Self
Richardson, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Sharon Miller
Self. Teacher
Flower Mound, TX

Please do not allow these medical procedures to take place on children in our state. Mutilating the bodies of children is CHILD ABUSE! Ban trans practices on children. I do not want my tax dollars going to support child mutilation.

Lynn Fiedler
My family
Plano, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Why have we stopped mental health? These children need psychological help and support. We cannot allow doctors to do permanent damage to their bodies. Even if their parents permit it, it is wrong.

Denise Foster
Myself
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill!

Patti Sedota
I AM RETIRED??
McKinney, TX

Stop the insanity of maiming our children. God makes no mistakes! Leave our children alone!

Mary Ratliff
Self
Richardson, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Sheri Overy
self
Sachse, TX

I am against using any means to change a child's sexual orientation. When a person is 18 or older they can make decisions to do many things that may or may not be beneficial to them, but under 18 is a time that should be protected from possible mistakes that they live with the rest of their lives. Please do everything you can to protect our children and our culture.Thank you.

Ellen Rochelle, Ms
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I support the bill prohibiting the provision of gender altering surgeries on children. It is an outrage that these services are being offered to children who are too young and inexperienced to make these life-altering decisions.

Mary Renda
Self
Thorndale, TX

Humans under the age of 21 years of age must not be allowed to undergo procedures and treatments for gender transitioning or gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Science has long proven the human brain is not fully developed prior to age 21 and consequences for actions are more completed understood after age 21. Therefore, a serious physical change made as a personal choice early in life may later be regretted & irreversible. The use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments must not be a consideration. Individual insurance policies may cover these treatments or procedures if the insurance companies so chooses.
Special interest groups should be privately funded. If one feels passionate about a program, raise funding for it.
The scouting program & 4H are wonderful programs, yet I don't feel every taxpayer should be required to fund them. I was a member in scouting for 18 years, and helped raise funds each year.
To burden the general public with the cost of a personal choice is ludicrous.

Sydney Yarborough
Self, retail
San Antonio, TX

My name is Sydney and I'm strongly against HB 1686 and SB 14. These bills wrongly discriminates against transgender youth. Trans youth deserve to live, laugh, and have fun to the fullest, just like any other youth do without harmful invasion and policing of their bodies. Criminalizing providing healthcare for trans youth is inhumane, dehumanizing, and will put trans youth at immense risk. This is clear discrimination against trans people, which is unconstitutional. Trans people deserve equal rights and autonomy in healthcare. Criminalizing doctors for providing life-saving care to trans youth by taking away their license is inhumane and puts all trans people at risk, as well which is unconstitutional. Trans people deserve equal rights in healthcare. I urge you to oppose HB 1686 and SB 14.

David Bonessi
Self
Austin, TX

Please make sure this bill passes. Do not allow children to start these treatments until they are adults.

We don't allow kids to get tattoos or drink alcohol for the same reason. They are told enough to make decisions that have a major effect on their bodies yet.

Bonnie Hayes
Self
Double Oak, TX

I want to see this bill passed to protect our children from gender mutilation, transitioning and medical manipulation. Please, please think of all of our Texas children and pass this bill.

Dan Armstrong, Pastor
Genesis Ministries
New Braunfels, TX

Ban the gender transitioning of minors!

lela su, I support HB1686
self
plano, TX

I support HB1686

Gaylen Ramm
Self
Seabrook, TX

This is absolutely terrible legislation. God created man and female. You cannot change a persons DNA. PERIOD

Wade Cramer
Self - retired
Melissa, TX

I am in support of prohibiting Texas children undergoing gender transitioning procedures. These procedures have permanent life altering consequences that a child will not fully comprehend and the results often lead to severe regret and even worse psychological ramifications.

Carrie DelaPena
Self
Plano, TX

Please vote FOR this bill!

Laura Gossen
Self
Austin, TX

Healthcare decisions like these need to be between the healthcare professional and the family involved. The decision should be made on a case by case basis based on what is best for the patient, not what is trending in politics at the time. The government should not be able to create blanket prohibitions on medical decisions.

Qiuge Zhang
self
austin, TX

I oppose this bill. People can’t choose their sexual orientation. If one is transgendered, they also deserve all human rights and care.

Sparrow Lamarr
Self
San Antonio, TX

Hello, my name is Sparrow. I'm writing to testify in strong opposition to HB 1686 and SB 14. This discriminates against transgender individuals based on their gender identity and punishes them by not giving them access to healthcare. Every person deserves healthcare, regardless of their gender. These bills singles out a vulnerable part of our society, trans youth. Studies show that this type of legislation is directly linked to serious harm to young transgender people, and shows that gender-affirming healthcare SAVES lives instead of harm them. It is inhumane to criminalize providing healthcare for trans youth, and would put them at immense risk. It is unconstitutional and blatant discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community. Trans people deserve equal rights and autonomy in healthcare. They should not have to fear trying to get the care they need. Please protect trans people in texas and veto HB 1686 and SB 14 Thank you.

Georgianna Henderson
Self
Rockport, TX

I urge you to protect our children from the harm done by allowing minors with gender dysphoria to be treated with hormones, hormone blockers, surgery or any other procedure that encourages permanence of what has up til now been rightly understood as a fleeting fancy experienced by most children. The evidence that such treatment is helpful is debatable, to say the least; many young people have regretted such treatment, and more will as they mature, yet oftentimes the harm done by even nonsurgical treatment proves to have long-term undesirable consequences. Please do not allow Texas to jump on this political bandwagon! It stands in disregard of plain physical science and time-honored societal norms (which have nothing to do with prejudice and everything to do with the desire for affirmation of a confused and unhappy minority.)

Gina Crain
Individual
Austin, TX

I don’t think that minors should be allowed to transition.

Virginia Bradshaw
Self
Round Rock, TX

I do NOT support this bill. A child health needs do not need to be dictated by the tx government. It should be decided between parents and medical professional.

Jasmine M
Myself
Austin, TX

My name is Jasmine, I use they/them pronouns, and I am in opposition of House Bill 1686.

In preparing my comments, I had plenty of personal experience to draw on, from my own identity as a trans Texan, to the stories of my LGBTQ friends, to the bond I have with my 15 year old trans brother. But I only space for have 3000 words.

I was at the Capitol all day on March 27, listening to stats and facts on trans youth mental health and suicide rates be belittled. That they are incidental, unsubstantial, otherwise unfounded. As if child suicide and mental wellness shouldn't be taken seriously, in any capacity it presents itself. Letting the most rare of stories be misrepresented as the popular narrative. I have to remind you that the most common forms of trans gender affirming medical care for minors is SOCIALLY transitioning and puberty blockers, NOT gender affirming surgeries, of which exactly one has been performed in Texas. Based on the testimonies y'all have chosen to give the most air time to, y'all are clearly trying to paint a picture of gender affirming care for minors as bodily mutilation and child abuse.

I don't think anyone on the panel voting for this bill has the experience of growing up trans, to not have the resources or community or language to express yourself, to have to remain silent.

I felt alone through puberty, through navigating my sexuality, through understanding who I was. No politician, no teacher, no adult mentor helped me. What option do you leave youth with, other than to find their own way, when you create such a hostile environment through a lack of education, healthcare access, and community support.

Social media is talked about like it's aiding in the increase of trans youth. Trans kids have always existed, the only thing that has changed is that language has caught up, and our ways of building community have expanded.

Now that we know how to ask for what we need, we are still silenced. You want to say the data you've been presented with is unsubstantial, but isn't it easy to not have substantial data when you historically choose to over and over again turn a blind eye to those communities?

HB 1686 does not protect children or have their best interest in mind. It is intended to be a catalyst for further action against trans kids, and trans people, in Texas. As those who accepted the responsibility to represent your fellow Texans, of which 2000+ voiced their opposition to this bill, I urge you to vote against HB 1686.

George Ratliff
Self
Richardson, TX

I am for this bill.

Heather Van Diest
Self - parent and licensed mental health professional
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on this hateful and discriminatory bill. It's uncalled for and overstepping. Doctors are providing evidence based care for our children. Everyone deserves access to health care and Texas has no business getting involved. I strongly oppose this bill. I do not coparent with the Texas legislature.

lisa capps
self
Austin, TX

Dear Representative

I am writing to ask you to please vote YES on House Bill 1686 to STOP the funding of inadequately researched treatment of children in Texas under the guise of "gender affirming care." There is inadequate data to support the long term safety and efficacy of these treatments. Children and caregivers cannot truly give their informed consent to the risks of these treatments, as the long term risks and effectiveness of the treatments have not been scientifically characterized, to-date.

European nations such as Sweden, Finland and the UK have the most data collected to date. These countries have concluded that “gender affirming care" is experimental and ineffective.

Please refer to:

https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol;
https://www1.cbn.com/.../sweden-pulls-back-from-gender
The state of Texas has an obligation to provide care for its citizens by providing the least invasive, evidence based, and safest treatment possible in addressing gender dysphoria. If funds should be put toward gender care, the emphasis should be on the efficacy of mental health interventions and/or conducting research on efficacy, rather than supporting treatments that have yet to be evaluated in a controlled setting using established scientific methods.

Sincerely,
Lisa Capps, MPH

lisacapps@outlook.com

512-423-2490

Jihong Xu
Self
Plano, TX

Agree with this bill

Brenda Swindle
self, office manager
Farmers Branch, TX

No doctor, book, or politician can know or predict the health needs of a transgender child or youth. These needs should be addressed by the parent, legal guardian or youth themself. They should be entitled to the same care as all persons.

David Keith
Self
Lindale, TX

Honestly can’t for the life of me understand who would be for allowing this to happen. We have 2 genders. Male and Female. You are born one or the other. A knife, drugs or any other twisted thinking cannot change that. School shooting in Nashville. A trans. There are at least several others I can think of where this was also the case. How about taking a look at the real issue….mental illness and the destruction of the family.

Tracy Mulligan
Self
Plano, TX

For

Annette Wandler
Self
Austin, TX

I am vehemently against this bill. Do not take away the rights of trans children and the parents supporting them.

Laurie Cordero
Self
Canyon lake, TX

Please protect the future from the mutilating transgender destruction. If even one is protected from this it is worth it.

Angela Shivers
Self
Weatherford, TX

For

Melissa Lopez
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for the bill

Hendrik Viljoen, Mr
Republicans
Plano, TX

Don’t change a child’s gender!!!

Cathleen Shaw
Self
Somerset, TX

FOR / support the bill.

I am in support of HB 1686. God does not make mistakes

Alison Sharma
Self
Austin, TX

Refusing to provide gender affirming care to children risks suicide or lifelong psychological trauma. Gender reassignment and gender dysphoria treatment should be available to all children who seek it.

Julia Leung
HB1686
Plano, TX

For it

Peter Danna
Self
Plano, TX

Do not allow our children to be mutilated.

Kathy Kingsley, Mrs
Self
Lewisville, TX

No public money should be used for procedures or treatment for gender reassignment. God does not make mistakes! Research shows that children/young people who have done it, regret it and have suffered and will suffer the effects for the rest of their lives! I do not support any public money going to this. If anything, money should go to counseling and mental health.

Bill Griffin
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am in favor of this bill to protect our children.

Debbie Bynum
Self
Tyler, TX

I am FOR this bill to pass!!

It’s a sad state of affairs to see the depth of degradation our country and sadly our state has sunk to. I wish those who are for such a grievous act would talk to those who have done such horrifying things to their bodies and regret they EVER did such a thing!! THIS kind of thinking is not for children anyway it’s an AGENDA that is being pushed and they are willing to allow children to be destroyed in the process!!!!

Jody Melia
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill HB1686

Tonya Brownlow
Self
San Angelo, TX

#DONOTHARM

Michael Clinton
CEO Medical Consulting Partner
Lakeway, TX

Follow the science Amy protect freedom

Nemi Limket, Retired
Self - retired
Plano, TX

I support this bill

Rachel Foster
None
Austin, TX

I am against this bill.

Minxian Gu
self
Coppell, TX

I support HB1686
I support HB1686

Patience Yarborough
Self
San Antonio, TX

I have serious concerns about House Bill 1686 and SB 14. They would completely ban transgender youth from receiving essential healthcare in the state of Texas. Bills like these go against medical standards and deny children life-saving, gender-affirming care.

There have been many poorly made claims trying to justify the passing of these bills. Such as “Puberty blockers are harmful” “Lots of people regret transitioning” “Trans people didn’t exist until recently.” But these simply, and factually, are not true.

Puberty blockers aren’t exclusive to trans youth, this has been a standard treatment for kids with precocious puberty for decades. Most don’t have any underlying medical condition, just that their early development is just an extreme variation compared to normal development. If they were to start puberty at an incredibly young age (before the age of 8-9) it could cause serious psychological damage, hence the treatment. But it has NO long term side effects, simply hitting the pause button on puberty. And once treatment is stopped puberty picks up where it left off

There is 1% (and declining) amount of people who say they regret transitioning. A lot of the people in this 1% are happy that they transitioned, but the regret comes from a medical error, or botched/low quality surgery.

During the time period in someone’s transition where they’re changing socially (Like their name or pronouns) only 8% of them detransition back to their assigned name and pronouns. However, 62% of those will transition back later in life. Which means only 3% actually detransition permanently.

Of the 3%, nearly all cited an external factor being the reason. Such as intolerable levels of anti-trans harassment or discrimination (31%), Employment discrimination (29%), pressure from a parent (36%), spouse (18%), or other family members (26%). And nearly all of those who detransitioned permanently do so soon after starting and realize it’s not for them, when the physical changes are minimal or nonexistent.

To claim that being transgender is something new is absurd. Here is a list of transgender people in history and a little bit about them. To name a few: Elagabalus (204-222), Thomas(ine) Hall, Chevalier d'Eon, Public Universal Friend, and Surgeon James Barry. But there are MANY others.

At this point it is just willful ignorance and hate to ignore actual science on the topic. Every major U.S. medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has approved and set standards for gender-affirming care for transgender young people and adults. This bill puts not only the lives and well-being of transgender youth at risk, but also doctors for helping children receive best-practice medical care.

Texas families know what's best for them. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. Vote NO on HB1686 and SB 14.

Alma Aljaberi
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Our public money should NOT be used to provide these awful procedures to children.

Jordan Gaudet
Self - missionary
Flower Mound, TX

I am FOR AND SUPPORT THIS BILL!

Michael Shaver
Yourself
Austin, TX

For 1686

Ahmad Aljaberi
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Dont use my tax dollars for this awful procedure. Leave children alone!!

Woodrow Stone
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill to protect our children. These procedures should not be performed on children not old enough to make informed and mature decisions.

Jan Henegar
Citizen
Austin, TX

FOR

Dawson Bodenhamer
Self, Graphic Designer
Tyler, TX

I am totally against this.

David Sutton
Self
Garland, TX

Agree with HB1686, we should not allow these procedures for any person under age 21 if not older like 26 since that is when the human brain is fully developed. Texas law limits getting a tattoo until age 18 and a tattoo can be removed, gender reassignment can not be reversed.

Andy Golf
Self
Austin, TX

Providing gender affirming care will allow children to grow up without severe dysphoria and help improve their mental health. Trans people with dysphoria are more at risk of suicide. Providing gender affirming care will save children.

Debbie Flanders
Self
Sherman, TX

For the sake of our children, please pass HB 1686.

Bob Pruitt
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Children do not have the legal capacity to make life-changing decisions on their own. You have to be 18 in this State to legally enter an agreement. Why would we reduce the age of consent to make decisions that are likely to be irreversible?

Yolanda Carrillo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I dont want my TX dollars paying for this awful procedures!!
Leave kids alone!

Meredith Doby
Self, Vice President of Exhibits, The DoSeum
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. People anywhere on the gender spectrum deserve the same freedom as anyone else. The state does not need to weigh in on private health matter of its citizens. This is a highly unnecessary bill. Please pay attention to real problems.

Sebastian Colon-Otero, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote no on this bill!! This bill doesn't protect anyone. It's is harmful and costly. Please vote no and do not participate in further hurting trans people. Your job is to protect all Texans and not to discriminate against trans folks due to lies and misunderstandings . Please stand up and vote no .

Joe Fitzsimmons
Self Retired
Sherman, TX

I am absolutely against changing what God made us.

Teri Sullivan
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Passing this bill harm many youth in this state. Please just listen to the medical experts. Not just a few random doctors who have no experience with trans youth. Really listen to the people who are begging you not to pass this bill. Isn't that what elected officials are suppose to do? Listen. If you listen with open ears you will hear the fear and despair in these kids and their families. I beg you, please do not pass this bill.

Joseph Ward
Self Retired
Tolar, TX

I support house bill H B 1686 by Oliverson .

Kimberly Sutton
Self
Garland, TX

I Agree with HB1686, we should not allow these procedures for any person under age 26 since that is when the human brain is fully developed. Texas law limits getting a tattoo until age 18 and a tattoo can be removed, gender reassignment can not be reversed.

Dorothy Young
Citizen
Canyon Lake, TX

Complete ban of funding for medical intervention both surgical and pharmaceutical for transgender transition of minors

Steven Hotze, Dr.
Self
Katy, TX

Testimony in Favor of
HB 1686 by Oliverson on
Banning Transgender
Treatment for Children
House Public Health Committee
Steven Hotze, M.D.
March 27, 2023

My name is Dr. Steven Hotze from Houston, Texas, CEO of the Hotze Health & Wellness Center.

Madam Chairwoman and Committee Members, I am supporting House Bill 1686 because it will protect children from abuse by the transgender medical industry and the pedophiles who sexualize children, in order to groom them to participate in their perverted, immoral lifestyle.

A pervert is one who participates in obscene sexual practices. A pedophile is an adult pervert who sexualizes children, including doctors who sexualize children for a profit, performing sex mutilation surgery on them.

These pedophiles are now using transgender sex change drugs and sex mutilation surgery on children to cosmetically create the illusion of a sex change.

General Paxton and Governor Abbott agree that this is child abuse and child abuse is a criminal offense.

It is immoral to destroy the normal physical development of a child. These treatments permanently damage the reproductive organs before the child has the legal capacity to consent. This violates the child's constitutional right to procreate. That is why it is imperative that you pass legislation to protect them.

God created two genders, two sexes, male and female. There are stallions and mares, bulls and heifers, roosters and hens, men and women. This is a biological fact. The idea that a man can claim to be a woman, or vice versa, is as absurd as saying a bull can become a heifer. It is a perversion of the God-given natural order. At birth, you are either a female, XX, or a male, XY. You cannot change your sex chromosomes. This is biology 101. To say otherwise is a lie.

Doctors who perform these treatments should have their medical licenses revoked.

Jesus stated that, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." (Matthew 18:6)

Representatives, you have the very serious responsibility, before God, to protect the children from the perverted transgender, pedophilia movement. I am confident that you will faithfully discharge your duty.

Glen Aaron, Mr
Self
Midland, TX

I am FOR HB1686.

Melissa Trahan
Self
Pearland, TX

I oppose this bill. You are attacking children. Children you do not know, whose struggles you won't even try to understand. This bill is harmful and hateful. Give them a chance to be happy, to live their lives. Let doctors do their jobs. Let parents do theirs. The Republican Party is making it very clear: you don't care about children. You can change that - start here. Do not allow this bill to become law. Do the right thing.

Clara Ratliff
Self
Abilene, TX

Do not harm children

David McMinn
Self
San Angelo, TX

For this bill

Jennifer Danna
Self
Plano, TX

This is child abuse!!!!! The brains of these children are not fully developed therefore rendering them incapable of making these life-altering choices. Allowing them to do so is irresponsible! I do not want my tax dollars supporting this! Supposed mental health instead. Support the traditional family. Help them to feel comfortable and supported in the perfect bodies God gave them!!

Sawyer Tedder
Self
Austin, TX

Trans individuals and the parents of Trans children should always be able to make decisions on what is best for them, with doctors who can practice gender affirming care, in a state that says out of people's medical decisions. Trans kids should be able to express themselves in the ways that make them comfortable. This bill is government overreach and antithetical to what Texas should stand for.

Patricia Taylor
Humanity
Mckinney, TX

I can not believe this is even up for a vote. How many of you are owned by the Deep State. God is going to need a lot of millstones

Jenny Browne, Professor
Trinity University
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to this bill, which strikes me as intentionally (and excessively) discriminatory of LGBTQ youth, and could ultimately force schools to ignore their existence. As a longtime public school and university teacher, I have first hand experience with the well being of young people who have received measured and meaningful support. If we are really concerned with mental illness/condition, we must treat this issue with the appropriate treatment, which is gender affirming care and treatment by doctors, and psychologists, not politician.

Karen Cooper
Cathilic womem
Floresville, TX

What are you even thinking. God doesn't make mistakes

Nicole Rodriguez
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to strongly OPPOSE HB1686. I oppose the restriction of Healthcare access to people, including children and youth, based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital to our community and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. My name is Nicole Rodriguez, I am from Houston, and my zip code is 77035.

Alma Badillo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please leave the kids alone I do not want my tax dollars going to this thank you

Marie Sibley
Jesus Christ First Ministries
Liberty Hill, TX

Children should not be able to transition.

Roscoe Foust
Self
Mckinney, TX

I vote for this bill

Suzanne Finegan
Self
Floresville, TX

Please stop these horrible child remodifications.
I do not want any of my tax dollars to support what I believe is a crime against children and future generations.

Sharon Leal
Self - office manager
Cedar Park, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Yuan Li, Ms.
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Dominique Egger
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Dominique Egger and I am a 5th year PhD candidate in the school psychology program at the University of Texas at Austin. For the last 5 years I have worked under the supervision of some incredible psychologists to serve youth suffering from the growing mental health crisis our country is currently facing. Through this work I have had the privilege of working directly with youth and their families who hold a variety of identities including a transgender identity.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify against House Bill 1686 and support the freedom to express one's identity, a right that is fundamental to our country. I speak as an ally who has had both transgendered friends and clients and knows based on research and personal experience that the only answer for how to address gender dysphoria is through validation of an individual's identity and the opportunity to express that identity through evidence-supported and thoughtfully considered medical procedures. A pillar to my training as a psychologist has been balancing autonomy and beneficence. Respecting an individuals choice while also taking on the responsibility of providing the best treatment available. My treatment approach for my transgender clients exist at the intersection of these principles, not only am I ethically and morally bound to respect their identity, I am also responsible for providing them with the facts. Facts that I will now share with you:

I know from both research AND personal experience that transgender children are at an increased risk for suicidal ideations and attempts. I know from both research AND personal experience that transgender individuals are at an increased risk to be targeted and victimized, and this is worse in states that have anti-trans laws. I know from both research AND personal experience that when transgender identities are celebrated and respected, we see associated decreases in mental health concerns for these individuals and increases in self-esteem and self-efficacy.

My training at the University of Texas at Austin, my supervision from highly respected child psychologists serving in medical forensic and community practices, my knowledge from evidence-based practice and peer reviewed research articles, and my own personal morals tell me that the only ethical way forward is respecting the personal choices and conversations that happen between children, their families, and their medical providers. Research, ethics, and the fundamental rights of our country support gender affirming care. As someone who has witnessed first-hand the depression anxiety and suicidality that can come from gender dysphoria, denying treatment proven to help is the actual gross child negligence we should be concerning ourselves with.

George McCullough, President
Conservatives of Little Elm
Little Elm, TX

First of all, I cannot believe that this insanity is even taking place! The true prevalence of intersex is seen to be about 0.018%, almost 100 times lower than Fausto-Sterling s estimate of 1.7%. That said, what is happening now to minors by their own parents can only be classified as child abuse. I cannot believe that any real conversation can be had that would make any sense for debate on gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. All but the smallest percentage of people are born with any reason for surgery, and that usually happens right after birth.

Belinda Reed
Self
Carthage, TX

I support this bill.

Tamara McCool
Self - domestic engineer
LAKEWAY, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

I am showing support FOR this bill.

Jack Morgan
Self, retired teacher
Somerset, TX

I want to prohibit treatment for gender transitioning for minors and I agree wholeheartedly with the bill to that end.

Mark Phillips
self homebuilder
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686

Gina Tarver
self, my occupation is none of your business
Buda, TX

The Texas government should stay out of parenting and healthcare decisions! Such decisions should be up to parents, who know their children best and have the responsibility for providing them with the best care possible, and their medical care providers, who are professionals trained to give the care that our children need. Texas politicians are all for parents' rights when it comes to banning books, but when it comes to healthcare? Transgender care IS healthcare, and it saves lives! (For a summary of the evidence, see, for example, Heather Boerner, "What the Science on Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Kids Really Shows," Scientific American, May 12, 2022.) You cannot legislate peoples' identities, and you shouldn't attempt to do so. This is a "culture war" issue that draws attention away from what you REALLY need to be working on: ensuring reliable, affordable electricity, improving education, improving mental health in Texas... There's a long list!

Jeremy Brumley
Self (Custom Cabinet Builder
Georgetown, TX

No one should allow a child or their parent to make such a irreversible decision such as changing their gender until they are an adult. If you are an adult and you want to do that to yourself, that’s your own business.

Sandrine Sanos
self/teacher
Corpus Christi, TX

I firmly oppose this bill and support all and any transgender-related healthcare for minors under 18 as well as anyone over 18. It is not the government's role to legislate what individuals do with their bodies and to interfere with individuals and parents' ability to access healthcare in any shape or form for their children. I know many transgender children who will be forced, along with their families, Texas citizens, to leave the state because of this unacceptable and over-reaching bill. I defend every Texan child and adult's right to access healthcare of any kind and do what they wish with their body and identity. The state's mandate is to provide the conditions for a good life for all Texans, irrespective of origin, age, status, etc. Religious and/or ideological mandates and beliefs have no place in limiting this right of every Texan.

Peggy Eubank
Self
San Angelo, TX

I support HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body.

Kimberley Pope
Self
Waco, TX

I oppose banning gender affirming care for trans youth.

Jeremy Roy
self
Humble, TX

This has gone too far. Enough is enough. We need to protect our children and stop this nonsense!

Erica Salas
Self
Boyd, TX

Don’t agree with this bill

Dell Holmsley
Self
Baytown, TX

Please vote in favor in defense of our children.

Suzanna Nichols, Mrs
Texas tax payer - Nichols household
Lewisville, TX

I SUPPORT this bill and do NOT want public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Robin Colley
Self homemaker
Copper Canyon, TX

I oppose children being sexually altered from their birth gender

Stella Shaw
Self/Retired
Three Rivers, TX

I am For and Support this Bill, HB 1686!

Cecilia Wood, Esq.
Family Freedom Project and self - attorney/lobbyist
Austin, TX

Family Freedom Project is a project of the Texas Home School Coalition and is devoted to protecting the rights of parents and the parent child relationship. So many members of the legislature have demonstrated a real desire to protect children from the detrimental and irrevocable effects of these methods which promise but fail to actually turn a child into the opposite sex or address the underlying needs that lead a child to that decision. This bill is particularly commendable because it prohibits this deceptive and barbaric practice in a manner that can withstand the constitutional scrutiny necessary when parents fundamental liberty interests are implicated. Parents have a fundamental right to make healthcare decisions for their children. That right does not, however, include the right to obtain illegal or prohibited treatment. For example, a parent cannot consent to the use of medical marijuana to treat a condition not currently permitted in the Occupations Code.
Additionally, this bill is exceptional in that it permits the Attorney General to seek a court order to enjoin the treatment to minimize or totally eliminate the irrevocable damage to the child rather than punishing the perpetrator after the damage is done and it is too late. Please vote HB 1686 out of committee and out of the House. Thank you.

Ricardo SALAS
Jesus
Fort Worth, TX

Leave kids alone

Hb1686

Elva Camacho
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Thank you Chairman and committees.
My name is Elva. I'm mother, grandmother, aunt, sister and teacher.
This HB1686 is mess. I find it unlawful to give CHILDREN permission for drug use, surgery or and all physical alignments. Why? These are children. I feel this will open Pandora's box to more "child having a right" to do whatever they want. While children need care from parents both physical and monetary to live I find children are not capable of making adult decisions. Why the rush!?
Why can't they wait until adulthood to be able to mentally make that decision 100% . Eighteen years old.
Their bodies are still growing and especially their brains. They are not capable of making such an audacious and life changing decision. How do I know? I've raised two children. My son wanted to be a girl because he saw his sister always getting gifts of hairbows and ponytail holders. I told him God made him a boy with a penis and he could never change what God made him to be! It wasn't the actual bows and holders he wanted, he just thought it wasn't fair she got a cute gift bag and he didn't. Then he also said he wanted to be a firetruck! Not a fireman but a big red firetruck! Once again I stated what God made him. He only wanted to be a firetruck because his favorite color was red and he wanted the dalmatian dog too.
My point? Children are again not capable of making decisions so early in life and cannot take back what's been taken. Mental health should continue to play a vital role. They have 65+ more years of life to live based on a childish decision. These parents also need to understand while they are trying to "help" they in fact are basing a lifelong future of uncertainty and also guilt.
Please pass this Bill protecting the INNOCENT children.
I also ask to please pray and listen to your gut , asking God for His hand over this.

Victoria Ellis
Trans People of Texas
San Marcos, TX

I oppose this bill because trans people deserve bodily autonomy. No government should be worried about what is or isn’t inside of a citizen’s pants.

Ralph Cordero, Mr
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

Please protect the children of Texas

Gina Ellis
Self, engineering assistant
Allen, TX

It is essential to protect our children from making life-altering decisions that they may later regret. As responsible adults, it is our duty to ensure that they have the best possible chance of leading happy and fulfilled lives. Therefore, it is imperative that we pass legislation to safeguard them from making decisions that can have lifelong consequences.

It is a well-known fact that the human brain does not fully develop until the mid-to-late twenties. The prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for crucial skills such as planning, prioritizing, and decision-making, is one of the last areas to mature. It is only fair that we allow our children the courtesy of having fully developed decision-making abilities before they embark on any irreversible life-altering decisions.

By prohibiting children from making such critical decisions until they have reached adulthood, we can ensure that they have the necessary maturity and understanding to make informed choices. Therefore, we must stand together and demand that our legislators put in place measures to protect our children's well-being and future happiness.

Rachel Parker
Self
Whitewright, TX

Support HB 1686

Adrien Guenther
self/instructor
Austin, TX

this is a bad bill which puts lives at risk. qualified medical professionals should be the ones deciding how to treat their patients not the government!

Nancy Newsom
Mama Bears
Spring, TX

Stop turning our children into something God never intended!

christine Gibson
Self chiropractic
AUSTIN, TX

I do not accept having to pay my tax money to mutilate and destroy children because of confusion in their minds to their true identity. God does not make mistakes as to how he creates us as his children. They are just forming their thinking as youth. They may change their minds multitude times. And if they transition and are mutilated they cannot get these parts back should they change their minds and realize the truth of who they were created to be. They are forever ruined. They aren't allowed to vote before 18, and we should let them to decide to forever alter who they are? Why don't you just go ahead and send them to fight in the war in Ukraine? That's how ridiculous this is. Protect the children and end this madness.

Maria Juarez
Jesus lives
Wichita Falls, TX

I don’t want my Tax dollars to be used for this awful procedure

William Allen
Self; Minister
Tyler, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1686. It is very concerning to me to allow and enable children to make life-altering decisions, or to have their parents or medical professionals make such decisions that can have physical and emotional consequences that follow the child for the rest of their lives. Better to help them get through a confusing stage by offering good parental guidance, communication, counseling, and other non-invasive means. I am a strong believer in the Bible, and so believe that God created humans male and female and gave us the bodies associated with that.

Abby Pena
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this bill.

Kimberly Case, Mrs
Self
Flower mound, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Hong Yang
self, engineer
Austin, TX

I fully support HB 1686.

Nicholas Visser
Self/music teacher/carpenter
San Antonio, TX

My boss has a trans child. If this passes they may move to another state. This isn’t just a philosophical issue. It’s people’s lives and lively hoods. .

Diane Kendrick
Individual
Waxahachie, TX

Public health

Paula Stakes, Mrs
Self
Spring Branch, TX

First it's just wrong, but morally I object to any public funds and tax money going to support the decision of an individual verses supporting public roads and public infrastructure! My taxes represent my hard work and should support the state as a whole and only those things that affect the structure and needs of the state as an entity of business. Nothing more!

Susan Hunt
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please note that I am urging a vote FOR HB1686.

A Je
Self
Prosper, TX

I am against any and all mutilation of our children to change their gender. Protect our kids.

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

martha adams
Skilled Mobility
Surfside Beach, TX

Pass this bill

Glenna Wallace, Ms.
Self
Red Rock, TX

This bill is so important because our precious children have to be protected even from the ones who say they love them. There is no fixing a procedure like this. They not only don’t have a say in this but they will always will be on medication all their lives. And end up hating the ones who did it. It’s against every thing God intended . Please pass this bill….

lowell adams, dr
skilled mobility
Dripping Springs, TX

PASS THIS BILL ASAP

Lynda Quintana
Self
Austin, TX

This disgusting Bill is taking away the rights of parents, children and their doctors. There is no way a non-doctor can answer the questions on transgendered youth. Parents have taken their children to multiple professionals in psychiatry, psychology, medical and hormonal fields. Parents are trying to keep their children alive, mentally and physically healthy.

What this bill does it take Texas to the dark ages of forcing children, teens, young adults and adults back into the "closet". I have three children who have grown up with friends who are trans. Kids I have known since the age of 2 years old, who the parents and other adults saw they were different. I applaud parents for allowing these kids to be their authentic selves and for accepting them.

Who are the bill writers and voters on this bill to say they have more knowledge than these parents and doctors? I am making sure all three of my kids vote each and everyone of you out who vote for this bill.

If you think Texas wants this; then put it out for a public vote.

I have friends leaving Texas because this bill puts their children at risk.

Vote NO on this BILL! Do anything less would be a violation of human, child and parental rights.

Also, thank you for motivating parents like me with kids who are not affected by this bill. I plan to rally and organize. This just gave us the motivation to vote out representatives that don't represent us.

Dana Dahlen
Myself
New Braunfels, TX

Please vote for this bill. Children are born male or female and should remain as they were born. How sick there’s even a bill on the table such as this!

Jeffrey Gan
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is an unacceptable intrusion by government into the private lives of families and their medical decisions.

It is absurd that our state government, which was deeply opposed to mandatory vaccination for a life-threatening pandemic on the grounds of medical privacy, now finds it appropriate to intervene in our private lives in this way.

It is absurd the collapse of our state’s foster care system continues unabated while our legislators push divisive, intrusive bills such as this under the pretense of protecting Texas children.

It is absurd that school children being slaughtered by armed gunmen doesn’t warrant government regulatory oversight, but a vanishingly small number of teenagers seeking puberty blockers does.

This is a cynical bill which is animated by hysterical panic over medical procedures sought by a tiny minority of families. I urge you to reject this bill, and in so doing, reject the big-government intervention which it entails. Leave Texas families alone!

Rebecah Flores
self
Austin, TX

Anyone in favor of this bill should be deeply ashamed. The people who swore oaths to serve the general American public, just to instead pander to greedy, religious zealots, should be deeply ashamed. Children will die if this legislation is allowed -- children just like the ones people are now being forced to have because our government insists that their lives are precious. And there could never be water scalding enough, or lye caustic enough to wash this blood from your hands.When you arrive at the end of your life, as you stand before the gates of Heaven and your God asks you how you could cast out His creation in such a way, I wonder what you will say to Him.

Tess Ortega
Self - data analyst
Austin, TX

I am a trans non-binary Texan and I am in opposition to this bill. This bill is not about protecting kids. It's about exacting control over a group of people that you do not understand and part of a larger attack on the lgbtq community with over 140 anti-lgbtq bills being proposed this legislative session. If this committee actually cared about kids you would be doing something to improve school funding as Texas ranks in the bottom half of states for education. You would be doing something about the overwhelmed foster care and child protective services system where so many children are facing abuse and inadequate care. You would do something about the increasing number of natural disasters that are being made worse due to climate change and costing people their homes and their lives. If you actually cared about children you would do something to increase their access to healthcare and decrease food insecurity. If you cared at all you would do something protect kids from getting murdered at school. But no instead here you are trying to prevent kids from getting the care they need to live happy and healthy lives. This bill and ones like it are a waste of time and a slap in the face to Texans. You should call it what it is, an attempt to distract from the real problems facing Texans across the state that you don't plan to do anything about. You can try to exact control with these attacks on our community, but at the end of the day queer and trans people will continue to be born, trans people will still be trans, and queer people will still be queer whether you like it or not. Vote no on this bill if you have any shred of human decency left.

Crystal Salas
Self
Richland Hills, TX

I am not in agreement with my tax dollars being used to pay for such awful procedures being done to children. This is abuse and torture!!

Sylva Dennis, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

Please vote yes and support this bill.

April Ackerman
Self, office manager
COLLEGE STATION, TX

I approve the prohibitive measures and not allow children to undergo any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning. Allowing this, would alter the child for life. They are not old enough to make the choice themselves. They should wait until they are an adult, but also get mental help

Olivia Fuccello
Self
Austin, TX

I Oppose bill that will ban all trangender related healthcare

Gina Seal
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Leave our Children and Grandchildren alone.

Marilyn Flournoy
Self
Abilene, TX

For this bill

Robert Lonergan
self
Waxahachie, TX

This bill is one step in what has been a massive campaign towards the genocide of transgender people. I moved to Dallas from a small town praying that it would offer me the relief I sought as a genderqueer person. I have only found that the state is what is truly at fault here. "Pedophile" has become the new "cuck", a baseless pejorative meant to silence those the Republican party has no reason to hate. There is no proof of heightened rates of pedophilia or grooming amongst the transgender community - though there is proof for both of those amongst the Republican and right-wing parties. What sickens me more is that most Republicans don't care about trans people either way. They don't despise them and they don't love them. They are completely neutral in matter. All of their viewpoints are sponsored by corporations which control them. Each seat in the house and sent it might as well be one seat for a different corporation or conglomerate to vote on the laws. This may be a republic, but it is a republic where those choosing who is in office are corporations, essentially an oligarchy where a new out group, transgender individuals, has been targeted to further their own goals. One testimony is likely not enough to sway any corporate controlled vote machines as likely stand before you, but I will say this; You are all still human. You all still sleep. And at night, I hope that you can sleep with the screams of anguish and anger each transgender person receives, whether that be when coming out to their transphobic parents or just walking down the street and being harassed for how they look. I hope that whatever God or lack thereof you pray to doesn't send you to eternal torture for abandoning any and all morals and instead idolizing the dollar, even if it would be what you deserve. Vote against this bill. This is genocide.

diana buchert
Self - music business employee.
Austin, TX

I deeply oppose HB 1686. Trans people deserve their rights to transition and exist as their truest selves, and to be safe in all ways while doing so. Trans people are important. Their lives matter.

Jane Hager
Self
Abilene, TX

For/Support

Carnie Ratliff, Granddad and GreatGreatGranddad
Self
Abilene, TX

Christian Values…Don’t think Jesus would have voted against this! We vote for this bill!

Donald Buffkin
Self
San Antonio, TX

As a former teacher of and friend to numerous trans students, I would just like to stress how crucial it is to their mental health that they are not only allowed but encouraged to be the true selves that they feel they are. It takes great courage for anyone to come out as trans and for them to face not only scrutiny but criticism, disbelief and even abuse from their families and society at large can be disastrous, especially during their formative years. I understand that many do not see this as a health issue but instead confused children acting out their adolescent curiosities or traumas. Even if this were the case, which, if one stops to consult the vast history of trans people throughout different cultures and eras they will see it is not, it is imperative that we do not tell children that their identities are suspect, immoral or founded in falsity. What these children need, what ALL children need, above all else, is support and non-judgment. For them to grow into themselves and their understanding of their bodies and their own identities. That is why I feel it is crucial that these children receive the same opportunities as ones that seek mental stability via pharmaceuticals, or clearer skin via drugs or antibiotics, or contraception via IUDs or birth control pills. It was not so long ago that these measures were also considered too drastic for minors to decide on themselves. Thank you for your consideration.

Grant Knight
Self
Tyler, TX

I support this bill.

Crystal Salas
Self
Richland Hills TX 76118, TX

I am for this bill !!

Juxiang Wang, Medical technologist
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Ray Mathems
Self
Damon, TX

Dear Sirs

Please do all your can to restrict the effect this bill would have on children.

Taking advantage of children is just sick!!!!

Stop this perversion on our youth!

Disgusted
Ray Mathems

Sarah McConnell
Frisco, TX

I am submitting comment to strongly oppose HB 1686. | strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Patrick Von Dohlen
San Antonio Family Association | SAFA
San Antonio, TX

No public funds should be used to approve, condone, support, or promote gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria in any way shape or form as it would be harmful to children and actual child abuse.

Homosexual acts are acts of grave depravity. Tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved.

This kind of unhealthy and unnatural lifestyle will foster mental, emotional, and physical illnesses.

Dysphoria that occurs prior to sexual activity or after should not be condoned in any way with public monies. Children’s brains are not fully developed until 25 years of age therefore the government should not be assisting people especially under 21 to lead an unnatural lifestyle that evidence proves that harms them.

Anything that causes one of these young ones to harm themselves or allows a parent or guardian to harm them is an abomination to humanity.

Many laws in Texas have experienced an increase in legal age limits for lifestyle choices like tobacco and alcohol consumption. These are temporary choices that can have a negative longterm impact. Does Texas use public funds to support them in any way?

On the contrary, higher tax burdens are placed on them as “sin” taxes.

It would be completely inconsistent if Texas supported permanent lifestyle choices that exponentially increased the harm to children who are relying on mature adults to help them make good and healthy choices about life. Their brain is not fully developed and therefore they cannot make a rational choice about a permanent physical change.

Repairative Therapy to help minors learn biology and anatomy and its complementarity will help children increase their understanding of how they are made and where they can find freedom. This is the only type of public funding that should be approved.

Don’t mess with Texas. Therefore, don’t mess with Texas’ children. And, certainly don’t abuse tax revenue to force Texans to condone this depraved, unnatural, and unhealthy behavior.

May God bless and protect Texas children from being abused in any way and especially by government condoning of this kind of domestic trafficking with public funds!

Texas should not be in the business of condoning or promoting unhealthy choices or evil, especially when it's permanent.

Mounting evidence exposes that the people's condition with gender dysphoria and suicidal tendencies actually worsens and increases after unnatural permanent are made. Let's avoid approval on condoning anyone towards more depravity that will expand abuse and generational poverty.

Remember:
Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;
but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great m

Evelyn Mishork, Mrs
My household
Allen, TX

Please protect our children, good counsel and guidance

Anita Aycock
Self
Abilene, TX

FOR/Support billHB1686

Bridget Garrish
Fort bend freedom schoolers
Richmond, TX

I support this bill. We should strive to protect children not harm them. Children are incapable of making such life altering decisions. We adults need to protect them.

Wendy Woodward
self
McKinney, TX

I absolutely support this.

He Jin
Self
Austin, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Kathryn Schruba, Mrs.
Self, Retired
Hurst, TX

As we all know, people mature as they age. We have all changed a few of our ideas/outlooks as adults since being children and even teenagers. Please do not allow children and teenagers to have access to irreversible changes made to their bodies at a time before they have the full scope of life and adulthood. It is cruel to further add one more thing in life for them to have to question, worry about, and make life-altering decisions on when they may not feel the same way ten years from now. Additionally, the use of public money/public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments places an extra burden on the taxpayer and the physician, not to speak of their families.

Bridget Alan, Mrs
Self / self employed
Austin, TX

I oppose this Bill. It will have a detrimental effect on so many texan families and households. I personally have friends that will be forced to remove their kids from texas schools and move to another state if this bill becomes law. This is yet another example of politicians inserting their values on the constituents they purport to “respresent”.
This is not the voice of the people it’s a political stunt to gain control and spread extreme conservatism.

Nancy Barker, Mrs
Self teacher
Copperas Cove, TX

FOR HB1686

Cynthia Sheppa
Self
Lindale, TX

I am for this Bill to be passed!

Linda Nuttall
self
Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill, to prevent life-altering, permanent mutilation of minors. Children are not capable of consenting to get a tattoo. They certainly shouldn't be capable of consenting to something this dire that they do not understand. The adults willing to do this to minors should be held accountable.

Jim Brown
Self
Leander, TX

Please ban and prohibit any surgeries on children for purpose of gender transitioning.

Dennis Burkett, Mr
Self
McKinney, TX

Honorable Legislators:

This bill needs to be supported...Let me share a link to a 143-page article by two distinguished professors (Dr Paul R McHugh & Dr Lawrence S Mayer) at Johns Hopkins. They decided to stop doing transgender reassignment surgeries after significant research by Dr McHugh. This link was in The New Atlantis...https://www.thenewatlantis.com/docLib/20160819_TNA50SexualityandGender.pdf (I hope the link works.)

Thank you!

Logan Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is killing texas kids. Protect trans kids.

Sue Silver, Collin County GOP Precinct Chair
Self, educator
McKinney, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 to protect children from any procedures or treatments for gender mutilation, gender transitioning, or gender reassignment.

Gina Ruggirello
Self, hair stylist
Austin, TX

Limiting access or removing the possibility for people of any age to receive gender affirming healthcare is a huge risk to their mental health and an infringement on our human rights. People just want to feel good in their skin, please find it in your heart to let people who desire it receive gender affirming care.

Dolores A Garduno
Self Retired
Grand Prairie, TX

For those of us that believe in God's divine design of all His creations, I do not support the mutilation of those creations, specifically boys and girls.

Glenn Emerson
self
Mason, TX

All sexual mutilation of children should be outlawed. Further, adults in any capacity who try to confuse children by grooming them, or convincing them they need to seek to alter their gender, or facilitating such action should be construed as endangering the welfare of a child, and subject to criminal prosecution.
This activity is well-funded by billionaires with heavy investments in pharmaceuticals and healthcare. By confusing children and subjecting them to these Mengele-like disfiguration, they are creating lifelong patients who will always need medical care and prescription hormone treatments. These include the Pritzker family, Warren and Peter Buffet, George Soros, the Tides Foundation, and others. These individuals and organizations exploit vulnerable children for profit.
No child should be subjected to such. It is child abuse of a permanently destructive nature. Children are not mature enough to give informed consent, making them vulnerable to exploitation by this sick, for-profit perversion.

Al Velez
self
Fort Worth, TX

I Support HB 1686

Steven Rainer
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Jessica Limmer
Self
Leander, TX

It's imperative that we pass this bill in order to save the lives of children.

Amanda Mishork
Self
Carrollton, TX

I am against the gender modification of children

Kay Seabough, Mrs.
“Self” retired
Flower Mound, TX

Stop “playing “ God!

Mary Mall
Ourselves
Wylie, TX

We are off this bill!

Terrie Dagley
self
Katy, TX

A child should not even be allowed to choose his/her meals unless, sugar and empty calories are a good diet. How in the world, can a child make a decision regarding what sex they are. Sadly, this is catering to a small percentage of people who are mentally ill. I know that's outrageous; but true. Stop with the nonsense. Do away with any and all laws or ideas that promote this.

Maia Goswami
self
Austin, TX

Transgender children deserve healthcare just as much as anyone else. They deserve to feel comfortable in their own bodies. Leave concerns like these to healthcare professional and parents instead of acting like you know more then experts.

Melissa Rowell, Honorable
Precinct Chairman, 480
Houston, TX

I support this bill! I represent a few thousand constituents.

Olena Duka
Self, homeschool mom of 4, housewife, volunteer
Round Rock, TX

In SUPPORT OF HB1686. No Child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Nick Dahlberg
Self
Eldorado, TX

Transitioning of minors should be stopped as soon as possible

Elizabeth Farrell
self
Austin, TX

Here is the testimony I would have given on Monday March 28th, 2023 if Rep Oliverson and Rep Klick were not abusing their positions of power to prevent public testimony on HB1686:

Good Morning Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and Committee Members. My name is Lu Farrell and gender affirming healthcare saved my life. I am here today testifying in opposition to HB 1686.

I was born and raised in Texas, as was my mother and her mother before her. I pay my taxes on time, I volunteer in my community, and prioritize voting in local elections. As one of the Texans you are supposed to represent, I cannot stand idly by while house members abuse positions of power by using their medical backgrounds to try to legitimize their stance on a bill that has absolutely no basis in legitimate research.

The AMA, AAP and the US Dept of Health and Human services all share the same position on this issue: every single one of them is supportive of gender affirming healthcare, including surgery and hormone therapy for trans youth. If you'd like to check my sources, you can check the official websites of the three aforementioned organizations.

A study published in 2020 by the NIH indicated that 86% of trans youth reported currently struggling with suicidal thoughts. Let that sink in: almost 9/10 trans youth are currently considering ending their life, and you – each of you – have the power to change that for the better.

You wanted hard data, so believe the numbers: if this bill becomes law, there will be a skyrocket in cases of suicide among the same at-risk community that you are all seeking to protect. I implore you to vote against HB 1686 as well as any future bills seeking to restrict the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

Kim Icenhower
self
Sugar Landq, TX

I support this bill. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. Gender modification of minor children is wrong. #DoNoHarm

Gerald Shoults
Self
LaPorte, TX

I support this Bill.

Diana Richert, Mrs
Self homemaker
Abilene, TX

I am for this bill.

Meredith Bowman
Self/parent/teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. If we are unable to vote, smoke, or drink alcohol before a certain age; then a child should not be allowed to change their gender. There's scientific proof that the brain does not fully develop until 25 years of age. Why in the world would anyone approve something before that age that would allow you to change the rest of your life? And a child can't drive a car until 16 and have taken specific tests to receive a driver's license.

Susan Owens
Self
Copperas Cove, TX

FOR protecting our children from this form of child abuse that is life altering.

Holly Barton
Self
Allen, TX

FOR

Cecil Williams, Mrs.
Self retired
Fairview, TX

I believe Life only makes 2 genders and it is harmful to try to become the other gender, and especially for the mutilation on children so I am for this HB 1686.

Meghan Fischer
Self/homeschool mon
Dallas, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. I support this bill.

Curt Karnstedt
self, engineering consultant
Austin, TX

I oppose HB1686, which stops children from receiving the medical care associated with gender affirming care for transgender minors. From talking with families with transgender children that I know, from what I have read about the biology of gender, from the personal experience of transgender people I know, and from my own experience with regards to gender, it appears that these medical interventions are improving the mental health and well being of transgender minors and into adulthood. Every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association, considers such transition care medically necessary. From what I understand, there are many protocols in place to ensure the child's safety and care in making such a life changing decision, and some things, like puberty blockers, are completely reversible. I believe that those who support this bill are obligated to go beyond their current understanding if they wish to mess with the health and well being of transgender youths, and they need to understand that transgender people have existed since the beginning of homo sapiens, and that they deserve the freedom to be who they are externally as well as internally. If those that support this bill believe children have been hurt in some cases, then they should investigate how to improve this type of care, but under no circumstance should they ban it. Please read this article on what the science of gender affirming care shows: https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-the-science-on-gender-affirming-care-for-transgender-kids-really-shows/.

Thank you,
Curt Karnstedt

H M
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Against Christian Principles

Michael Owens
Self
Copperas Cove, TX

FoR prohibiting these procedures

Kaci Madison
Self
Tarzan, TX

For this Bill our kids need to be kids and adults need to stop. Kids cannot make these kinds of decisions for the rest of their lives and in allowing them to is a mental health issue. There is something wrong when a kid wants to change their genetic make up.

Sandy Osbourn
Self
Llano, TX

Please vote YES to prohibit any gender transitioning of any sort.

Sarah Corley, Ms
Self
Copperas Cove, TX

Vote FOR this bill prohibiting these activities/treatments.

No explanation or rationale is needed to deny support for these types of activities/treatments for children, or any associated funding. It's just wrong. Don't let anyone do this to children. When they are adults they can make their own decisions.

Steven Mack
self/banker
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.
Thank you,
Steve Mack

Jerry Mishork
Self
Allen, TX

Fully support this bill.
Let us raise our own children.

Joanie Pikl
Self - event planner
Mckinney, TX

Please protect our children! Support this bill.

Joyce Allen
Self-Member of the Church of Christ
Tyler, TX

Since the beginning of time there has always been male and female (human beings, animals, birds, etc). There's never been a question of or desire to adjust sexuality. I believe God created man and woman to procreate and fill the earth. This talk of changing gender including the youngest of our children is unacceptable. A lot of this has been pushed by the far left to the extreme. We as conservatives need to stand strong and fight against this atrocity. Children mold themselves to what they're taught and that begins with the parents. When it comes down to where this is coming from it's the adults not our children. Things are getting out of hand and we need to do what's right and stand firm on the word of God. I am totally against any type of sexual transitioning!

Belinda Durst
NONE
Schertz, TX

i AM NOT IN FAVOR OF CHILDREN HAVING ANY 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 TREATMENT. ABSOLUTELY NOT IN FAVOR OF ANY ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE THE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN.

Christy Wooten
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 1686 as it inhibits on the rights of human beings to make their own health decisions. I believe this bill will increase suicides in trans youth and will hurt them emotionally, mentally, and physically. Just like everyone, trans youth are exporing their identity and should be allowed to make their own decisions with the guidance of their parents and doctor. Gender reassignment surgeries are not performed on youth. Few affects of hormone therapy cannot be reversed. No medical reasons exist for this law, only religious ones. The US was created with a separation of church and state. Forcing the religious belief that trans youth are not supposed to exist onto everyone is a violation of our basic principles. Please oppose this harmful bill. Thank you for your time.

Verena Thompson
Self retired
Granbury, TX

For/support

Marilyn Thompson
Self
Houston, TX

No person should be allowed to do this until they can decide for themselves when they are no younger than 21 years old.

Jessica Bradford
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. I support the right of families to work closely with their trusted medical and mental health professionals to make decision that work best for them and their children.

Sherry Hill, Ms.
Self
Anna, TX

Public funding should NOT be used to pay for gender transitioning, gender reassignment not gender dysphoria. Please vote to prohibit the use of public funding for such.

Jennifer Tawney
“Self” educator
Conroe, TX

I support this bill. Please protect our children!

Olivia Marquez de la Plata
Self
Carrollton, TX

Do not allow children to be tortured.

Claudette Webb
Odessa Republican party precinct chair
Odessa, TX

Please support this bill protecting children from gender modification (mutilation)

Olivia Wildman
Self / administration
Austin, TX

To prohibit trans healthcare for children is to kill them. It is barbaric and horrifying to see how much moral panic has revolved around trans people these last few years, while they are just trying to live their lives. Trans healthcare is life saving, and by blocking that you aren’t protecting children, you’re hurting them. Trans children are not receiving “the surgery”, they are not being manipulated and are not being mutilated. They are choosing how to express themselves and feel comfortable in their bodies, often through small steps. They grow or cut their hair, use their new name and pronouns, dress how they want to, and often at most taking puberty blockers, which are safe to give to any child to prevent the physical action of puberty. Trans health care is just healthcare, and should be covered by the same structures that regular health care does. We will not back down, we will not stop fighting! Trans rights.

Anne Trapani
Self
Kingwood, TX

No taxpayer money should be spent on gender transitioning, gender, reassignment, or gender dysphoria for any aged individual.

Pamela Hyatt
Self
Garland, TX

I am opposed for any public money or assistance to be used for transgender or gender reassignment procedures and/or treatment.

Vanna Smith
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

This is child mutilation. Absolutely disgusting and should be prohibited.

Shannon Rose
Myself
Austin, TX

My name is Shannon Rose and I am submitting my testimony as public comment, since hearings were cut short with no known reason. I write to this comment forum in opposition to HB1686. It is with disgust and anger that I find myself having had to submit this testimony to point out how this legislation is a complete waste of time. This bill does nothing more than to legalize the discrimination of trans youth and criminalize children's access to healthcare. We as a state have important issues to resolve- child hunger, education gaps, the state electric grid, our healthcare crisis, maternal mortality rates, poverty and homelessness, to name just a few. Any of the aforementioned issues would be better use of this lege's time, than this gross government overreach which looks to dictate what counts as healthcare for parts of our community.

I have read this bill. What strikes me the most, is how exceedingly hypocritical it is. The language written here openly discriminates and plainly dictates, to quote said bill- "[to prohibit] on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria" while also stating under EXCEPTIONS: "does not apply to the -puberty suppression or blocking prescription drugs for the purpose of normalizing puberty for a minor experiencing gender "precocious" puberty". How funny that this bill chooses to use the term "precocious puberty" instead of gender affirming care. Is that simply because to use our terminology would be to acknowledge that these treatments are medically the same? It is an egregious show of purposeful ignorance to tell one child "you may access healthcare" while openly discriminating against another and saying"you are not allowed access to healthcare even though it will save your life". I am sure that you heard many testimonies, at least those that were allowed to speak - describing how important this healthcare is for children; how it IS indeed lifesaving. I have a feeling this argument won't sway you, as perplexing as that is to me. Instead I will say this, when we errode one person's rights, we errode everyone's rights, point blank. I may not be trans or the parent of a trans child, but I can see plain as day that this is discriminatory. Discrimination of any kind does not belong in our state. Additionally, there is no medical difference between these two types of care, only the type of person affected. This is bigotry, plain and simple. Please do the people of Texas the service of upholding human rights, of protecting all Texans, even those you don't understand. Let this bill die permanently in committee, where it belongs .

Thank you

A. Jones
self
Georgetown, TX

For HB 1686

Melissa Burst
Self
Austin, TX

Children should not be allowed or encouraged to medically or surgically change their natural bodies based on feelings that can and are most certainly will change as they mature. Children can't drink or drive or fight in a war so they should not undergo such irreversible procedures

Gabriel Smith
Self
Dripping Springs, TX

There is no reason that our state should support or allow the transitioning of children. A child's brain is not developed enough to make a decision of this magnitude. Transgender is a chemical illness that defies the laws of nature. Please do not allow this to be supported

Michelle Carino
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

The gender transitioning of minors should be prohibited. I believe it is not right to intervene at such an early stage, let alone at all. The child should be given the chance to fully develop, mind, body, and spirit without unnecessary cause for even more confusion.

Instead of spending public money on something that is actually even more harmful for children, we should provided assistance that would help with mental health and counseling to help them sort out what they may be going through... letting these children know that they are loved and special and that they have been made exactly who they were meant to be.

They should be able to fully understand, if ever unavoidable, the choice they are making and be old enough to face the consequences. Parents and legal guardians are not to make this choice for them either as they are not the ones who will have to suffer the consequences.

We need to act on the root cause and not just give them what they think they want.

Theo Adams-Hernandez
self; program manager
Round Rock, TX

every single person who votes to support this bill is a fascist and you will be remembered as such. you are MURDERERS if you pass this bill. PROTECT TRANS YOUTH. TRANS PEOPLE DESERVE TO LIVE.

i am a trans adult. i knew i was trans from a young age, but never had the language to describe my feelings. i grew up in a conservative catholic household, and attended a private catholic school, even joining the church band. i grew up afraid to be “found out” because that community did not, and does not, acknowledge queer people. although to their credit, they don’t acknowledge the pedophilia in their churches either, but i digress. my childhood was full of lies from religious leaders who said that queer people would never experience unconditional love. i spent much of my childhood dissociated as a result of the stress & fear i had. i knew that if this life continued, i couldn’t and wouldn’t live to see 25. and in all honesty, it was just before my 25th birthday that i changed my name and pronouns. so, in a way, the old me didn’t live to see 25, i did, and here i am 5 years later, proud that i was brave enough to become the person before you here, testifying on behalf of not just a younger theo, who believed that a life in the closet was not worth living, but for all the trans youth who have been told that they’re loved more dead than alive, and to show the parents of trans youth that the greatest gift you can give your child is love, support, & acceptance. i never got a real childhood because the fear of being disowned & abandoned by my community was so great, i never felt safe or secure to be myself.

coming out saved my life. i fight because i don’t want another trans youth believing that they are better off dead than alive. only a society that is sick wants to take away healthcare from an already vulnerable community, youth, and abuse them for being more than you bargained for. you want them to be kids, just not like us.

2 weeks ago, you flew in non texan de transitioners, to testify against these bills, but how convenient is that for your narrative when you can’t fly the corpses of all the trans people who either killed themselves because they were denied gender affirming care, or were murdered for being trans. because those bodies far outnumber the 3 you invited. this morning, i gave myself my t shot with this syringe & this vial. here is my band aid. this healthcare is life saving and if i would have had this healthcare as a child, i would have had a childhood that i remember. your vote for this bill puts blood on your hands. vote NO on HB1686

Ashley Espinoza
Self
Venus, TX

I am for this bill

Samuel Terry, Mr
Myself
Ingram, TX

Dear Sir, I am for this Bill HR1686, due the inability of minors to make life altering decisions like this. In other areas of life a minor cannot make decisions. A parent must sign for them. This is most likely the largest decision a person could ever make with no ability to correct it to the same standard as before.
Thank you for this opportunity to allow me to make my opinion known to you.

Brigitte Black
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please vote FOR HB1686 to protect children from life altering procedures and treatments that they may regret as adults. Their brains are not full developed enough to make these decisions, and they may have irreversible consequences!

Ana Clark, Miss
Self, student
Round Rock, TX

Minors cannot consent. Their brains are not fully developed and neither are their bodies.

Paula Ledbetter
Self
Tomball, TX

This should be a personal choice made by an individual of legal age and should be at his or her expense.

John Kelly
Self/Retired Healthcare
McKinney, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Janelle Viscomi
self
Houston, TX

I am for prohibiting procedures for children regarding gender transitioning.

Jan Callaway
None
Round Rock, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT passage of this bill to protect our children. We are already seeing so many stories come out from teens and young adults who deeply regret their decision to transition and now are living with bodies which will never be the same due to surgery or puberty blockers. So many of these young people indicate they wanted to transition due to anxiety, a desire to fit in with their peers, or a desire to be different (unique) from their peers. These emotions have always been common during teens and pre-teens and that is a precarious time to be making irreversible, life-altering decisions. Parents are being pressured to support their children in these decisions by being told their children will resort to suicide, otherwise. Parents need to feel empowered to support their children through these years when emotions are so fallible and transient. Once a person has reached full adulthood, they should then be free to make whatever decision they want regarding their body. But just as we protect our children from other harmful things until they are better able to make decisions for themselves, our children's futures depend upon us being strong for them, now. I fear in a few short years, there will be SO many permanently damaged, children and so many parents filled with regret for not standing up to protect them. My own children have thanked me for not indulging them in their harmful decisions when they were younger and now they are happy, successful, well-adjusted adults with fully-formed brains. Please be on the right side of history with this vote.

Morgan Ledder
Self
Harper, TX

Texas should not support the transitioning of children. It is unethical!

Lauren Rohr
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Gender affirming care is considered an evidence based, safe and critically important practice and should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams.

Dinah Ward
Self office manager
Odessa, TX

Please save the children from this perversion. I fully support the bill protecting them from untold damage physically and mentally emotionally as well.

Linda Bloss
Self
Houston, TX

I have been closely related to the pediatric medical community for many years. I strongly support a BAN on any surgical procedure that is for gender reassignment, gender transitioning or gender altering in children. NO public money or public assistance ought to be provided for these procedures.

Gary McKinney
self, project engineer
Waxahachie, TX

I 100% support this bill, permanently life-altering changes can not be allowed when children aren't even old enough to consent. This is because as we all know they do not have the maturity and logic skills they will grow into as an adult.

sadie mayes
Self
Stephenville, TX

Research has shown that they brain of children is not fully developed, therefore it inhibits their ability to make such an important decision regarding the rest of their lives. It is offensive to many, and unfair to use public money or public assistance.

Nathan Huff
Church of Christ
Abilene,, TX

Please vote for this bill

Matthew Doetsch
Self
Montgomery, TX

For this bill!

Donna Kelly, Ms
Self
Midland, TX

Please support this bill and protect our next generation from life altering decisions made by others when they are too young and inexperienced to make a wise decision for themselves. Listen to the voices of those who now regret their decisions and are now stuck with life long consequences. Vote on the side of caution and preventing irreparable harm!

Emily Johnson-Pounds
self
Kyle, TX

Hello,
My name is Emily Johnson-Pounds and I am 7 generations Texan. I currently reside in Kyle, TX but originally I am from Austin. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I greatly oppose the restriction of healthcare access based on gender identity. Trangender people are vital members of our community and deserve the same freedom as everyone else.

Orchid Soh, Ms.
FMAG
Sugar Land, TX

Stop this nonsense!

Deborah Yancey
Self
Sealy, TX

Support that physicians are prohibited to perform procedures and treatment for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments to children under 18 years of age.

Simon Black
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please vote FOR HB1686 to protect children from irreversible, life altering procedures, and treatments!

Brittany Lewis
self- a citizen of the United States and resident of Texas. I am a teacher, a curriculum developer, and a mother.
McKinney, TX

Please vote FOR HB1686! NO child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #donoharm

Cristina Mishork
Self
Allen, TX

I support prohibiting gender modification of minor children

Dan Callaway
None
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children!!

Kimberly Ulmer
self Business Development Professional in High Tech
Granger, TX

As a mother, I am totally against giving any child who is not fully developed gender "reassignment" and/or gender "transitioning" treatments. I am against using public money or public assistance for these treatments. Besides the havoc these treatments cause to developing bodies, children need to be mature enough to fully understand the risks of embracing such treatments. The biological gender of a child is not a mistake.

Tanya Taylor
Self
Wharton, TX

I support that doctors are prohibited to perform and do treatments to children under age 18 of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Rachel Dzaka
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am For and in support of this bill

Elizabeth Hanks
Self, Attorney
Houston, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this bill, which denies healthcare to children and will result in an increase in suicidal ideation, anxiety and depression among Texas children. The Texas legislature should spend its time protecting kids from these constant school shootings, not putting them in greater danger.

Jackie Besinger, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

Good day committee members, I am Jackie Besinger, I hold both an MBA- MHA. Within my Master of Healthcare Administration, I also hold a major in public health. I am representing myself in my statement. I am in favor of HB1686. Here are the reasons why this bill is so important: (1) It will stop the use of taxpayer money for surgeries that have cause harm to children for the past 50 years, (2) it will stop healthcare services such as Medicaid and Healthcare.Gov-market place from providing financial assistance to children who are coerced by their parents and woke schools districts that are following a fascist agenda against innocent children, you asked what is the leading cause of the increase of children identifying as trans-gender? This is why there is an increase (Social Emotional Learning, and books in the libraries that are full of gender dysphoria books with misinformation, (3) Medicaid should be use as a healthcare service for children who are sick with cancer, and other morbidity and mortality health issues, (4) gender affirming care is a harmful practice with long-term mental and physical damage, (5) children and adolescents are unfortunately, being allowed to make irreversible life-altering decisions, don't' forget that children are uncapable of making reasonable decisions, as their minds are not fully developed. Experts divide developmental stages into periods from birth to age 18 years- old, for a reason, (6) gender transitioning procedures have proven to lead to impairment in bone strength and brain maturation, as well as the loss of fertility and the ability to engage in normal sexual relationships, many examples can be given from children who will never be normal again. For those representatives who are gay, and lesbian please leave your personal sexual bias outside this conversation, this is not about you, this is about innocent children whose lives will be alter forever. Bringing children to testify as fish bate to testify is simply mental abuse of these children.

I ask today that you do what is right for Texas children, and that you save them from lifelong medical treatments that will never change their anatomy or physiology. Lastly, keep in mind that these decisions should be made when these children are of legal age, and can pay for their own treatments and understand the magnitude of these treatments.
Jackie Besinger, MBA-MHA
jackiebesinger@protonmail.com

Margaret Hetzel
Self
Carrollton, TX

For

Samantha Smothermon
Self, nonprofit professional
Austin, TX

Passing this bill means death for so many people. If passed, the lack of gender affirming care will increase suicide rates in the trans population, on top of the violence the trans community already experiences. It seems you have forgotten about the separation of church and state, and if religion is what your argument is based on, isn't Christianity all about love and acceptance? Having access to this care DOES NOT AFFECT YOU, so why are making life miserable for so many Texans that rely on you to do the right thing? Do the right thing and choose humanity, please.

Wina Garrett
Self/retired
Odessa, TX

I support this bill. I believe that no procedures or treatments for gender transitioning or hormone treatments or any such thing to change a child's sex should be legal for any child or person under the age of 18.

Mindy Purcell
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR

Bonni Adams
Self
Parker, TX

FOR

No child is born in the wrong body. Do not harm minors.

Amy Pendergraft
self
Van Vleck, TX

I support that doctor's should be prohibited from providing transgender-related health care and procedures to kids under 18 years old. Please consider the emotional and mental development of children related to life-changing decisions. Increased suicide rates and depression are well documented in the transgendee community. Our responsibility is to keep our children safe from the harm of themselves and others.

Rebecca Evans
Self, homemaker
Grapevine, TX

I oppose this bill. Healthcare should be between a patient and their doctor. Keep government out of healthcare.

Katie Payne
Self, Social Worker
Austin, TX

I am vehemently against this bill. As a licensed master social worker with direct experience working with queer and trans youth and adults I have seen firsthand the damage that is caused when trans youth aren’t allowed access to gender affirming care. If this bill becomes law texas families will be forced to move out of state or risk causing irreparable harm to their children. When trans kids don’t have access to medically necessary care they are at high risk of suicide. The Texas legislature needs to give parents and their trans kids the autonomy to make the medical decisions that are right for them in consultation with trained medical professionals. Texas should be allotting MORE public money for gender affirming care for trans youth and adults.

Lucinda Bibee
John Bibee Books
Austin, TX

I support this bill. There is no possible way for a minor to give informed consent to the use puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, or gender reassignment surgery. The implications cannot be understood. It is normal for children going through puberty to experience some discomfort with the changes in their bodies, but a great majority of these children, if left alone, will settle into the sexual identity that they were born with. DO NOT allow minors to be given these irreversible treatments which may result in sterility, the inability to nurse a baby, a higher incidence of cancer among others.

Antoinetta Jesko
Jesus Christ
Amarillo, TX

House Bill 1686. We are For this bill. Please PASS HB1686

Christopher Blevins
Self
Bryan, TX

Texas should support the health and well being of children and the whole family, and ban the transitioning of minors. With health effects at least as dangerous as smoking or drinking, and the mental health concerns that sounds be addressed first, no minor should be encouraged or lightly permitted to undergo life altering surgery and treatment.

Lee Ann Williams
Self
McKinney, TX

Please vote for Bill 1686 to prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Natalie McNeill
Self employed
Cedar Park, TX

Public monies should not ever be used to support such an inhumane practice.

William Hetzel
Self
Carrollton, TX

For

Julie Schulte, Mrs.
Self
Spring, TX

It is wrong to change the biological gender of any person

Sarita Espinosa
Self
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Sarita Espinosa and I use they/them pronouns and I live in Austin, TX. I'm here in opposition of HB 1686 and this bill should not advance beyond this committee. I'm here on behalf of myself.

I'm here in opposition of this bill because this bill is a human rights violation and a direct threat against the lives of my community and the people I love so dear. I'm going to be quite frank. Gender affirming care saves lives. Gender affirming care is an act of love. Erasing gender affirming care for youth is a death sentence and there will be blood on anyone's hands that rules and votes in favor of this bill.

The possibility of a ban on gender affirming care has shook me to my core. I'm terrified for my loved ones and my community. There is someone dear in my life that comes to mind when I think of this bill. They only recently just got access to gender affirming care as an adult and their access to care I can honestly say has saved their life. I mourn the life they've lived before they were able to live as authentic self and wonder if the soul in their eyes would have always existed if they had access to gender affirming care as a youth. I wonder if they would've hated themselves less and would've felt less alone. I wonder if they would have lived with joy instead of living as a walking corpse. And even if they never had access to gender affirming care, they would STILL be trans, just miserable because they lack the freedom to access the care that they need.

Ever since I was in my early childhood, I knew I wasn't a cisgender person. Gender affirming care wasn't even something of consideration when I was growing up. I wonder if I had the education and access to care that I do now if life would've made more sense then. I wonder if I would've loved myself more and hated myself less. I think I would've fallen in love with life rather than constantly want to be dead. I'm lucky to be alive today and I have the trans community to thank for that.

Passing this bill would erase my community, but it will not erase our existence or visibility. We trans people will be here and exist, no matter what act of genocide against our community is committed. Trans people are beautiful. Trans and gender non-conforming kids are valid and they will still exist, no matter what bill or law may pass, as they have always existed. I ask that if you have the audacity to pass this bill, then at least have the respect to dig these children's graves yourself.

Elbert McAfee
The McAfee Insurance Agendy
WAXAHACHIE, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Carol Chaffe
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Fir!!!!!

David McIlhargey
Self
Keller, TX

Agree

Rachel Boyd
Self
Brownsboro, TX

I would like to formally request that public money or public assistance, not be granted towards procedures and treatments for gender, transitioning, gender, reassignment, or gender dysphoria.

Kristen Triplett
Self
Anna, TX

I am FOR this bill. Children are not able to drink alcohol, which temporarily alters your mind…..why are we letting them permanently damage their bodies? Let’s compassionately address the mental anguish they are experiencing, without cutting off body parts.

Anngie Stevens
Self - Finance Manager
Frisco, TX

I support HB 1686

Pamela McCarty
Self
Frisco, TX

DO NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS HIDEOUS BILL! STOP MUTILATING OUR BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.

Shannon Blake
Self
McKinney, TX

I am opposed to the gender mutilation, surgery and puberty blockers for minors.

Jennifer Aston
Self
Spicewood, TX

I strongly disagree with this HB 1686. This mutilation and damage to minors through procedures and treatments for gender reassignment should nit be allowed. Adults should be protecting our children and not harming them.

Darla Robinson
Conservative Christians
Andrews, TX

NOW

Kala Podea
Self
Melissa, TX

I support #DoNoHarm

Louise Madsen
Self
Henderson, TX

I support the ban on Pediatric Gender Modification. If this is something a child wants it should be done or considered after the age of 18.

Kimberly Schonhorst
Self, doula
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill - Gender affirming care is life saving care. Our children need to be heard, valued, respected, and provided culturally competent and trauma informed care. This bill would remove that right for our kids. If we want to keep our kids safe, we should ban assault rifles not life saving medical care

Jerialice Arsenault
Self musician
Castell, TX

Please do the right thing and save our children from this nightmare. Texas must stand in the gap!!!!!
Thank you!
Jerialice

Joyce Shoop
Self: Retired Rehabilitation and Career Counselor! ??
Frisco, TX

I am urging the Human Services Committee to pass this very important bill to the full House for a vote. It is essential that parents be involved in such a serious decision as a child choosing to have gender-altering treatments. From all I have read about this subject, a great number of young people who make this decision to transition to the opposite sex regret that decision later and end up with major depression and often suicide after making decisions to change their bodies in unalterable ways. It is very important that parents are involved in helping their child through this critical time in their lives before they do damage to their bodies that is irreversible.

Emily Moore
Self
Burleson, TX

I agree with HB 1686

Jacob Aston
Self
Marble Falls, TX

This is insane that we even have to petition for this but here it goes…. These are children

Public money does not go to people wanting to get sex
changes or genital mutilations. We have cartel problems, homeless, poverty, starvation etc. come on.

Miranda Fleming
Self
Fairview, TX

I urge you to vote FOR this bill. Protect children from having life altering procedures performed that they cannot be prepared to choose.

JO ANN HENRY
SELF RETIRED
YORKTOWN, TX

AGAINST USING PUBLIC MONEY TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS....OF GENDER TRANSITIONING... WHICH THERE IS NO SUCH THING. AGAINST ALL GENDER REASSIGNMENT (HOW CAN THAT HAPPEN WITHOUT CUTTING OFF ONE PART TO PUT ON ANOTHER PART.....??) AGAINST GENDER CHANGING OF ANY TYPE...IT'S A BIG BAG OF CONFUSION...

Meagan Brown
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Gender affirming care is considered an evidence based, safe and critically important practice and should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams.

Vickie Burdine
Self snd all parents
Abilene, TX

I am for this bill. No child should be allowed to try to change their gender til they're 18. Parents don't need to worry about defending the decision to KEEP their child Their child. No room for state intervention. AND many more important things to give the state's money to. (teacher raise). The state should also deny funding for schools pushing this agenda. .

Jamie Hillin
Self
Austin, TX

"FOR" this bill.

Kevin Aston
Self
Spicewood, TX

Absolutely no gender transitioning for any child under 18 should be done with public money or assistance. And furthermore I believe that children under 18 are not able to make these life decisions with clarity.

Anthony Bruner, Retired Teacher & Principal
Hb 1686/children of Texas
Mineola, TX

Vote For / Stop this indoctrination of our Society and children in our public schools..

Hannah Adkins
Self
Tyler, TX

FOR

Nancy Aziz
self, Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

As a parent, registered voter, and healthcare professional, I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1686. Gender-affirming care is considered an evidence-based, safe, and critically important practice. It should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams.

Eden Patterson
Myself
Alvarado, TX

I agree

Abigail Adams
Self
Parker, TX

Vote FOR this bill, why give children the chance to make permanent decisions? Give the children time to grow and make their own decisions, without influence of people. Make them wait until they are adults. They cant drive alone till 16, vote till 18, and drink until 21, because under those ages we do not trust their judgment. And non of THOSE are permanent, why are we letting children choose something as permanent as gender procedures? Gender procedures should be AT LEAST treated with the same caution as the right to vote. If you're afraid their vote will lead to your demise, dont let them be their own demise by letting them pick their gender too early.

Sue Schmidt, Mrs
Homeschooling
Plano, TX

Vote YES . No mutilation of minor children

Sharon Hobbs
Self. RN
Amarillo, TX

No one is born in the wrong body. I am strongly AGAINST this bill.

Eden Patterson
Myself
Alvarado, TX

I agree

Veronica McFadden
Self
Lewisville, TX

I am fully behind this bill. Children don't have fully developed brains until they are in their 20s. We cannot allow this mutilation of children to go on. They are not fully capable of making a sound decision as children. I certainly do not want to spend one cent of my money on any of these procedures or treatments to physically change a child from their birth gender to the opposite gender. Please pass HB1686. Thank you.

Patsy Boatright
Self/retired
Maryneal, TX

I am for HB 1686. A child does not have the ability to make an intelligent decision on changing their sex. They do not have the ability to understand the life altering permanent horrific side effects of puberty blockers. Thank you for your time, Patsy Boatright.

Kristi Broumley
Self
Tyler, TX

For prohibiting

William Robinson
Self
Andrews, TX

For Support the Bill

Sophia Woodward
Myself as a Texan
College Station, TX

Do not pass this bill. Trans youth who do not have access to this kind of care are much more likely to attempt suicide. You were elected to care for all Texans. Do not pass this or more children will take their lives.

Katherine Pena
Myself
Odessa, TX

I am in support of HB1686. Mutilating children is not ok!

Becky Clay, Mrs
Self
Dallas, TX

It doesn't take ANY effort at all to see the UNIVERSAL madness that the causes of the transgender "movement " has caused. We have allowed the voices and actions of VERY emotionally and mentally damaged people to rule over our children…not to mention the tax dollars being spent to mutilate their bodies. This unconscionable trend toward letting "anyone do anything" without regard for stable, rational decisions to rule-is at the very least insane…and at worst-guiding our society into the abyss of a dystopian sickness.

Montana Steele
self
Austin, TX

My name is Montana and I am testifying in opposition to HB 1686. I am a non-binary transmasc person and my pronouns are they/them. I am a born and raised Texan thru and thru. I grew up in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, where all of my family still resides. My family has long Texas roots originating from Midland, and they are proud of me for showing up today to advocate for Texas families and their right to make informed decisions about their own and their children's healthcare.

When I was 13 I attempted suicide. I didn't want to live in a world that i very clearly didn't fit into, and that i didn't think wanted me. i was and am fortunate to have deeply loving parents, but the fact that i truly didn't seem to belong anywhere including in my own skin, and the severe othering and bullying i experienced as a kid because of that, made me want to die. i didn't see any hope for finding the will to live in a body that never felt like a comfortable home for living in.

The day I tried to kill myself in my childhood bedroom, was the worst day of my mother's life. She waiting with me for 17 hours on the day of this hearing, and continues to rally against this bill, hoping no texan parents ever have to bury their own kid because the state legislature took away their rights to life saving health care. Back then, she had the power to give me the care that I desperately needed. If you pass this bill, you take away the rights of all texas parents to give their own children life saving care that they desperately need. It is up to the families and their doctors to determine what that care is, and how to administer it. Not the state government.

My story, and my mom's story, is unfortunately not rare. Trans youth express extremely high suicidality rates, with multiple studies showing that 40-50% of trans youth attempt suicide. While that may be due to many reasons, awareness that health care exists which could make life worth living for the child, but that they cannot access it, steals hope from our kids. Taking away a family's ability to make private, personal decisions about their child's health care in collaboration with their doctors, will unequivocally lead to an increase in these abhorrent suicidality rates. Gender affirming health care is lifesaving health care. Children will die as a result of HB 1686 if it is allowed to pass out of this committee b. I implore this committee to oppose this overreaching bill, and side with the freedom, liberty, and privacy of all Texas families to make their own decisions.

Gwyn Sparks, Mrs
Self / self employed
Midland, TX

Persons should be an adult before they can make a permanent life changing choice, not someone else making it for them.

Judy King, Mrs
Self
Amarillo, TX

I am for for this bill!

Guion Hobbs
None
Amarillo, TX

This is wrong. Stop the madness.

Deb Shaw
Self
Dublin, TX

A child is born either a male or female as God intended! Nothing should be done to change that!!

Margaret Seeds
Self - stay at home mom
Austin, TX

Transgender kids should be able to obtain appropriate medical procedures as determined by them, their guardians, and their doctors. The government should not be involved in determining individual medical procedures.

Clifford Hobbs
Self
Round Rock,, TX

I support this bill. Children are not mature enough to make those kinds of decisions and parents should not be allowed to mutilate their children physically or chemically.

John White, Mr.
Self
Rockwall, TX

Regardless the number of homosexuals, pedophiles, or other people testify. This bill is desperately needed to protect Texas children from being misled through indoctrination or improper influences in public schools or public libraries.

Evil is always evil, regardless the number of proponents of the sexualization and exploitation of children.

I urge committee members to SUPPORT HB 1686, as do I.

Larry Shudra
self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Penny S Johnson
Self/ retired Realtor
Houston, TX

I support this bill….

Public Health March 27, 2023 - 8:00 AM [E2.036]
HB 1686 by Oliverson

Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Jennifer Anders
Self
McKinney, TX

I urge support in passing this bill. Children should not be making life altering decisions that will effect them for the rest of their lives at such an early age. At what age can children get a tattoo? At what age can children drive a car? At what age can children drink or smoke? At what age can a child watch a rated R movie at the theaters? We protect our kids until they are old enough to make adult decisions, so why would we allow a child that cannot get a tattoo, drive a car, drink alcohol or smoke, or watch a rated R movie the ability to change their gender and alter their bodies with surgery or chemicals. This is insane. Protect Children from those with an agenda to hurt them.

Karen Kaufman
self
Orange, TX

I 100% agree with the statement below.

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Darla Ryden
Texas Apostolic Prayer Network
Houston, TX

I am FOR THIS BILL…STOP THE ABUSE OF OUR CHILDREN…NO TREATMENT FOR MINORS…PERIOD

John Stevens
Self/project manager
Frisco, TX

I support this bill

Ethan Ganz, Mx.
Self
#4, TX

My name is Ethan Michelle Ganz and I am a trans nonbinary Texan, and I oppose HB 1686.

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

This bill goes against these words written in the second paragraph of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. How can people have the unalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness, when their lifesaving healthcare is banned or under attack? We may all be different. We may come from different places. We may have different ideas. We may have different cultures, but the things that we should all have in common is the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of this great country.

I could tell you about how important access to healthcare is, but I am sure you have seen a lot of comments like that. Instead, I want to talk about our shared values as Americans and as Texans. What is the saying, "I wasn't born in Texas, but I got here as quick as I could." I love this state, it is the only place I have ever considered home. If you pass this bill, you will take away people's homes. If people can't have Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness here in Texas, then their connection to their home will be severed. I have always known Texas to be a welcoming state. My home city of Houston, Texas is one of the most diverse cities in this country.

Our strength as humans comes from our diversity of the human experience. Texas is a great place and can be a powerhouse in the future, but not if we take away people's unalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.

I have known that I was trans since I was a small child. I come from a very conservative religious background and I was not exposed to any LGBTQIA folks. I was 4 the first and last time my mom let me pick my own haircut, because I got it cut as short as I could. At 6, I picked out my name Ethan. My parents tried to force a feminine gender presentation on me. My church, school, and family tried to make me be something I am not, based on what they viewed as the norm. I tried really hard to be what was expected. I was traumatized, not by who I am,but by not being allowed to be who I am. I had a hard time over the years, but in 2018 I decided to change my name to the name I picked for myself at 6 years old. I started Testosterone a year ago. After starting my transition, I felt so much better,but not just emotionally. My hormones fixed all kinds of issues that I had, even ones that I thought was normal. There were symptoms that I had since the onset of puberty that were fixed once I started my transition. That means that I suffered unnecessarily for 36 years, because I didn't know this could help me. My only regret is that I didn't get this medical care sooner. Please vote against this hateful and oppressive bill.

Sara Short
Self
Cedar park, TX

I am against medical transformation/transition procedures as a minor. Until a child has fully matured there are many physical and mental changes the body naturally are already going through. There is no valid reason to manipulate that process that can have long term ramifications.

Eva Truong
self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill!

Sharon Hobbs
Self. RN
Amarillo, TX

I just submitted a comment saying I am strongly against this bill. That is incorrect! I am 100% for passing this bill to prevent this from happening!!!
PLEASE enter my response as FOR passing this bill. Thank you!

Herman Jesko
Me my children my grandchildren and my great grandchildren
Amarillo, TX

Please protect our minor children. PASS THIS BILL

Wendy Ward
Self
Melissa, TX

FOR

Linda Bourque
self
McKinney, TX

Support HB 1686

Aden Podea
Self UAV Pilot
Melissa, TX

Minors should NOT be allowed to or be coerced into gender reassignment.

Lisa Johnson
Self, Self-employed
Allen, TX

Please vote FOR this bill to ban access to gender -changing procedures/medications, and any use of public funds for this purpose. We must protect our precious children from these life-altering decisions that they most likely will regret once they are mature enough to realize what was permanently done to them. The ruining of their future while they're vulnerable and confused is child abuse.

Damon Rambo, Pastor
Self/pastor
MARKHAM, TX

I whole heartedly support this bill. We MUST end this abuse against children!

William Decker, MAJ
Self
Canton, TX

We cannot tolerate child mutilation.

Sauncere Rambo
Self/Homemaker
MARKHAM, TX

Please protect these children from their deranged parents. Ban gender mutilation NOW!

Weiqiong He
Self
Austin, TX

I support GB 1686

Stephanie Messina
Self
Austin, TX

Against HB 1686.

Carter Hogan
Self, Artist
Austin, TX

My name is Carter Hogan. I'm a trans nonbinary folk musician who's lived in Austin for 12 years, and I am here representing myself to register my opposition to HB 1686.

I am NOT a lifelong Texan, but I am one who chose to be here. I grew up in a Catholic Orthodox community in rural Oregon and from a very young age, my emotionally and physically abusive parents kept me from the resources and communities that would have helped me to thrive. Again and again, I was forced to deny and bury and hide who I was, and punished in a variety of ways when I couldn't. When I experienced sexual violation, they applauded me for finally being a desirable girl. By the time I turned 15, I knew I was waiting to die.

But I didn't die. Somehow, I made it to 22 years old. That's when I moved to Texas.

I am so proud of and astounded by the life I have built for myself here, beyond the reach of my religious family, and that is due in large part to my ability to access the resources I needed. I have been able to socially transition in ways that continue to save my life, and I will one day soon pursue medical transition so that I can at last bring balance and peace to my body. And man, it really burns my grits to think about how much sooner I could have had a life I love living, if only I'd had the access.

Next month I turn 34. I got lucky that I failed to die the 3 times I tried. If I'd had access to the kind of future dreaming that something like gender affirming healthcare provides, I might not have felt like I had to exit this planet early. More than half of the trans and nonbinary youth in this country will consider suicide at some point this year. They deserve to have access to the resources they need.

Today, I stand here for all Texas kids who want, who need, to see themselves having a future, and ask you to trash this hateful, dangerous bill that infringes upon our individual rights. We ARE Texas. WE are Texas. And to everyone listening, especially to trans youth: regardless of how this bill goes, we are here, for you, by your side. You, in every way, are worth standing for.

Sandy Geach
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill and highly encourage those I voted for to support this bill and protect the children of Texas.

Cathie Adams
1st VP Eagle Forum, Former President Texas Eagle Forum
Rockport, TX

Support

Pete Geach
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill and hope the reps for this great state supports this bill and protect children if Texas.

Emma Jones, Mrs.
Self
Anna, TX

I adamantly oppose gender modification for our young people.

Lynn Lunski, Mrs.
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Arlington, TX

I support this HB.

Rosemary Cervantes, Ms.
Self
Odessa, TX

Support this bill

Laurie Moore
Self
Austin, TX

Give these kids the opportunity to figure out who they are before altering their bodies. They will go through tremendous change as they grow and need the chance to do that.
From a former tomboy who is so glad now she is a woman!

Loretta Bear
Self, retired
Abilene, TX

I support HB1686. Thank you.

Zarine Parakh, Miss
Self
Southlake, TX

It is completely inappropriate for the government to be interfering with the lives of people who simply want to live the way they feel is best. As a state who prides itself in freedom and independence how could you stand by and support the GOVERNMENT dictating personal decisions to be made by individuals (and their doctors when applicable). Trans people are an asset to society, just like any and all diversity is. Diversity makes us stronger and better people. It is not the government's right to intervene on personal choices. If we want to protect children there are many other things that could be done; starting with making schools safer from hun related violence, supporting our teachers and educators, and putting more support into our public schools. Do better.

Mingke Huang
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Tim Mcdiarmid
Tim the Girl
San Antonio, TX

This is so damaging and outrageous.

hongqing he
Myself
Allen, TX

in God we trust

Sarah Owen
Self
Allen, TX

Against this bill

Sharon Ruiz
Self
San Antonio, TX

NO CHILD is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Collene Myers, Mrs
Self/ retired nurse
Cleburne, TX

I am very much in favor of bill 1686. No one should be doing procedures on or providing medications to a child without parent knowledge or permission. And no one should for any reason, perform sex change operations on or provide hormones for that purpose on any minor (under18).

Pamela Cantwell
Self
Dale, TX

No children should ever have any procedure or “treatment” for any change from the gender of which they were born. Public money and/or public assistance should have never even been suggested!

Jake Wheeler
Self
Sanger, TX

Individuals experiencing gender confusion should not be encouraged to embrace that confusion any further in order to mutilate their God-given body. Their cases should be handled with patience, sincere- care, and with the love and grace of Jesus Christ which has been extended to a fallen humanity through the Gospel. In the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 19, verses 4 through 6, Christ addressed the issue of Gender and Marriage. “

Matthew 19:4-6
He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

Christ also taught that the human heart(not the organ, but the center of inner life including mind, will and emotions) is , by nature, defiled, evil and corrupt (Matthew 15:17-20, Mark 7:21-23).

Matthew 15:17-19

“Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.”

God’s word is the standard of truth upon which all reality depends (John 17:17, Hebrews 1:2, Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:1-2). The Good news is that sinners who are fallen with evil hearts, can be made right with God through the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and , through Him, can overcome the presence of sin (including sexual sin of all manner, transgenderism and the like) in our lives by means of the washing of the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit:

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14

Michelle Chapman
Self-Human Resources Specialist
Irving, TX

I am for this bill in prohibiting procedures and treatments for gender transitioning.

Martha Dusek, Mrs.
None
San Angelo, TX

Please support this bill. No child should have this kind of thing

done to their bodies. It’s harmful and abusive.

Lauren Moore
Self
Stephenville, TX

For/in support of this bill

Katherine Tully, Mrs.
Self, Stay at home mom
Houston, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1686 and encouraging our Texas lawmakers to vote FOR this bill.

Childhood is under assault by a new and radical experiment. Instead of bringing healing to a child experiencing dysphoria through psychological or emotional therapies and modalities, there is a trend to rush children and teens into biological "treatments" that will permanently alter and affect the body's ability to grow, develop, and even reproduce. These medical modifications can not only render the child sterile, but can also sever the ability for future sexual pleasure. Hormone therapy is not "settled science" and there are entire countries who have reversed their course of "affirmation" at an early age, due in no small part to ongoing rates of suicide and depression for post-transitioned youth and young adults. Parents in the US are being threatened with the concept that if they do not accept hormonal and medical transition for their seemingly dysphoric child, then they will be the parent of a "dead child." They are being told that this route is their only option. Doctors and social workers who have begun to sound their alarm over the record number of children and teens being pushed into this new narrative - are being erased and threatened. The clinics and doctors and organizations that are pushing this narrative are fully invested in the Big Business of medical transitions.

The decision to undergo hormonal or medical transitioning can only be chosen by the individual for him or herself - when of an age of reason to understand the permanent nature of and the risks involved. Detransitioners of today, who were "yesterday's child experiments" should be listened to. Big box clinics and endo docs and other medical clinics and hospitals who are racing a large quantity of children and teens into hormonal and surgical transitioning, should be examined under a microscope, especially for signs of medical malpractice. To persuade parents and youth on this path is predatory. Heir patients of today will likely need ongoing support and care for life, to mitigate the effects of the false promises of transitioning as a means to heal wounds or being wholeness to an identity. And also the biological effects on blood pressure, infection, cancer rates, wounds that do not heal properly, and permanent physical pain.

These clinics and endos and docs and surgeons are welcome to offer their services to adults, who are 18 and older. Texas law, especially HB 1686, would preserve children's right to grow up before having their future fertility, sexual pleasure, or event the potential changes of their sexual or gender identity be impaired or eradicated.

Please vote for HB 1686. Public dollars should not be used to fund these procedures and medical professionals should be limited to performing them on adults.

Renee Hassell
Self
Denton, TX

I believe transitioning a minor is pure child abuse. If they are too young to drive, to drink, to serve in the armed forces, to have a credit card, to hunt, to own a firearm, and hundreds of other things WHY IN THE WORLD would we think they are mature enough to make life altaring decisions such as pharmaceutical, surgical and even psychological care. Face it, if they are desiring something like this, you can bet there are one or more adults in their life pushing it - hard! This is a sickness amongst adults and it is child abuse! I am FOR restrictions concerning minors.

Heidi He
Self
Plano, TX

I support this bill.
Children can't even do tattoos before 18 years old, how can they change their gender before that age? Any procedures and treatments for gender transitioning for children before their 18 years old should be prohibited!

Robert Swink
Self
San Angelo, TX

Kids need education not gender reassignment.

Thomas Cummins
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill because it targets children and will irrevocably destroy their quality of life. My friend’s child is trans and she deserves to be born into a world where she will be loved and respected for who she is and an equal opportunity to fulfill her potential and dreams. Furthermore, it bolsters bigotry, hate, and oppression of vulnerable minorities.

Liz Makovy
Self
Godley, TX

Voting yes to protect our kids. They can’t buy cigarettes or alcohol until they are 21 so why would we allow them to alter their sex as a minor is absurd! And to use tax payer money too!! No way.

Carolyn Curtis
self/retired
New Braunfels, TX

I support House Bill 1686. I am adamantly opposed to allowing minors under the age of 18 to have the choice of gender reassignment. I hope that the Texas legislature will pass this bill for the protection of young minds and hearts.

Lucy Lewis, Miss
Self, resident of Texas citizen of the United States, student
McKinney, TX

Please vote FOR HB1686. #DONOHARM
NO child is born in the wrong body!!

Reyes Salas
Self
Haltom City, TX

Leave kids alone

Christina Alexander
Self
Austin, TX

This Bill is awful. The fear and hated is palpable towards a population of humans just trying to live. Why don't you focus on something that actually matters like gun control rather trying to further harm fellow Texans with your transphobia.

Stephen Baty
Self
Crowell, TX

I support HB 1686 very strongly.

Shuang Baker
Women Republic of Katy
Sugar Land, TX

Support Bill 1686

Michael Bradley
Self
Cleburne, TX

Children should not be subject to mutilating surgeries for the purposes of “gender affirmation.” The condition is a mental health disease known as body dysmorphia. The children should be given mental health care, not mutilated.
The legislature should pass strong legislation which provides for stiff criminal sentences for child abused such as these surgeries. Further, Child Protective Services should be empowered to remove the abused children and proceed with termination of parental rights.

Shaye Lane, Pastor
Self
Odessa, TX

No person is born in the wrong body. We must protect our children at all cost. No drugs or procedures should be given or performed on a child and any parent that would allow or should have that child removed from their home.
Children should be protected at all costs……children should be protected at all costs.

Anna Cai, Dr.
Self, professor
Plano, TX

I am strongly FOR HB 1686. Doctors should not be allowed to alter the bodies of children in permanent ways that are impossible or very difficult to reverse, without an urgent physical medical need. Children can express themselves in many ways, but a doctor making permanent changes that are difficult or impossible to reverse is unacceptable. There are documented cases of individuals changing their mind regarding gender transitioning. This is a decision that an individual must make for themselves as an adult, not as a child.

Thank you,

Anna Kathryn Cai

Carl Curtis
self/retired
New Braunfels, TX

I strongly support HB 1686. Please protect our children and grandchildren by passing this legislation.

Timothy Kelley, Chaplain
Self/retired
Deer Park, TX

I am in favor of this Bill passing and becoming law in Texas. As a Chaplain and an ordained minister, I believe in the Word of God. The Word says the God made them MALE and FEMALE and God does not make mistakes. There is no way to change a person from one sex to another. They may change some things cosmetically but that does not change the DNA. Thank you for your time and I am praying for sound, logical minds to prevail and pass the Bill.

Peggie Schautteet
Tx resident
WEBBERVILLE, TX

NO CHILD IS BORN IN THE WRONG BODY. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. # Do Not Harm

Michael Hammond
Self - Attorney
Cleburne, TX

Minors cannot consent to sexual activity for very good reasons. It makes no sense that they, or their parents on their behalf, could nevertheless consent to permanently altering their sex organs prior to the age of majority.
Opposing this bill is on par with allowing statutory rape.

Lana Ruple
SELF, mother
San Antonio, TX

I am FOR HB1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP.

Sabryna Taggart
Self and family
Spicewood, TX

Please STOP the horrific mutilation of our children. This is tragic and unacceptable. Let children be children and when they are adults they can make that decision. Our country is in serious trouble if this is where we are.

Rebecca Hendren
Trinity Presbyterian church
Mckinney, TX

I oppose HB 1686

Cynthia Browning
Self - Region 10 ESC
Richardson, TX

I fully support HB 1686. No child, under the age of 18, should be subjected to life altering procedures, treatment for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria.
Until a child reaches adulthood at 18 years old, no parent or guardian or court should approve permanent life altering changes. Definitely no public money or public assistance should not pay for any such treatment, procedure or medication. Public money and assistance comes from income made up of taxes.That is income that should not be spent to for treatment that is a choice and certainly not for choice of a child. These monies come from all citizens in this country and should never be used for services that most people would never approve. Tax money should be used for necessity items, not a wish list of dangerous ideas.
Children do not have the ability to understand the long-term consequences of such drastic procedures and treatment. Adults should stop forcing these damaging choices on children. There is a reason we do not allow children to join the armed forces and send them into battle with a parents permission. They are children and others should not make a lifetime choice for a child. Children do not know what they want for the remainder of a lifetime.
I will be watching carefully what representatives vote FOR and AGAINST the HB 1686. Those voting to oppose such common sense legislation ought not to serve in the government. Those biting against HB 1686 are hurting our children.

Carol Mann
Self teacher
Midland, TX

God created male and female .Period

Brian Bowden
Repubican Party
Longview, TX

I support this bill.

Chelsey Gray
Self, Artist
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686!

Peggy Saylors, Legal Asst to Attorneys
Self
Rio Vista, TX

Legislature should ban the transgender reassignment of children under the age of 18.

James Lara
Self
Canton, TX

I am for this bill. If we as adults don't protect these children who will? They aren't able to make decisions to smoke, drink alcohol, vote, join the military... So why are they allowed to mutilate theirs bodies? We can not stand by and watch this next generation hurt themselves before they are mature enough to make these decisions.

Tom Benson
Self retired
Abilene, TX

Children should not be influenced in making these totally horrible decisions regarding their natural born sex. Let nature be.

Veronica Llanos-Davis
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Texas who sees many people before, during, and after their transitions to their most authentic selves. In the 9 years I have provided therapeutic services, I have encountered hundreds of people suffering from lack of access to healthcare via gender affirming surgery, as well as long standing suffering mentally and emotionally from Gender Dysphoria. We are losing valuable people in our communities to suicide, depression, and debilitating anxiety from lack of resources that would allow them peace. We all deserve peace and a chance to exist as our most authentic selves. Society has changed, we must ensure our laws change with it. If we don’t, we will only be doing harm. What is government for if not to provide its people, which includes any and all gender variant folk, a peaceful existence? What is government for if not to provide rights and liberties to all people?
If you do not understand the life of a gender variant person, I implore you to simply ask yourself if you would want any of your rights or liberties to be restricted from you. I implore you to make decisions based on the humanness of the people this would affect. If you do not see them as human, then maybe check your privilege - maybe you are the problem, not gender variant individuals.

Joe Vaughn, Mr.
The Vaughn Family Myself. Retired from IT.
Plano, TX

God makes no mistakes. Why do we need a HB to correct His work. Wouldn't your time and our be more important doing something constructive rather that destroying a life.

Lucy Molina, Mrs
Public citizen
Allen, TX

I am against using taxpayer money to provide such service to children who will suffer more in the future when they realized their precious bodies have been mutilated! Please stop this crime that are committing against children who do not have the maturity to understand the future ramifications from these procedures.

Bailee Boyd
Self
Cleburne, TX

They should pass a bill banning transgender surgeries for minors.

Janna Olivares, Mrs.
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

HB 1686
I do not support the transitioning of minors.

Josephine Bibby, MS, LPC
Self: Licensed Professional Counselor
Austin, TX

I am a lifelong Texan, a Licensed Professional Counselor, and a small business owner in Austin. I hold a Master of Science in Counseling. In my graduate studies at Southern Methodist University and in my subsequent practice as a therapist I have studied and worked directly with families and individuals who have benefitted from gender-affirming care both for adults and minors. The lesson is clear: affirmative care saves lives. Limiting social transition and reversible medical transition to those over 18 is against the best practices of WPATH, ACA, APA, and AMA, and will cause death and illness for many Texans.

Gender is self-identified by children as young as 4 years old. Parents who choose to support their children's' self-knowledge and self-love via affirmative care deserve the right to make the choice to ensure their child's health. Procedures and medications to align one's presentation with their gender identity have been found to alleviate major depression, suicidality, self-harm, anxiety, among other mental illnesses and symptoms. Alternatively, not having access to this cafe can exacerbate symptoms and can be fatal.

I strongly urge the House to vote NO on this bill and others like it, which will harm children and families across our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time.

Kathy Gaithe, Mrs.
Home owner
Cypress, TX

Public money should NOT be used for these procedures or treatments!

Michelle Adler
self, social worker
austin, TX

Gender-affirming care is life-affirming care and it is critical healthcare access. It is a human right and no legislation should limit the choices or autonomy of an individual’s rights to make decisions about their own bodies or those of their children. The erasure of trans folks is immoral and unethical.

Brenda Hill
Self
Austin, TX

Minors are not mature enough to have life altering changes made to their body that many regret a few years later. But the damage done can not be reversed. Studies are showing the medicine used to transition children may be very harmful to their overall health. This is no small decision and it should not be made quickly or easily. Youth is a time of growing and learning who they really are with lots of questioning and confusion mixed in from peer pressure. Often adults are still figuring out who they really are or want to be even into their late 20’s or later. By no means should tax payers be paying for such dangerous and questionable procedures. The government is supposed to protect its citizens. Let us protect our children and their future. Thank you.

Bethany Brezik
Self (law enforcement officer)
Plano, TX

I oppose HB 1686. I believe this violates my rights as a parent to make decisions about my family. It violates my family’s right to privacy. This is government overreach in the worst way.

Carolyn Caplan
Self
Houston, TX

Vote against HB 1686. Trans youth deserve the medical care their doctors determine is best for them. Government oversight should not supercede the rights of families and doctors to provide the best care possible for Texas Children.

Sheri Williams, Ms.
The HUBDFW
Fort Worth, TX

Our children need to be protected. Please protect our children from this types of mind altering, life changes. I don't want my tax dollars to be a part of these horrifying acts against children.

Kelly Roberts
Self. Realtor
Mckinney, TX

Let doctors and parents decide what is best for their patients. Government has no business in this.

Melody Spray
self, LVN and spouse, Bill, contractor
Marshall, TX

We support HB1686 which BANS pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas. Please do the only ethical and moral thing and support this bill to protect innocent children! Bill and Melody Spray

Sara Johnson
Self
Buffalo Gap, TX

No child should receive procedures or treatments to change from their biological gender. We must protect our children. And certainly public money/assistance should never be used for those procedures either.

Roger Rapp
Self - software sales
Katy, TX

FOR

Nancy Robertson
Nancy Robertson- Conservative & Collin County GOP Chair 221
Mckinney, TX

We must come against this evil and subversive ideas and acts!

Jerrod Brossette
Self
Abilene, TX

Strongly support that children are not born the wrong gender and should not be able to change this at any age. Especially not as a minor. An adult should not be able to assist in this change either.

Teresa Gibbons
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this legislation. It is beyond cruel to children and their families. Please quit wasting your time and tax payers' money furthering this hateful agenda.

Travis Leslie
Self / Sales Representative
La Porte, TX

FOR this bill. Children should not be given the authority to make life changing decisions while still mentally and emotionally immature. We do not allow children to get tattoos or buy cigarettes or alcohol until they are of age to understand the lifelong consequences. It is therefore unconscionable that we would allow adolescents to make such life-impacting decisions of this nature.

Jordy Bennett
Self / Retired
Fredericksburg, TX

As a Texan and a concerned citizen for the future of our children, I support the ban on procedures and treatment for transitioning or reassigning our children to a different gender. I am strongly opposed to the use of public money or assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Gina Pilotti
Self
Hurst, TX

I am in complete support of this Bill, and urge it's immediate passage.

Sasha Landau
Self
Austin, TX

Trans people deserve the same respect and autonomy as any other adult. This bill is obscene.

STEPHEN VERLEYE
Self. Non-profit COO
Austin, TX

support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Darrell Lowrance, Mr.
Self, Cloud Engineer
Round Rock, TX

I fully support HB 1686. It breaks my heart to see these children being horrifically abused and even permanently disfigured. Everyone should be forced to view the online photos of young girls posing with surgeons with their breasts cut off. It's a crime against humanity and nature. These surgeons should be in prison.

These children need our psychological and spiritual support. We should not be entertaining and encouraging the delusion that they can change their gender. Every single cell in your body is either XY (male) or XX (female). That's real science.

Martha Snyder
Myself
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. It is important to protect our children.
Please

Amber Hall
Self
The Woodlands, TX

For

Jessica Laughlin
Self
Denton, TX

I firmly oppose this bill, as an intrusion on the rights of Texans. And I oppose this bill on the grounds of institutionalized bigotry.

Gabriela Santiago
Self
San Antonio, TX

I believe this bill will cause more harm than good, especially to children who identify as trans that benefit from public social services provided them on the bases of their guardian's income and/or absence of guardian.

Windy Bowlsby
Self, educator
Austin, TX

I am a white, married, heterosexual, cisgendered woman and parent of a teen cisgender girl and I urge you to vote NO.
Our kids are already suffering through so much after losing years to the pandemic, and trans kids are already at high risk for suicide. This bill doesn't just attack trans kids, it attacks all kids letting them know that it doesn't matter what they want, or who they think they are, or even what their parents want or think.
This will also harm the state's economy as companies struggle to recruit and hire - no family wants to live in a state where their rights to parent their own children are curtailed.
Finally - the entire trans issue is built on nothing but lies and misrepresentations.
This bill will not help kids, only hurt them. All of them, not just trans kids.

Gilda Wilkinson
Self teacher
Ingram, TX

I I support this bill. I have worked in public education for over 50 years. I was taught in continuing ed classes that our brains do not mature until women ate in their early twenties and men in their late twenties. Please tell me how on earth s child of 8 or 9 or even 12 or 13 can make a life-changing, irreversible decision to change genders when science knows their brains are not fully mature to make thought-out logical decisions until they are in their twenties. I have the privilege to interact with students who were troubled and uncertain-about themselves in their teens but are now successful parents and business owners and community leaders. I am thankful that there was no governmental organization standing in the wings when they were searching for their identity brainwash them into mutilating their bodies. Brains should be fully developed to make decisions related to gender.

Keith Hill, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

I'm in favor of HB 1686. No one is born in the wrong body.

Alexander Wright
Self
San Antonio, TX

Texas should ban the transitioning of minors.
FOR HB 1686:

Shannon Gray
Self retired
Austin, TX

I thought Texas was supposed to be all about freedom. I thought the Texas legislature was supposedly all about parents' rights. And I thought your party was supposed to support small government? I am extremely opposed to HB 1686 and SB 14 that seek to remove the ability of people to access healthcare services that both their families and their healthcare providers agree is in their best interests. Please ask yourselves if you would want someone who isn't your child's doctor and has no medical training busting into your family's private healthcare decisions and deciding what medical decisions YOU should make for YOUR CHILD. Imagine how outraged you would be at having your parental rights and your child's rights taken away like that. You'd be outraged that your child couldn't get the healthcare they deserve and need. How about I make the decisions about your child's healthcare? I'm not qualified and it's none of my business but hey, that's what YOU'RE attempting to do to my kid. Unless you're willing to have all YOUR kid's medical decisions made by me, don't be telling me you get to make OURS. With all due respect stay in your lane. Quit using LGBTQIA people as your boogeymen for targeted attacks. Any red-blooded freedom loving true Texan should be extremely worried about these fascist type attacks on freedom. The Greatest Generation would be ashamed. What's next in this discriminatory attack against freedom for people who are just trying to live authentically? Registration? Little pink triangle patches? Forcing them to live in ghettos? Concentration camps? You're already trying to remove life saving medical care. Either you believe in parental rights, freedom and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for ALL or you don't. Have the courage to stand up for freedom for ALL.

Kristal Pipkin
Self
Montgomery, TX

For

Greg Bounds
Self
Henderson, TX

I support this bill.

Emily Bell
Self and I'm a drag performer
Austin, TX

My name is Emi Bell, I am also known as Stellar Manx, and I oppose bill 1686.

I represent myself as an intersex person who is trans genderfluid. Intersex means that the sex binary is fabricated. Not only gender, but sex, too. My existence, my *vast* community's existence are nature's proof that the binary assignment is not real, and it was created to control people as designed under white supremacy.

This bill reflects that supremacy.

If you are indeed concerned about children's physical safety, where are the bills and laws definitively banning all intersex related surgeries and "treatments," which are usually practiced on children under 5 years old, more often infants, without consent? These usually rushed surgeries and improper hormone treatments that doctors often coerce intersex people into are painful and cause irreparable damage. This medical abuse occurs through misinformation as a way to "fix" an intersex person, forcing them into either "male or female."

Yet this bill claims gender affirming care is *only* dangerously affecting trans, queer, and intersex youth when they know who they are and decide for themselves with guidance from properly educated professionals handling it with utmost safety, carefully monitoring the transition process. There are tests and discussions that fully prepare these kids physically and emotionally for their transition or for any kind of gender affirming care they seek.

In fact, this bill even makes a point to state that the exceptions to denying these children their gender affirming care are kids born like me, who the bill diagnoses as having "genetic disorders."

So gender affirming care for minors is only bad when it's consensual, and it's good when it's not?

My body has suffered damage due to undereducated, misinformed doctors pressuring me into their idea of proper hormone care because of backwards legislation like this. I now seek hormone therapy to help my body as I should have been helped when I was a kid. Imagine how many young trans and intersex kids could actually be healed with access to supportive gender affirming care if we didn't have to fight violent bills like these.

Nancy Tatem
Homemaker/ self
Anna, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Children lack the intellectual(brain) development, emotional development, and physical development to decide to change their gender or to decide their gender is wrong.

Clifford Burke, Mr.
Self
Bullard, TX

Pass it.

Marian Brown
Self, retired, Masters of Ed
Fredericksburg, TX

I am for the bill

Sarah Owen
Self
Allen, TX

I am FOR this bill. I mistakenly said I was against it earlier.

Roxie Ball
Self. Retired.
Fredericksburg, TX

As a Texas resident, I STRONGLY support the ban on the transitioning of minor children in the state of Texas!

Amanda May
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Im asking you to support this bill as I don't believe the weight of such a decision should be held by a child/minor. We have so many laws in place for minors that have been created out of the experience of our history. This is new grounds, but the legality remains the same. Why would we keep any of our other laws that limit minors, if this "right" is not regulated by the same standards the other laws were based on?

Leopoldo Barrios
self
San Antonio, TX

I am against this bill.

Stacey Whitten
Self Energy Analyst
Anderson, TX

For this bill!

Kelly Smith
Self/wife & homeschool mom
Abilene, TX

I am in favor of prohibiting gender transitioning treatments and procedures for minors. Public funds should absolutely not be used for this purpose & it needs to be stopped.

Alicia Hill
Self
Austin, TX

FOR the bill

Alice Green
Self
Spring, TX

I support this bill

Leticia Valencia
Self, mother and homemaker
Manchaca, TX

These so called medical treatments are dangerous with no good long term outcomes. These children will become adults with life long health problems that will cost us all in health care costs. And many will look to sue everyone who aided in this medical abuse. We are in for a huge reckoning and I am scared at how angry and mentality unstable they are. Some will seek revenge for having been sterilized and mutilated as children by the state.

Alison Killian
Self
Austin, TX

Trans children need our love and our support to live thrive and live their true and authentic selves. Stripping away their care and the ability for their families and doctors to provide that love and support will only hurt our state and protects no one. I strongly urge you to vote against this bill and put that hate away.

Stella and Ted Barrow
No one
Jefferson, TX

It is imperative that this bill be passed to protect the innocent children!

Andrea Brantley
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please stop the mutilation of our children! This insanity needs to stop!! God doesn't make mistakes!!

Helen Coffman
Self. Mental Health Therapist
Leander, TX

I am in agreement with HB 1686 and want it to pass to protect ourselves and our children. I do not believe public money or assistance should be allowed for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.
Helen Coffman, LCSW

Betty Lewis, Ms.
Self retired
Austin, TX

I am against all of these procedures or treatments. God made us female or male. Leave the children alone. Those doing this will answer to the Highest Court. The one where they Ancient of Days sits and has the last day. Daniel 7. Read it.

Arlene Beaman, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

FOR 1686
All children must be protected! No gender modifications of any minor child.

Lori Scarmardo
Self
Austin, TX

Preventing children from receiving gender affirming care will lead to an increase in the already overwhelming number of kids suffering from depression & suicidal ideation. Not to mention the actual number of suicides.

Gender affirming care does not necessarily mean surgery or even medication. No one is out here performing gender reassignment surgery on anyone under the age of 18. It's just not done. Gender affirming care can be as simple as using someone's chosen name & proper pronouns. In simple terms, it just means acknowledging their existence & humanity.

Providing care & support to children who identify as transgender should not be a crime. Doctors should not be put in a position between choosing to do what they know to be right or turning patients away to keep their license.

Trans people deserve the same rights as all of us, at every age. Time & time again I hear from parents who tell me that they'd rather have their child alive & happy & living their truth, than burying their kid because they were forced to conform with the gender they were assigned at birth. Often times these are people who previously had no connection to the trans & LGBTQ communities. Parents who may have considered themselves more conservative most of their lives, yet when faced with the reality that their child is transgender they knew they had to support that child & advocate for them no matter what.

At the end of the day this all comes down to one very fundamental right. The right to bodily autonomy. It is a right that every human being should be entitled to. There are kids out there getting nose jobs for their 14th birthdays because they've hated their nose from a young age & mommy & daddy have the means to do so. How is that any different?

Michelle Brown
Self
Leander, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Rodney Mayberry
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am for this bill. No child is born in the wrong body.

Brenda Cable
Self, Computer Consultant and Rancher
Uvalde, TX

I support HB1686. Children are not mature enough to make these decisions for themselves. They are also subject to persuasion by parties who have an agenda or stand to gain financially from procedures done. I have seen a number of testimonials from people who have had treatments done and later regretted it. Please protect our children from life-changing decisions that may be regretted later.

Ernest Kirkpatrick, Pastor
Self
Willow Park, TX

Pass This Bill #1686!

Cathy Beckemeyer
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

James Collier
Self
Austin, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children from the LGBTQ groomers. Let the kids be kids.

Wayne Counts
Self
San Angelo, TX

I’m for the bill

Michael Criscione
Self
Ovilla, TX

I support this bill.

Heather Rains
Self
Sherman, TX

We are FOR the Bill to protect children.

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Tom Shanahan
Self
Spring, TX

Stop mutilating confused children•

Stephen Collester
Self
Little Elm, TX

We must not allow the mutilation of children! NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. Why would any sane person believe minors can decide something this permanent and life altering? Any person who swears an oath to "Do No Harm" must be held accountable for performing any procedure that irreversibly removes a perfectly healthy part of the body; ESPECIALLY in a child.

Thomas Pucci, Mr
Self
Kerrville, TX

Please vote for this bill 1686

Linda Moynahan
Myself
Spring Branch, TX

Tax money should NOT BE SPENT for any of the treatments listed in this bill.

Merrie Cardin, Pastor
Hood County Pastor Council
Granbury, TX

I am a pastor am for - I feel this is child abuse and do not want to be a part or pay taxes for this type of procedures. These are my sincerely held beliefs. Please prohibit.

Tom Sanders
Sanders Painting
San Angelo, TX

There is no excuse for mutilation of children. All children are confused about life and their place in it. It’s the adults that should be guiding them in finding their place. To allow gender reassignment for a child when even a tattoo is impermissible is ludicrous. To ask me to pay for it with my tax money, madness.

Lester Terrell
Self
Sherman, TX

Please dupport this bill and protect our children!

Paul Neldner
Self
Henderson, TX

Ban gender modification of any kind on all children and especially using public money!

Gloria Moore
Private citizen
Camp Wood, TX

We must protect all children from any form of treatment that cannot be reversed when that child has become an adult. I am for this bill!

Lucinda Landreth, Mrs
Self
Rule Tx 79547, TX

I support HB 1686

Xinyi Gong
Self
Plano, TX

No organs are wrong for all people including children. No body can decide children to change sex. Any body try to change children sex, she/he should receive 5 years jail time at least.

Barbara Herpeche, Ms
Myself
Camp Wood, TX

Please pass this bill

Ed Hughes
R
Leander, TX

For / I support HB 1686

Barry Hill
Self
Odessa, TX

I support HB 1686.

Angela Collins
Self
Camp Wood, TX

A person's brain is not fully developed until 25 years of age. I am in support of this bill. Why should children have more freedom to totally destroy how they were made than they do to smoke tobacco?

Lydia Hill
Self
Austin, TX

FOR

Charlotte Barefoot
Self
Llano, TX

I am absolutely FOR HB 1686 that prohibits physicians from providing gender transition surgery or “puberty blockers” to Texans under 18. It would also exempt that care from coverage

Dorothy Clay, Elder
Self Teacher
Abilene, TX

I am so thankful for this Bill coming forth to actually allow Texas kids to be protected from dangerous hormone blockers which a person has to take for the rest of their lives and causes tremendous damage to their bodies and possibly their minds and other ideologies that are not beneficial for our children. It is past time to speak up, stand up and step up on behalf of our vulnerable and precious children. What our kids are being exposed to is outrageous. Unfortunately we have failed our children in so many ways and have not adequately equipped the future generations to be who God created them to be. I am appreciative to those who initiated this vital Bill on behalf of our precious children to keep them safe and empower parents to ensure their children are protected as well.

Another thing, it is inappropriate for public funds to be used in gender transitioning in the forms of mutilation, surgeries and permanent sterilization. Please do not allow any funds whatever to be used to abuse our most vulnerable citizens and cause permanent damage which is irreversible.

I appreciate you taking steps to prohibit our children from being abused. Your hard work is being noticed and therefore I want to take time to applaud you for what you are doing!!! Please continue to do everything possible in your power to protect the small Texans in our Country!!

Thank you again!!!

Dorothy Clay

Caroline Allen
Self, Retired
Dallas, TX

How in the world could anyone vote “no” on this bill?

This is a serious question.

Mary Potter, Nanny and preschool teacher
Parents and teachers
Austin, TX

Not one person child or adult in the history of mankind has ever been born the wrong gender. God doesn’t make mistakes. There is an overt agenda to influence no brainwash children and society into thinking if you want to be the opposite gender, do it, you will be affirmed for doing it. Do they also affirm the long term consequences of doing so, the danger to one’s health, mutilation of body parts? My neice went through the surgery and hormone blockers and still experiences physical pain and the surgery was over a year ago, not to mention the phycological pain. This fact is documented, there has never been one case since they started doing this surgery years ago where it was necessary to have it done to save a life. It destroys lives and it is putting children at risk of all kinds of health issues. Are we not one nation under God with liberty and justice for ALL. Please vote to protect children and The United States!!! Appeal to heaven!!!!!

Alex Gan
Self
Rockwall, TX

no child is born in the wrong body!

I support HB1686!

Christopher Gaston
Self
Brownwood, TX

I am against using public funds for any and all procedures or treatments related to gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and gender dysphoria in children. Those types of procedures on children are nothing short of child abuse.

Barbara Brunken
self
Mason, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP.

Cindy Phillips
Mothers for Liberty
Fredericksburg, TX

Public money should not be used this way.
Children should not be abused this way, they are children.

Brenda Spillmann
Voter
Lakeway, Tx, TX

I support this bill. Children need to be protected from mutilation both physically and mentally. Protect our children means using commen sense, love with healthy boundaries. The woke agenda is detrimental to our society now and for the future of all our children!!

Katherine Carey
Self
San Antonio, TX

We oppose this bill, it feels like a massive overreach and the exact opposite of the “small government” we as Texans have come to expect.

Bruce Garrett
Self /self
Odessa, TX

I support this bill

Brenda Askew
Concerned citizen of Texas
Camp Wood, TX

I am FOR this bill. As a parent and retired teacher, I don’t believe children should be subjected to having their young bodies being mutualized to meet a woke agenda. God did not make a mistake when they were conceived.

FABIAN Villanueva
Self
Del Valle, TX

My decision

Roxanna Brockmeier
Self / retired Child Support Officer
Bulverde, TX

I am adamantly opposed to the use of public money and public assistance funds for such perversions.

Peggy Irwin, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I'm definitely for this bill to protect children from procedures and treatments for transgender.

Jere Thomas
Self
Sterling City, TX

I am in favor of this bill to protect our children.

Kirk Trent
Self
Allen, TX

For HB1686 to protect all children.

Shirley Goerdel
self retired teacher
Llano, TX

I am for this bill.

Jaime Mendoza, PC
ecrp
odessa, TX

Im strongly against sex change and gender mutilation. I support this bill.

Nancy Roberts-Knight
self
Kerrville, TX

I am a licensed marriage and family therapist in Texas.

I work with clients suffering from anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, eating disorders, sexual and other addictions.

We know the brains of children are not mature enough to make decisions as important as gender changes until they are at least 18 years of age. Also, before the age of 26, they make decisions about themselves via peer pressures, societal conformity media, that is, brands, ads, books, magazines, television, social media, cellphone, movies, etc. and not using logic, sound science, or self-knowledge.

Please vote YES on HB 1686.

Jonathan Hill
Self
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill and do not support gender transition treatment for minors.

Ann Wilson
Self retired
Plano, TX

For

Claudia Johnson
Self
Spring Branch, TX

BAN the use of funds for these procedures for any children regarding gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria….period!

Robert Seabough
None
Flower Mound, TX

All humans are male or female. GOD made us perfectly. We do not need change. Our children need to learn to be boys and girls as created. FOR THE BILL

Foy Hamons, Dr
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I am FOR HB1686 to prohibit gender modification.

Chelsea Schleifer
Self
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill! If kids can’t vote or buy cigarettes under 18 years old, they shouldn’t be allowed to undergo medical interventions for anything related to their gender identity. This is child abuse! Stop mutilating children!

Judith Bollom, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

This is ridiculous. Children should not have changes to their bodies when there are exactly that, children.

Aaron James
Self/ Bricklayer
White Settlement, TX

I am for HB 1686.

Brian Hollane
Self Occupational Therapist
Little Elm, TX

No minor should be allowed to "transition," because they are not able to consent. Period. It's an outrage and an injustice that people are pushing this on kids, when they are most likely to outgrow it, or are in need of counseling to accept the reality of their gender. Mimors are not allowed to consent to buying: tobacco, alcohol, nor are they eligible to vote or to consent to sex and nor should they be able to, and they most certainly should not be allowed to consent to "gender reassignment." If their parents "consent" for them that is also invalid because a parent can't consent for their kid to participate in prostitution, and this is at least equally harmful, and even more irreversible.

Valjean Fountain, Mrs.
Self
Uvalde, TX

PLEASE protect the children!!!!! When I was a child, I was a “tomboy”! I would much rather be outside playing football with the neighbor kids than inside playing with dolls! That didn’t mean I was “trans” or whatever else you call it! I was normal!!!!! I grew up, went to college, got married, and taught school. We had two beautiful daughters, and now my husband and I have five precious grandchildren! Thank goodness no one labeled me “trans” back then! Of course, no one would have known what it even meant!

Kathy Robertson
Self
Uvalde, TX

For this !

Sammye Smallwood
Self -Retired elementary teacher
Uvalde, TX

I support this HB!!!

Shawna Martin
Self
Prosper, TX

Our congressman and senators for the state of Texas should represent ALL citizens in Texas, regardless of gender or sexual identity. Personal beliefs should not determine an individual's or families choice for how they treat their child's needs. Families should be allowed, with the support of doctors and therapists, to decide the best course with their child. Just as we allow families to choose to homeschool their kids, to perform circumcision, to choose which church or belief systems their family will adopt, the government should not have any say in how a family (including permission of the child) chooses to treat their child related to gender, sexual orientation, transgender, and any associated treatments related to those areas.

Magda Wyatt
Self
Port Lavaca, TX

I support this bill. Outside influence is the culprit for this. How does a child know about transgender? They are innocent targets for the corrupt public trying to force their own actions on the children.

Laurie Cook Heffron
self
Austin, TX

My name is Dr. Laurie Cook Heffron, and I am a social worker licensed in the state of Texas, a college professor who studies and teaches about trauma and human rights, and the parent of young Texans. I oppose HB 1686, which would ban doctors from providing, and state-funded health plans from funding, best-practice medical care to transgender and nonbinary youth. This bill promotes further stigma and discrimination against LGBTQ Youth and LGBTQ adults less directly. I believe that healthcare decisions are best made by physicians, healthcare professionals, patients, and their families, in the context of enhancing that patient's mental and physical health and wellbeing. The science and research, as well as the practice expertise of those within and working with LGBTQ communities, is clear that gender-affirming care reduces risk of suicide among transgender and non-binary youth. I urge you, from the perspective of a scholar, professional and parent, to support Texas youth and families and to ensure that healthcare is widely accessible to all Texans, by opposing this harmful legislation.

Jessica Dovey
Self - school administrator
Dallas, TX

I am a school administrator. My students (and my children, should they choose), deserve to have access to gender affirming health care. Please stop legislating our bodies.

Jessica Hagerman
Self
Round Rock, TX

I strongly support this bill due to children's inability to give informed consent for these medical procedures. Even with parental support, children and young adults do not have the long term decision making skills required to fully understand the risks and effects of such treatments. Even the parents are often acting out of fear (as many sources say their children will commit suicide if they do not agree) or in search of social reward for their unquestioning support. These medical procedures are life changing, irreversible, unnecessary, and nearly always harmful for their physical, mental, and emotional well-being as well as development. Inevitably, these treatments will render countless young boys and girls sterile before even undergoing or finishing puberty. There is strong evidence that puberty blockers and cross sex hormones stunt bone and brain growth in young people as well. The long term effects of these drugs are not even fully known, as the phenomenon of medicalizing trans identified children in this way is new. Double mastectomies, hysterectomies, and (occasionally) orchiectomies, on healthy tissue for children and young adults is also a new phenomenon. From what we do know, even adults undergoing these surgeries and hormones do not often experience long term relief from their symptoms of dysphoria and anxiety after treatment. A growing number of once trans identified people deeply regret their transitions and are de transitioning back to their original gender. Many feel lied to as they were told that all of their problems stemmed from their bodies not firing their identities when they persisted after being "fixed." This is a huge reason why we cannot keep pushing the idea of affirmation as a cure to gender dysphoria.
For children, these procedures are entirely negative in terms of the individual's physical health, as they are not only structural organs but also important for hormone regulation. Again, I do not believe that minors are capable of fully grasping the gravity of this kind of physical change, and doctors and parents blindly following their desires uncritically is negligent if not outright child abuse. Especially when the diagnostic criteria for having a trans identity is simply stating that you are trans. In most clinics, that is as far as the discussion goes before prescribing medications and other interventions.
I fully believe that the uptick in the number of trans identified minors, especially in young girls, is a social contagion on par with other phenomenon we see in young populations such as cutting and certain eating disorders. It is not something you affirm blindly and uncritically. Adults should absolutely have a right to undergo voluntary medical procedures such as this, but children do not have the autonomy and foresight to fully grasp the life long medical care that undergoing the knife or even just cross sex hormones will require.
I strongly encourage Texas to pass HB 1686 for these reasons.

Jim Cook
Self
Spring, TX

I strongly support this bill relating to prohibiting the.horrible. Procedures to certain Children for gender transitioning, gender assignment or dysphoria as well as using public money to provide those procedures that will make them disfigured and prohibit a life they can live and enjoy

Keith Bower
The Bower Family
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

1. Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
2. These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
3. Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
4. A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686. Thank you.

Courtney Barta
Self VP of Finance
Stagecoach, TX

Absolutely no child is born in the wrong body and gender modification of minors must be prevented. It's harmful to the body, psyche, and society. My support HB1686

Tammy Kriewaldt
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am against permission for these changes to be made to minors

Kathy Walker
Self
Uvalde, TX

For this bill HB 1686

Robert S. Harrison
Duncanville Area Retired School Employees (DARSE)
Duncanville, TX

Procedures relating to gender transitioning should not occur without the parents' knowledge and endorsement unless the child is at least eighteen years of age.

Barbara Sanders, Dr
Self
Abilene, TX

In favor of this bill
Stop the insanity!

Robert Hillin Jr
Self
Austin, TX

“FOR” HB 1686

Christina Miller
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686

Karen Dolifka
self
MERTENS, TX

God does not make mistakes, doctors do.
I support HB 1686
No child should ever be mutilated, and that is exactly what the so-called gender affirming and modification procedures do.
Trying to change what a person was born only encourages the mental illness and adds a life-long dependence for mental and physical care by doctors. It goes against the "do no harm" rule we like to think exists.
It is past time to protect Texas children from being permanently disfigured because of feelings they may experience during childhood and adolescence.
Growing up is not easy, but transitioning before the age of 18 creates many health problems, and more mental problems, later in life.
Please do not allow the insanity of gender transition to continue, causing permanent harm to boys and girls in Texas.

Public money should never pay for gender transition.

K Rokovich
Self / Tech industry
Austin, TX

As a native Texan, I am registering my opposition to this HB.
Every single human deserves to make decisions about their own bodies with the advice of their physicians (and parents if a minor).
Politicians have no right to involve themselves in such decisions.

Dan Wann
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

As a concerned citizen of the state of Texas I would like to voice my support for HB1686.

Consulting adults can do what they like with their own bodies. The social contagion of transgenderism is poised to ruin the lives of countless children in America who are unable to consent with adequate information. They lack the ability to make this decision which is unresearched, permanent, and irreversible.

It is beyond conscious that anyone could oppose the prohibition of mutilation of children when given time the vast majority will not persist in their desire to change gender.

If we care about transchildren we will fulfill the Hippocratic oath and “first, do no harm”

Julia Hehn, Mrs.
Self
Abilene, TX

I support bill HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibited gender modification in minor children!

Deborah Martin
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill, please pass.

Ron O'Hara
Self
Austin, TX

Leave the children alone.

Diane Rasbury, Associate Pastor
Hood County Pastor Council
Granbury, TX

I do not agree with using public money for these. procedures. Children do not have the maturity to make the decisions that will alter their lives forever. God created these children to be male and female these children will have serious mental health issues as they grow into adulthood. If an adult wants to make the decision to have gender reassignment surgery and pay for it themselves, then that is their right and they should be able to make that decision. Please protect our children from making these decisions that they are not prepared to make

KeAundra McWilliams
Self
Roundrock, TX

It is vital that this bill passes. Children and minors should not be allowed to make permanent decions that will effect them long term. People think it's great to give them the right to choose but they don't have a brain that's fully developed nor are they emotionally stable enough to make a decision like this. If that is the case, there shouldn't be any punishments for those who drink under the age of 21 or to those who buy other items that require a certain age limit. The only way to truly protect our children is passing this bill. They need responsible parents to care for them. So standing up for this is protecting them whether they disagree or not. Parents arise and take a stand. Those who are in charge, please protect our children. We desperately need this bill to pass.

Stevena English
Self, disabled
Frost, TX

I support HB 1686. Children are being lured into a false ideological paradigm online and through social contagion to believe they can choose their gender. Online "trans activists" are preying upon teenage angst and mental illness promising they will be happy if they become their true selves through social and medical transition. Furthermore, those involved in this movement often directly tell young children and teens online to make false allegations of abuse against their parents if the parents refuse to comply with demands regarding "preferred names and pronouns", hormone blockers, and/or cross sex hormones to have themselves removed from their parents' care and into the care of a "trans ally" who will feed into this dangerous delusion. If this insidious trend continues to rise in frequency at its current alarming rate, non-parental custodians could potentially be making medical decisions regarding transition for gender confused minors. Please recognize the importance of passing this bill to protect misguided and oftentimes mentally ill young people who may well end up regretting such irreversible medical decisions if they are not protected against doing so like Keira Bell did in the U.K. She successfully sued the Tavistock Institute for fast tracking her to testosterone and a mastectomy without challenging her assertion at age 16 that she was a transgender male. In my opinion, many such lawsuits will be forthcoming in the U.S. Position yourself on the right side of history and protect our children.

Elizabeth Matthews
Self
Galveston, TX

I support this bill 100%!

Cindy Nitzsche
Self, taxpayer
Deer Park, TX

Gender transitioning, assignment and dysphoria should be prohibited by the State in relation to procedures and treatments for children. They are not mature enough to make such life-altering decisions. To perform procedures or render treatment is child abuse. The use of public money to further the mental illness of the child's deranged parent(s) is abusive to every taxpayer in the State, and contributes to the abuse of the child. This bill is not in the interest of the public good or good of society. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the legislative process for the State of Texas, and for your consideration of my widely-held point of view.

Katherine Warren
Self. Realtor
Houston, TX

Only those who have reached a minimum of 18 years of age - preferable 21 should be allowed to make this decision.

Gloegall St
self
Portland, TX

Please protect our children. Please. I beg you.

Rebekah Nilson
Self, Educator
Hondo, TX

Committee members-

First, we must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children.

I am in favor of HB1686, and as the voice of your constituents you should be too. I support this bill for several reasons. No child is born in the wrong body. Our creator has predetermined our sex before we are even born. What manifests psychologically in many young children in our modern world is a distortion of themselves based on the debauchery our society exposes them to. The idea of identifying as transgender is just that, an idea. Ideas originate in the mind. Therefore we can deduce that identifying as the opposite sex stems from a mental disorder. Children under the age of 18 aren't allowed to purchase a firearm, alcohol or tobacco. They can't enlist in our military or get a tattoo or piercing without the consent of their parents. Why would a reasonable, responsible adult venture to think that offering life altering drugs, mutilating, and/or sterilizing a child is an appropriate intervention? What happened to the oath of "Do no harm?" Why are we on a mission to validate and affirm the whims of a child? Do we plan to offer treatments and procedures to change them into a cat or dog when they insist on identifying as a "furry?" It's absolutely ludicrous and irresponsible.

Mental health services should be at the forefront of treatment. Individual and family counseling. Not drugs and surgeries. The only parties that stand to benefit in the are the pharmaceutical companies and reckless physicians who are more concerned about their bottom line than they are long term patient outcomes. Studies have shown no significant improvement in depression or quality of life following gender treatments and surgeries. In fact, in many cases the mental state is worsened and many become suicidal. Many young people who have undergone these procedures are furious that no adult voiced concern throughout their transition and now regret having made the changes. While they can "de-transition," many women will never get their breasts or uterus back. What a sad reality we live in. How long will humanity allow this to continue? Birth rates will decline. How will that affect the next generation?

Second, at no point should the American or Texan tax payer be forced to pay for any service related to gender modification treatments, drugs, or procedures of minor children. It is abhorrent to think that our hard earned money would fund the mutilation of children.

Lisa Bray
Self/Escrow Officer
McKinney, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Health decisions for children should be made by parents and health professionals.

Patrick Byrne
self retired
Georgetown, TX

I am for prohibiting children or their parents from changing their gender by surgery. This should be a decision made by an adult on their own body.

George Dodson, Councilman
City of Colleyville
Colleyville, TX

I'm for this bill.

Kimberly Moncibaiz
Individual
Richardson, TX

I am against children having procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. i believe that a person is the gender that they where at conception and birth and also for a young child is not mentally mature enough to make that sort of life altering decision.

Elizabeth Patrick
Self, Property Manager
Austin, TX

Medical professionals and the patients and parents involved should be free to seek and receive any care deemed in their best interest by MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS not politicians. This bill is ridiculous. Let people live their truths. Spend your time and energy protecting children from gun violence, not badgering families to go against medical advice. Trans kids deserve better than this.

Sue Pryse
Self
Camp Wood, TX

Vote for this bill to protect our children

Emily Mondy
Self
McKinney, TX

Pass this bill to stop this nonsense

Christy Genin
Self
Austin, TX

FOR Bill 1686 prohibiting public funds or money to provide procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment, or gender dysphasia.

Beth Pittman
Self - Mom
Carrollton, TX

It is certainly a sad day when we find ourselves deciding whether or not a little boy can choose to become a girl or vice versa. For the most part, children do not choose their own food or they would eat chips and candy. They don't choose where they go to school or they would choose not to go at all. They don't even get to choose whether or not to take a bath and brush their teeth or surely those world not be done either. Young children are not mature enough to govern themselves even in the most basic way so to suggest that they're mature enough to make a decision to change their gender is ludicrous. Please do not allow this to happen!

A Sears
None
Plano, TX

Yes prohibit procedures and treatments for children and prohibit the use of public monies and/or public assistance for the procedures.

Robert Satterwhite
Self, material management
Quinlan, TX

I oppose all provision to any children or young person of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.
The family reserves all rights to their children’s health and welfare including their mental health. These type procedures should not be allowed on anyone under 25 years of age.

Trevina Salama
Self - Behavior Technician
Round Rock, TX

We should ban the transitioning of minors.

Michael Mitchell, Mr.
Self
San Angelo, TX

For

Robert Main
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill. You aren’t allowed to vote, drink, smoke, get a tattoo, or join the military until your at least 18 or older shouldn’t be making decisions on life altering things.

Michelle Burkett
Texan
Whitehouse,, TX

Stop gender transitioning surgeries , reassignment procedures and do not use public money or assistance. It’s cruel , wrong, and destroys lives.

Samantha O'Leary
Self
Round rock, TX

It is not the governments place to have a say in our children's physical or mental care. If we take this right away where do we stop? Get big govt out of American health care.

Dorothy Erminger
Self / Loan Originator
Austin, TX

Any kind of surgical or chemical mutilation of children In the name of "gender affirming care" should be a felony in Texas. No child was born in the wrong body. We seem to have a lot of minors who are confused about their gender because somebody, somewhere, planted a seed. at an impressionable time in their life, which caused them to doubt who they are. Many minors who have undergone chemical and/or surgical "gender affirming care" are increasingly figuring out that they were lied to by people whom they trusted and are suing because their lives have been destroyed. They have a high rate of suicide and psychological problems. Just yesterday, a transgender child took the lives of 6 innocent people on his way out. No child has the mental capacity to make these kinds of life - altering decisions and any treatments or procedures certainly should not be at taxpayer's expense. We need to have laws which define gender as that which was assigned at birth, as evidenced by genitalia and dna, which is innately immutable and unalterable. These people need help to realize that they're perfect the way they were born -- that is the most compassionate thing we can do for them. How about a law that makes it a felony to suggest to any minor that they were born in the wrong body? That would make much more sense!

Annette Thomas
Self
Cypress, TX

All surgeries and hormone blockers must be stopping immediately. Both the Uvalde shooter and now the Tennessee shooter were transitioning using these medications.

Steve Henry
Self
Leander, TX

“So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.”
?
Man can try and redefine what GOD has created but that is wrong. The creator and only the creator is able to define the truth.

Whitney Riley
self
Hondo, TX

I Support HB1686. It's unbelievable that we have to have a Bill like this in the first place. Leave the Children alone. Fix elections fraud.

Jason Heffron
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

Christi Cox
Self
Austin, TX

Leave trans people alone. Focus on a real issue like gun violence and all the innocent kids being murdered.

M V
Trans community as an ally
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose this bill because I have trans friends and a trans partner. The body dysmorphia they experience from what I've been told is truly real and terrifying for them without medical assistance. Public money and assistance and my taxes from my own hard earned money have gone to frivolous projects and much stupider causes. Don't let this cause fall into this category just to make a political statement / image of yourself. Trans care is health care.

Patricia Ott
Self
Austin, TX

Support this legislation.

Cynthia Mitchell, Mrs.
Self
San angelo, TX

I am for this bill.

Kyle Kessler
Self
Godley, TX

I support this bill. I do not want taxes wasted on these non essential things.

Gabriela Tovar
self
Edinburg, TX

It is imperative that medical procedures and the use of hormones for gender transitioning not be allowed to be administered to anyone under the age of 18. Making the decision to have these types of procedures or taking treatments requires and adult brain to truly understand the severity of what is being done and a child cannot grasp the consequences and what it all entails. There is currently not enough evidence to assure the public that the use of hormones are safe for children to take and will have no longterm or irreversible effects. Theses types of procedures and treatments should be considered elective and should not be covered by public funds.

Veraldine Lee
Myself
Westhoff, TX

Texas State Legislators, Honorable Members, I Support HB 1686 and Plead with you to Pass this Bill into Law. We as a State, must Ban the Medical and Surgical Transition of Children and Adolescent Ones. The Eternal Sovereign GOD created Each Person Male or Female. All Other Claims of Different Sex’s are Painful, Hurtful Deceptions. Many Lives of Children and Adolescent Ones are targeted and Caught in this deception.

Mary Tassin
Self
Houston, TX

Please listen to doctors and psychiatrists. Gender affirming care saves the lives of children who are already the most at risk with suicide and depression. Please do not pass this ban to HARM children. Doctors have sworn to do no harm. They know what is best for children, not crazies shouting religious nonsense.

If you want to save the children, please focus on gun reform and stop the #1 killer of children in teens in the US. I can tell you that this gender affirming care has harmed ZERO children. Focus on what's important.

Charla Thompson
Republican Women of Trinity County
Trinity, TX

Please do not allow men to participate in women's sports even if they were men n now claiming to be a woman. Everyone should know that men are stronger than women. Thank you

Carla Vaughn
Self
Plano, TX

No comment.

Debbie Watts
Self/parent
Keller, TX

YES

charity main
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Shannon Probe
Self
Round Rock, TX

This is absolute bullshit. Don't ever tell us you're pro-life when literal medical professionals have told you how this will cost kids' lives.

Larry Jones
self
Cresson, TX

God made one man, Adam and one-woman Eve.

Lee Gruver
Self
Camp Wood, TX, TX

I am in favor of and support HB1686

Marcia Gruver
Self
Camp Wood, TX

I am in favor of and support HB 1686.

Shelley Ozment
self - educator/consultant
Denton, TX

I fully support HB 1686. We must protect the children of Texas from dangerous life-altering drugs and gender reassignment surgeries. There is ample evidence that shows that most young people will outgrow discomfort with their gender by the time they become adults. Studies also show that most children who begin puberty blockers will also move on to cross-sex hormones and surgeries. These procedures are irreversible and lead to further identity issues as well as a myriad of devastating physical effects, including infertility. Many will face life-long health issues that lead to a shortened lifespan.

Children are started down this road with little regard for underlying mental health issues. Many receive prescriptions during their initial visit. We must also acknowledge that social contagion plays a huge role in gender confusion, particularly among girls. It is also deeply concerning that institutions that should be protecting children are covertly aiding gender transition behind the backs of parents. History, and our children, will judge what we do at this moment. We must protect them from this dangerous cultural trend that has captured our nation.

Daniela Rubio
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Please help children by controlling guns not people’s bodies.

Joshua Bohrer
Self - Application Support Engineer
Round Rock, TX

FOR prohibiting the transitioning of minors

KAY WEBB
self
Round Rock, TX

pls vote for this bill.

Era Aston
Self/ Retired
Abilene, TX

We must protect our children from these procedures and harmful practices!!!!

Gregory Neal, Mr
Self
Uvalde, TX

We cannot consign the children of Texas to the ministrations of political correctness and quack science/psychology, simply because a screaming minority insists we do so OR ELSE! Stand for decency and common sense!

Diana Corliss
Self
Cypress, TX

I believe this needs to be stopped as children are being able to put themself in a state of mind that is not level headed. Drugs are clouding the brain to make appropriate judgement to themselves.

Juana Elena Nava
Self
Fate, TX

For the bil

Lucia Cuomo
Self — Pharmacy technician
Pflugerville, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, as we would not ban healthcare from an cis child. This is absolutely absurd and goes against what doctors and health care providers stand for — to do no harm. The passing of this bill would put so many trans children's lives at risk and as a cisgender person in the healthcare field, I am appalled that this is even considered. We should be doing more to help these children feel safe in their own environment instead of instilling the fear that they may never feel safe to be who they are.

Diane Andrews
Self
Plano, TX

Do not mutilate children

Holly Ward, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

Yes vote

Melinda Ward
Christian Values
Camp Wood, TX

FOR this! 1686!

Emad Shoukry, Dr
Self, physician
Tyler, TX

I am writing in support of this bill

Austin Probe
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am the CTO for a small business with offices in Texas and Maryland. Bills like this frequently come up when trying to recruit employees with technical skills to the Texas office. Efforts like this are hurting the Texas economy and small business like ours.

Please stop infringing on the rights of others and keep the government out of people's personal medical business.

Tonya Benson
Delf
Fredericksburg, TX

Vote for HB 1686; I support HB 1686

Francilla Small
Self
Cleveland, TX

Children under the age of 18 should not be allowed to make life changing decisions about their bodies which will affect the rest of their lives. Public money should never be used for gender transitioning, etc. . The parents of these children should have to fund the treatments and:or surgeries or the child should have to wait and after 18 and pay themselves.

W L Drott
N/A
Wimberley, TX

As a Parent of 3 children. I can't believe we are even discussing this matter. Once a child becomes of an adult age, then and then only should they be in a position to choose the direction in life they want to live. Prior to that, their Parents are the child's only advocate. Noone else has earned that position !

Joseph Spencer
Ashley reed
Houston, TX

Teach our children on the difficulties of transitioning it’s not always what it seems

Katy horan
Self, illustrator
Austin, TX

SHAME on you. Shame on you for creating needless and bigoted legislation in the name of “protecting children” when you won’t DO A DAMN THING to keep kids from getting shot in school. Trans people are t harming anyone, BUT YOU ARE. I feel absolutely sick

Robyn Stout
self
Cypress, TX

I oppose this bill that is an unfair targeting of vulnerable youth in TX. Considered care including hormones and hormone blockers are important to the mental health and well-being of youth with gender dysphoria.

andre frilot
Me
Pearland, TX

Children don’t know what they want to be or do

Janice Clark, Mrs.
Self
Sterling City, TX

I am definitely in favor of this bill!

Bobby Lindamood
Myself
Colleyville, TX

No public money for gender modifications, treatments, or gender reassignments.

Todd Grady, Mr.
Self Home Maker
Humble, TX

I strongly support this Bill which will help to end the exploitation of children in Big pharma's cottage industry of hormone drug sales to parents of children. No child should ever have to suffer the indignity of having his or her genitals removed or altered and nerve endings deadened. Much less be told by corporate interests they aren't who God or nature if you will, made them. Let's not turn our families over to captured government politicians indebted to the Transgender agenda.

Andy Kyriakidis, Sgt
Military
Wichita Falls, TX

Against transgender mutilation

Teresa Livingston-Ewell
Self
Weatherford, TX

I do not support

Carol Goodwin, Ms.
self - retired
Austin, TX

As a concerned citizen, I strongly oppose this bill. The Texas government is attempting to interfere in an area in which the government should have no jurisdiction. This bill attempts to control personal health care decisions that should be between children and parents, and their health care providers. It is in direct opposition to the right to privacy and personal autonomy, and it is discriminatory against a particular group of people.

Eva Fasano
retired
MCKINNEY, TX

I support HB 1686.

Robert Herzig
Self
Axtell, TX

I support bill hb1686. For the good of the people.

Mary Mackey
Self
McKinney, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Gender transitioning or reassignment should be between the individual, their family, and their medical team. The government should have no part in the decision or any medical or psychological treatment.

James Cheung, N/A
Self, student
Houston, TX

For the bill

Benjamin Sandstrom
Self
Deer Park, TX

FOR the bill

Dana Bjornstad
Self. Admin
McKinney, TX

I oppose hb 1686

Beini Cao
Self, mom
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Michelle Gomez, Mrs.
Self
Ft. Worth, TX

Public assistance needs to be using funds for manyyyyyyy other things.

Michelle Helmers
Self, retired
Leander, TX

I urge committee members to vote against HB 1686. Health decisions are most appropriately made by individuals, their physicians, and in the case of minors, their parents or legal guardians. State government has no legitimate role in intervening or interfering in such decisions by imposing artificial restrictions on medical care, including restrictions that limit public funding. Funding restrictions serve only to limit access to care and reinforce inequalities in access to care. HB 1686 is government overreach, and I urge the committee to vote against this bill.

Victoria Leland, RN, retired
Self
Plano, TX

I desire the strongest prohibitions to any transitioning so - called "treatments" and surgeries for minors. We must stop mutilating our children. Vote FOR the prohibition of these harmful modern day shameful abuses of medicine.

Alyssa Tharp
self, community organizer
Austin, TX

I strongly urge a CON vote on this bill, on the basis of clear and strong community opposition, and the egregious and unnecessary harm that it would cause to minors, families and medical professionals. Transgender youth have a fundamental right to receive the healthcare that they seek. This bill represents egregious government overstep into matters that should remain in the domain of families, medical professionals and individual rights to bodily autonomy. I am personally witnessing the Texas government's overstep on trans- issues, again and again, cause extreme and unnecessary duress to trans members of our community of all ages, and their families. Let people live their lives with personal liberty and autonomy! Stop trying to criminalize diverse gender expression!!! It's an abuse of government power, and a slippery slope to genocide and tyranny.

Diana Herren
Self
McKinney, TX

Please please protect our children. Protect the rights of the parents. Stop the medical experiments on babies who can’t even put their shoes on correctly. Adults can do what they want, but our children need protection!!!!!

Marie Le Grand, Mrs
Self/Associate @JCPenney
Allen, TX

I vote FOR this bill.

John Montes
Red Wave Texas
MCKINNEY, TX

Dear Texas Legislators,

Our kids are not experiments. When a child is struggling, they need compassionate care – not experimental hormones and surgery.

Body altering procedures, such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts, cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives. We don't allow minors to get tattoos, purchase cigarettes, or even vote in elections – we recognize they aren't ready to make permanent or potentially life-altering decisions.

Our young boys and girls should be cared for and protected. Body dysphoria, depression, anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that deserve compassion. However, we should not allow our children to be pushed into experimental surgeries and drugs by radical activist groups.

After "sex reassignment surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.

Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.

The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it's already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.

It is wrong to assume everyone advocating for body-altering surgeries is "doing it for the children." In fact, the truth is, providing pharmaceuticals and surgery for children suffering from gender dysphoria has become a very profitable industry, to the detriment of children in our society.

Our laws should protect children, not profit off their pain. Let's put our kids first, not the profit of the medical industry and the "woke" agenda of Left wing radical activist groups.

Hilary Selden
self, lab manager (UTA)
Austin, TX

By banning all medically necessary health care for the treatment of gender dysphoria, HB 1686 (Oliverson) risks the loss of life, robs transgender youth of hope and sends a clear message that the Texas Legislature believes that transgender young people are not welcome in the state of Texas.

In addition to the devastating consequences on the health of transgender youth in Texas, HB 1686 (Oliverson) would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. These treatments are supported by every major medical association in the country, including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Psychological Association and Texas Pediatric Society.

It's a dangerous slippery slope to have legislators and religious lobbyists deciding what is and is not necessary to help support children and their health. What can start out as attempts to prejudicially block treatment of body dysmorphia in transgender youth can impact treatment for eating disorders and other types of dysmorphia. The government does not belong in the middle of families and doctors trying to decide what is best for the health of young people. Raising healthy kids is hard enough - an attack on any kids and any families is an attack on the integrity of families generally. This is the last thing society needs right now.

Briana Akins
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR the bill

Darien Stefani, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

I work with trans youth. I have seen first hand the harm bills like this do to kids. Please leave these decisions to the experts, eg the parents with help from physicians, psychologists. NOT politicians that know nothing about this.

Jay Bynum
Elder in the West Erwin Church of Christ
Tyler, TX

Please put me down as FOR this bill to become law. For anything else, kids have to be of legal age 18 or 21 to get a tattoo, buy beer, cigarettes or a gun. Enter into a legal contract or serve on a jury or in the armed services. We need to protect our kids against all the craziness going on in our country. Thanks for all you do for the people of the great state of Texas.

Annie Wells
Self
Austin, TX

Please don't pass this bill, y'all.
We can do better than this.

-Annie

Anne Quinn
Self Mother
Mckinney, TX

For

Glenn Fortner, Mr
Christian Church
D hanis, TX

I am in full support of this bill. Please prohibit taxpayer dollars to be used to fund any such procedure. Please represent the majority of Texans that are in full support, FOR, this bill.

Julia Ward
Self, educator
Austin, TX

I do not believe that legislators are making a good choice in passing this bill which goes against science and human decency. Please vote no.

Lisa Arnim, Mrs.
Self/Teacher
Uvalde, TX

An infant, toddler, or a young child are NOT adults. A child should never be exploited to the point of disfigurement. Any parent that subjects a young child under the age of 20 should be charged with child abuse, child endangerment, child mutilation and child disfigurement and should be placed in prison for life or executed. This whole thing goes against the very principle on which this WHOLE Country was founded on. If you allow this to pass, you should place yourself in prison! You are a monster who is only creating more monsters that will turn and hunt down all the people that did this horrible injustice to these children. Did you ever see the movie Frankenstein? He hunted down and killed the evil doctor that created him. Or how about the serial killers Alfredo Ballí Treviño and Jeffrey Dahmer, who had obsessions with mutilation. Get the picture??? Parents should NOT be allowed to have their children's sex changed, period!! Too bad if they wanted a girl and got a boy or vice versa. They should consider themselves lucky to have had children. Don't want or like the child, give them up for adoption. We are all born the way we are. Like it or hate it, that's how it is and always has been since the Dawn of time. Shame on all of you, if you go through with this horrible heinous act.
No, I will not support your endeavor and I do not want any of my money or free healthcare going to such an act as this. This should not be tolerated!

Grace Hedrick
Self, Sales
Austin, TX

I am representing myself in opposition to HB 1686. The state has no role to play in making decisions about children's health. That decision is for the child, their parents or caregivers, and their trusted medical professionals. Prohibiting these procedures and treatments meaningfully harms children and families.

Sue Hull
Self/Registered Nurse
Abilene, TX

We must protect our children from this devastating fad/trend. To do otherwise is pure evil. Adults, do what you want, but leave the kids alone!

These drugs should not be allowed for children under any circumstances, including private pay.

Also, how about a public health campaign geared to loving the body you were born with.

Thank you.

Caroline Maltz
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686 as a social worker, as a Texan, and as a human. Before the age of 18, 40% of transgender children will have attempted suicide. This bill will increase these numbers, but I have a feeling that the the author of this bill knows that. HB 1686 is an abysmal and disgusting attack on children and transgender people of all ages.

Gregory Tucker
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Ginger Clark, Mrs.
Self; homemaker
Richardson, TX

I am FOR this bill.
Do No Harm to innocent children!

Esther Huang
Self
Houston, TX

I support bill HB 1686. My children are well accepted, encouraged to be proud as who they are, including the gender God created them to be and NOT to be misguided by what social media is portraying.

Warren Norred
self - attorney
Arlington, TX

I favor passage of this bill, like every rational human being. We should not allow narcissist adults from acting through children and destroy their lives.

Desi Tsacalis
Self
Austin, TX

I deeply oppose this bill. It is one thing to use your religious ideology or “traditional values” to excuse your personal beliefs on trans rights, but to pass a piece of legislation like this is nothing less than religious authoritarianism. Trans children are one of the most vulnerable populations in our world, so why would you want to hurt them even more? No harm is done when a child is comfortable in their own skin. A lot of harm is done when they can’t be themselves. DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

Kayla Lewis
Self - homemaker
McKinney, TX

I support this HB.

Judy Garner
Self
Abilene, TX

Please vote against this bill. Children do not have the knowledge on choosing what gender they want to to be. The doctors that perform these surgeries should be penalized for doing this, and the money that it cost is ludicrous. God made male and female, don't mess with God's creation.

Thaddeus Miller, CPT
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686.

Miguel Diaz
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. The state should not impose restrictions on any type of health care that would otherwise provide help to individuals that need those resources.

Katherine Clearman
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL.

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Molly Mikulec, Mrs
Self
Inez, TX

Please, please do NOT allow children or youth to have gender changing surgery——nothing permanent until they are grown up and mature enough to make such decisions.

Chris Dundas
House of Accord
Corpus Christi, TX

There can be no worse thing to happen to any person, and much more so to a child, than to destroy their fragile sense of their born identity. This action can only be described as insanity. How did we ever deteriorate to this level?

Logan Williams
self student
Dallas, TX

I am in opposition to this bill, and ask that you vote the bill down.

Or, at least amend it to allow puberty blockers to remain legal, so that transgender children are still able to get the care that they need without being able to make life altering choices about their body before they are ready to do so.

Linnea Fortner, Mrs
Self
D Hanis, TX

Vote FOR this bill. Please do not allow funding for such practices.

Becky Dykes
Self
Lindale, TX

I am FOR this bill. We do not have the right to change our gender and much harm is done to children when they undergo these procedures.

Rachel Shay
Self, Marketing Director for Texas-based company
Austin, TX

I believe that HB 1686, which prohibits the provision of gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and gender dysphoria treatments to certain children, is a harmful and discriminatory policy.
This bill is a direct attack on the rights and well-being of transgender and gender non-conforming children. By denying them access to medical treatments and procedures that are crucial to their health and happiness, this bill will cause immense harm to these vulnerable individuals.

Denying medical care to transgender and gender non-conforming children is a violation of their human rights. Medical professionals, not lawmakers, should be making decisions about what treatments are appropriate for their patients. By prohibiting certain treatments, this bill undermines the medical expertise and judgment of doctors and other healthcare professionals.

This bill goes against the principles of limited government and individual freedom that are cherished by many Texans. By intervening in the doctor-patient relationship and limiting access to medical treatments, the government is overstepping its bounds and infringing on individual liberty.

Texas HB 1686 is a discriminatory and harmful policy that will have devastating consequences for transgender and gender non-conforming children in Texas. It is essential that we stand up for the rights and well-being of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression.

Brianna Otwell
Self counselor
Texarkana, TX

Please consider the neuropsychology relating this issue. Children/adolescents are NOT prepared to make life altering decisions! I support any measure that prohibit underage persons from making a decision with profound and lifelong effects.

Shelly Stewart
Self
Llano, TX

Please do not allow medical providers to perform any transgender surgeries, procedures or treatment use public funding or assistance to ANY child under the age of 18.

Fran Leiss
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Children are not born in the wrong bodies. No parent should allow their child to be mutilated or give their children drugs to make them another sex.
If a person is 21 or older they can do whatever they want to their bodies with their own money, the government should never foot the bill.

jay fleming
self
cypress, TX

i support this bill

Cindy Carver
CFRW
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

Paula Hartman
WomentoWomenNews/ and self
Austin, TX

To fund or support the mutilation of a minor's body is a travesty. Even having this conversation reflects a sickness on the part of the adult (and I use this term lightly) that is hard to understand. The sexualization and mutilation of our children has been found to be agenda driven by activist(s) with plenty of money to buy influence and fund misrepresentations. Stop the mutilation. Children are just children who are easily influenced to think the way 'trusted' adults lead them to believe and, even those depressed and believe changing themselves will help, soon find that mutilating themselves won't solve their problems. Activists use fear of suicide IF people of influence don't go along with mutilations but the actual facts show children, once they find mutilation doesn't solve their problems, are much more likely to and do take their lives at alarming rates. Stop the experimenting on our kids. You are killing them. European countries are so far ahead of us in their scientific findings and have outlawed the sexualization and mutilations of minors. Agenda is why American activists, with influence, keep pushing lies in this country regarding sexuality. It's almost become a sick kind of fad now among the young. Many in the medical field are killing many children or, at the very least, ruining lives of children and their families. And they get rich doing so. Let them remain children. They will, then, have the needed time to sort out their own thoughts and not be swayed by opinions. when they are privy to all the information, their bodies are mature enough to examine their own young adult feelings. No one should be robbed of their life and not allowed to mature into their own bodies. Stop being influenced by agendas and stop, immediately, from experimenting with children. They are children. Open your eyes

Andrew Chojnscki
Self/musician
Austin, TX

I suppose this bill

Michelle Joseph
None
Austin, TX

Parents are the only ones who should have the right to say what their children ultimately choose in regard to their bodies. After careful counselling and diagnosis from a doctor if gender reassignment is deemed beneficial to the child they as a family should be allowed to move forward.

Cora Berry, Mrs
Self retired
Humble, TX

I support this bill.

Jennifer Kranzman
Maniilaq Health Center-RETIRED Republican Women of Gregg County - President
Longview, TX

I am in full agreement of HB 1686 prohibiting gender medication especially in young children who are too young to make informed decision due to lake of critical thinking skills. Our country has many teachers and parents who push their own agenda onto children for their own gain. Stop using and abusing Texas children. We should also not use public money that may even scar children for life once they become informed adults and cannot reverse what may be done surgically.

Emmanuelle Esquivel, Miss
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill is wrong and you know it. Gender affirming care saves lives. This bill will force individuals to suppress their true identities. Not being able to safely transition is a death sentence for many individuals. If you really cared about the well being of the children in this state there would be greater efforts for gun control, increased funding for public schools, and so many more policies that would actually benefit the wellbeing of Texas children. If you pass this bill, just remember you will be responsible for the suffering of those directly affected by this bill.

Connor Leonard
Myself
Katy, TX

So a someone has to be 21 for us to think they can safely make the decisssion yo buy alcohol, but at 8 years old they can cut their dick off because their parents push it on them from the time they are two and ge them to dress up in girl closet he's very early so by the time they are 6 that's all they want to do. I know because this happened in my family. The mother started encouraging the boy to dress up like a girl at early ages and as he got older kept pushing it on him and now they can have a trans surgery?? Wow ridiculous. This is so un believable

Nanette Labastida
Self
Austin, TX

These decisions should be left to parents and doctors not politicians. This meddling and interference is so harmful for children and families.

Amy Louthan
Self
Boyd, TX

Gender reassignment surgery for minors is criminal & diabolical ! Should not be allowed! Anyone who allows gender reassignment surgery for minors is a criminal.

Martha Foster
None
Sterling City, TX

I am in favor of this HB

Vicki Bailey, Mrs.
Abilene/myself
Abilene, TX

Our children need to be protected. Period

Susannah Benton
Self/psychotherapist
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. These issues are between the individuals seeking care, their families, and their doctors. These are medical decisions, not legal ones. I support the freedom Texas is prized for, not interfering in private medical decisions.

Larry Dillon
Texas Citizen
Grapevine, TX

This is not okay, this is beyond normal and every animal plant and human is male or female. To agree to allow this to under age children who brain is not fully developed is beyond sick

Michelle reddy Reddy
Self
Richardson, TX

This bill violates everything we Texans stand for. This is biggest government interfering in private, personal lives. This is about medicine and should be determined by individuals, families and doctors, not state government. This is as dangerous as overstepping into the bodies of women and forcing your religious belief onto society. I stand formly in opposition of this bill be passed.

Kristi Wilcox, Ms.
Myself/Abilene/children
Abilene, TX

I am against anything that would harm a child mentally or physically

Mollie Henderson
Self
Plano, TX

Please vote for this bill.

Yan Liao
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Laura Sawicki
Self
Austin, TX

I am firmly against HB 1686 and firmly in support of providing gender affirming care for anyone who needs the support. That includes emotional, psychological and medical support. TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS. I have a trans niece that lives in another state and was saved by the support of her family, community & the medical profession as well as the constitutional support of her state!!!

Ethan Armstrong
Self
Watauga, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Paul Lewis
Self - Law Enforcement
McKinney, TX

We need this bill passed to protect our children from the onslaught of depraved evil trying to steal their innocence, dignity, childhood, faith, safety, and lives from them. Do the right thing and stand up for our children and against the evil people who would seek to mutilate and destroy them.

James Quinn, Mr
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I’m am totally against HB 1686 as it is against God and mankind.

Jessica Armstrong
Selk
Watauga, TX

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Carl Ward
Texans
Camp Wood, TX

Vote FOR!

Tiffany Darrach
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686

Jonathan Mueller
Self
Allen, TX

Strongly support due to the irreparable harm that comes from these irreversible treatments and the lack of capacity of consent by minors. Kids can't consent to see a Rated R movie but they can permanently alter their bodies? Kids can't choose to consume alcohol but they can permanently change their hormones? Not to mention that these procedures do not change a persons gender in any substantive biological way. Meaning children being told that they can become a woman or a man is lie and total misrepresentation of the outcome. They are ultimately being multilated and rendered infertile. Many will be horrified at what has happened to them once they come of age and fully appreciate the consequences of what has been done to them. The great state is Texas should be leading the way in protection children from these lies and exploitation.

Lola Carroll
Individual
Austin, TX

leave these decisions up to parents and doctors not politicians. Or say something about the actual harm this type government interference will be for kids.

Janel Huang
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Kristine Kane
Self
Springtown, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children cannot consent.

Jessica Cook
Self
Lewisville, TX

I oppose this bill.

WIlliam Schofield
Self, Investor/Retired
Denton, TX

Almost half the kids born in America are born to parents who cannot afford kids (as evidenced by them being on Medicaid). It is tragic that many children do not have real engaged responsible parents. The statement "parents always know best" is patently wrong so we must take a middle ground. Today there are over engaged parents who have made up and adopted some new thinking related to gender to draw attention to themselves through their children. We should not allow any "minor person" (defined as under the age 18) to take any publicly blockers or other drugs or surgery related to "gender dysphoria". Gender dysphoria is sadly a mental illness we should hope to solve not condone. No male can become a female or vice versa no matter how many progressives think it so. And spreading this confusion to our children is another form of nonsense or neglect. Please adopt this resolution so common sense prevails at lead until Texans are 18.

Lynn Laroche
Self
Arlington, TX

For this Bill

*Sharon Seguin, mrs
self
Prosper, TX

I am a God fearing christian and believe God is the one who determines what gender each child will have at birth.

Danny Hurst
"Self" RE Investor
Crowley, TX

It's important that this bill be passed and ratified ASAP. This abuse of children must not be allowed to continue.

Aleah Baklenko
Self- Homemaker, Registered Nurse
McKinney, TX

Please vote For this bill! This is a tragedy to the future of America if we allow these “treatments” to happen. These minors do not have capacity to make such detrimental decisions, nor should it be a taxpayer burden to allow this to occur.

Garry Fama, mr
self retired
Mckinney, TX

Please support this bill and protect children from being abused by this idioitic transgender ressignment.

Allan Toole
Self
Dallas, TX

In support of HB 1686

Michael Openshaw
self
Plano, TX

Wish I could be there to support this bill in testimony, but out of the country for the moment.
Absolutely critical to ban these procedure and the the irrevocable harm puberty blockers can do to minors. The very tiny percentage that demonstrate true gender dysphoria has been swamped by a tsunami of 'me too' social contagion through perverse attention-seeking driven by social media as a social contagion. What people due to consenting adults, we cannot control. But we need to for overly impressionable children seeking attention & being persuaded by attention-seeking parents and profiteering medical practitioners that biological realities can be successfully fought (by turning them into lifelong patients with serious side-effects). I also ask that civil liabilities be included even for adults for the practitioners to extend at least 10-15 years past treatment for harm done by these unnecessary interventions.

Stephanie Hernandez
Precinct chairman
Fort Worth, TX

There is nothing moral about doing this to kids,it's degrading!

Logan Wick
Self - CEO
Austin, TX

I am person of faith, a multi-million dollar business owner, husband, a dad of two kids, and a transgender man. We can all agree that keeping kids safe is of the utmost importance. We can all agree having more events and tourism dollars flowing in Texas helps our Texas economy and citizens. I also agree that the government should spend money wisely.

Trans kids getting healthcare means their parents love them enough to take them to many, many doctors. Ending the ability for children to get healthcare will be expensive to enforce, drive out residents, deter events, and reduce tourism.

HB1686 is bad for business, bad for Texans, and a waste of tax payer money, reject this bill and all others like it.

Heather Hill
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686… Gender modification is downright child abuse, I would expect those who we elected in to protect our children and our tax dollars.

sharon powers
self
midlothian, TX

I support HB1686

Roseanna Schwab
Self/student
Camp Wood, TX

Texans do not want their children transed. You need to support this bill.

Laura Quenon
Self/homemaker
Austin, TX

This is so disgustingly discriminatory against transgender Texans. Shame on you, et. al!!

I know so many trans people and I am so blessed to know them. Mind your own healthcare!

Leave trans Texans alone!

Rhesha Landers
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Stand up for our children! Please stop allowing children to make decisions on their gender, when God made that decision for them before birth. Indoctrinating children to believe a mental illness is what they need to cave into is wrong.

Dotty Collins
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Please protect our children by voting FOR this bill. Let kids be kids without pressures to make any decisions that will forever change their lives. There are two sexes—make and female, period. End the confusion imposed on children; protect them.

Elana Fama, Mrs
self
McKinney, TX

PLEASE pass this bill and save our children. They are no old enough to know what they are doing and the butchers are taking advantage of them and padding their pockets.
We must save our children and let them be kids.
Thanks.

Vicki Milker
Myself
Sulphur y, TX

I am for this bill.

Karen Scott
Self, librarian
Austin, TX

It’s hard to talk about why trans kids deserve support. It’s just a fact. Kids who are trans, genderqueer have higher suicide risks than the rest of the population. This bill, and it’s supporters, would rather see children kill themselves than support them in their identities, passions, and LIVES.

Kristina Schwab
Self/Janitor
Camp Wood, TX

We need to protect our children from demon driven politicians. I support this bill.

Alexandria Haynes
Self
Austin, TX

Let kids be kids. Even if that means they get to block their voice dropping or bodily development for a little while longer while they figure out who they are inside. Quit policing bodies!!!! Protect trans kids!!!!

Pat Bruegger
Citizen of Texas
Hempstead, TX

I support this bill-HB 1686
-I'm in favor of parents being parents

Teresa Zeller
Self
Anna, TX

Please vote FOR this Bill. I’m 100% FOR HB 1686!

Charles Quinn, Mr
Self
Bandera, TX

Support

Howard Messinger
Myself. Rancher.
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I’m in full support of HB 1886. I request that you support passage of this bill out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

belinda wilson
Self
Carthage, TX

NO mutilating children please!!!

Becca Hartmeier
Self
Plano, TX

I oppose HB 1686. Gender transitioning or reassignment should be between the individual, their family, and their medical team. The government should have no part in the decision or any medical or psychological treatment.

Yesenia Schwab
Self/housewife
Camp Wood, TX

Children nor their parents should be allowed to make the decision to trans

Anna Fortner
Myself
Lake Jackson, TX

I, most assuredly, am apposed to procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

dan powers
self - retired
midlothian, TX

I support HB168

David Socia
Self
Whitehouse, TX

This is child abuse. In no way shap or form should a minor have this option and most definitely should not involve tax dollars. We should be good shepherds of our kids teaching them right from wrong.

Daniel Mitchell, MG (Retired)
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Support this bill.

Stacey Reynolds
Self
Burleson, TX

I strongly support this bill. Gender transitioning, and gender reassignment go against my core beliefs, and my tax dollars should not go to support things that go against my beliefs. There are enough organizations and nonprofits, that would step up to replace government funding to provide this treatment if people insist on having, because evil is present everywhere. America's values are being undermined daily, and you can see it in the increase in crime, and decrease in productivity, and decrease in civil society. This is not the same county I grew up in, and it is disheartening to see how drastically our values have, and are still been destroyed. I am a mental health professional, and a parent. Gender reassignment, and transitioning is cruel. If a child does not have the mental capacity, to purchase alcohol, or tobacco how can they decide on a life altering and permanent change? Parents, and medical professionals that allow permanent disfiguring of a child should be prohibited. An individuals brain is not fully developed until their twenty five, and some research indicates that it may even be thirty five. In the 1970's homosexuality, was taken out of the diagnostic statistical manual, because it was determined that homosexuality was not the mental illness. Instead, it was the depression, anxiety and social distress that being a homosexual caused, and so the "homosexual" disorder was removed. New research, is indicating that there is an increase in individuals regretting their decision for transitioning. As a mental health professional, changing pronouns, or outward body appearances does not magically make the emotional distress an individual is going through go away. Kids and teenagers go through identity "crisis" it is part of normal human development. There are only two biological sexes, and DNA is very clear on which sex is which. In all other organisms, there are two biological sexes. Gender is a social construct, biological sex is not. Instead, of using surgery, to mutilate children, lets invest in mental wellness, education that offers teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic. Increase in creating healthy family units, churches, and healthy community that support healthy brain development. Lets get rid of activist in our schools that want to push their evil agenda, and encourage healthy development, and mental wellness. Increase mental health in primary care settings, and schools and communities. Lets use funding to support American values such as hard work, community, faith, and country. Lets utilize funding for innovation, grit, and hard work. When critical theories, and victim mentality are rewarded that is what we produce. Too many people are worried about being cancelled, criticized or threatened to stand up for their believes.

Jeannette Hormuth
Self, waitress
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR this bill. (HB1686) Please support the prompt passage of this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jeannette Hormuth

Holli Steadman
Self
Mckinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Each child is fearfully and wonderfully made by God. I do not support procedures and treatments that attempt to change God’s design of male & female.

Glenda Elam
My Christian values
Denison, TX

Stop this abuse of child

Paul Schwab
Self/contractor
Camp, TX

I support this bill.

Michael Weber
Christian
Pipe Creek, TX

I am totally against the gender modification of children. I believe that a child could be a child and not badgered into someone else's idea of changing your gender.

Susan Goss
Self
Buda, TX

Vote in favor of the HB1868

Lindsay Dawson
Self; business owner
Conroe, TX

Staunchly in favor of HB 1686

Samantha Rey
Self
Northlake, TX

For bill!

Corinne Harrup
Self/assistant pastor
Killeen, TX

I encourage the prohibition of mutilating children's bodies through drugs and surgery and no public money from taxes or fees should be used to bring harm to children and youth. These decisions should not be made until after the age of majority and full counsel should be given as to lifetime effects of chemical, hormonal, and surgical experimentation.

JAMES POPE
NA
Prosper, TX

Please pass this bill. We can not continue to bombard our children and confuse them even more then they are. Once a lot of these procedures are completed there is not turning back. Being a teenage is confusing enough and to provide such access is reckless and disturbing.

Shelley White
self, nanny
AUSTIN, TX

I support HB 1686. Please protect our children.

Katie Crane
Self
Salado, TX

Let kids be kids- gender choices are too much for kids

Sylvia Kay Pickett
Self/retired
Camp Wood, TX

Transgenderism is taking advantage of the child. I support this bill.

KIMBERLY FENTON
Self retired
Mansfield, TX

I support HB1686.

Weldon Howard, Mr.
None
Meadows Place, TX

I am against this. It is not natural. God made us Male or Female. We must not try to change it.

Weldon Howard

debbie Simon
none
College Station, TX

please pass this bill to protect the children in Texas HB1686

Will Schwab
Self/ carpenter
Camp Wood, TX

Transgenderism is an evil ideology and I oppose it with every fiber of my being.

Ying Huang
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB1686.

Jeff Mcclarty
Myself
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself, I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time

Anne Cathryn Bodi
Self/property manager
Richmond, TX

For this bill HB1686.
Adults should be prohibited from making these decisions for minors. And I don’t agree with the use of public money for this purpose.

Bill Collins
Self/ retired law enforcement , current rancher
Paris, TX

This needs to pass to protect our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren from this kind of leftwing bull schitte. Wihisky Tango Foxtrot

Dallas Shreve
Myself teacher
Lockhart, TX

These procedures and therapies are most of the time irreversible. No child can consent to that. Forever infertile.

Karen Olson
Self
San marcos, TX

I agree that public money or public asistance should not be used to provide gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria prcedures or treatments

Jonathan Lee
Self engineer
Missouri City, TX

Tax payers money should not be used to fund any gender transition procedure on children. It's harmful and dangerous to children. Please vote yes to this bill.

Faith Hines, Mrs.
Representing self; occupation: a very concerned mother
Spring, TX

God cannot make mistakes. Therefore no child's gender is a mistake that should be remedied through medical intervention. Do not use my tax dollars to support gender transitioning, reassignment, or the like but rather find resources to help people learn to accept and appreciate themselves for who God made them to be. Changing the exterior appearance never changes the genetics; supporting individuals in transitioning of genders is enabling individuals to delude themselves into an unsatisfying, unfulfilled existence because no one can be truly happy if they are lying to themselves and pretending to be something they aren't.

Daniel Gillis
Concerned Texas Citizen
Carrollton, TX

I strongly disapprove of the proposed bill. Medical decisions should be between parents, children, and health care providers — not the state. It seems that these type of proposals are scapegoating/demonizing/attacking some of the most vulnerable members of our society. Shame on you for proposing these types of legislation.

Shirley Martin
Self, retired
Austin, TX

Please tell everyone who thinks they don't know any trans kids to abstain from voting on this bill. If you had seen the difference in well-being between a trans child who has support and one who is left unsupported, you would never want to take away any help they might need.

James Frizzell, Mr
Self
Lakehills, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children at all cost. This is not normal, nornGodly. This practice must.be stopped.

Larry Fillman, Mr.
Self retired
Pasadena, TX

So, God is making mistakes?! When did this happen? Seek His will in All Things. I cannot imagine how something as mentally, physically and emotionally unstable can be even considered for anyone, especially a child.
Personally, and I'm speaking of myself, I may have been twenty years old but I still had the mindset of a 16 year old. My mind, body seemed to become of one accord by the age of twenty-five. Had someone else "read" something into my childhood innocence and altered my body and subsequently my mind then my life would have never been my own to live as I chose it to live. Misdirected and unconditionally unacceptable.
God is the Creator. He is perfect. He knows us and loves us from the moment of conception. We are His children FOREVER. Whom you chose to follow is your free will decision…also allowed by our Creator.
Living your life according to you is not what God desires. He will give you the desires of your heart but you MUST give control of your life to Him.
Life altering decisions of this nature do not have Biblical grounds and are wrong.

Debi Scaggs, Mrs.
self
Denton, TX

Please, vote for this bill and protect children!! Gender reassignment does NOT save lives it actually puts them at risk in a variety of ways. Suicide ideology has been shown to increase by 20%. Infections from surgeries is common. Hormone treatment is dangerous as it increases chances of cancer, osteoporosis and the patient is required to take it for life. In the event the person decides to "de-transition" many of the effects of hormones are irreversible as is surgeries. Please put a stop to the MUTILATION OF CHILDREN! This is a mental health emergency!!

Phyllis Welch
Self
Garland, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. God made each one of us without error. It is deplorable what they are doing to innocent children. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow. I am FOR HB 1686.

Sharon Yeh
Self/house wife
Missouri City, TX

I support HB 1686.

Zane Willard
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time"

Pat Hoffman, Mrs.
Self, housewife
Llano, TX

I can't believe I'm reading this right. We're telling God He's made a mistake, that we know better. Have we totally lost all our common sense? Mutilating a child seems an awfully drastic, permanent measure for a temporary problem. First we have abortion (limiting our population) and now this that will also limit our population. Do we hate our lives so much? I pray y'all will come to your senses and vote yes on this bill number 1686 by Mr. Olverson and stop this craziness.

Alfred Digiacomo, Sr. Draftsman
Self, Draftsman
San Antonio, TX

I think it’s a shameful thing to change what God has made us to be. It’s really not our choice.

George Zhu
Self
Wylie, TX

Support

Duren Ready, MD
Baylor Scott & White
Temple, TX

I support HB 1686
The House of Medicine has allowed a few activists to dictate policy which does not represent its members or best practices. It is because we have not done our job that you have stepped into the breech to protect our children and vulnerable citizens.
Marcus Aurelius observed “Everything that happens, happens as it should,” meaning things “just don’t happen.” There is a pattern. For almost all history gender dysphoria was stereotypically seen in young natal males who were insistent, consistent, and persistent regarding their condition. This is not today's population. Comedian Bill Maher said “Either Ohio is suppressing them, or California is creating them.
Curiosity is absent among the majority of physician advocates to investigate or explain the demographic shift. This matters as studies from one group may not be applicable to another. Accordingly, studies advocating for GAC are not likely to represent the current population.
The foundational problem with transgender is its reliance on self-report. Unquestioned affirmation presents an unfalsifiable hypothesis that then cannot be scientifically studied. This presents the undeniable problem transgender ideology, its reliance on self-report.
Clinicians should recognize a patient's report of subjective experience formulates part of a diagnosis, but it is only a part. This is because self-report, like eyewitness testimony, is not infallible. Patient self-report led to our opiate crisis. Many patients told me “Doctor, you just do not understand. I’m in real pain. The only thing that works for me is my hydrocodone.” Why are you not giving me what I need?
But we see this in other conditions. Anorexic patients report that they are fat. Their physical image is inconsistent with their mental one and creates great distress. In treating their dysphoria should we now provide liposuction?
I have never heard anyone attempt to answer the question “Why is the belief that an individual is born in the wrong body is not considered delusional?” Medically, a “delusion” is a fixed false belief not based in cultural or societal norms. Presently, it might be argued the belief that of being born in the wrong body might be a cultural norm and as such not delusional. But this would also justify the Salem Witch trials or the Satanic panic. One my Psychiatry professors told me that “If I ever had an afternoon to waste, try to talk someone out of their delusion.” Once a delusion takes hold, the individual, becomes a true believer and it might be easier to convince a born again Christian that Jesus doesn’t love them.
But we also should consider the unintended consequences of accepting self-report as fiat for any state of being. Individuals may identify as a certain age or states to obtain benefits. This is what may happen when an individual’s “truth” is accepted over objective fact. Individuals may have experiences. But they do not have truth.

Samady Garza
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Honorable Representatives, I am asking you to please vote no on HB 1686. Texas is better and should not take a low road by denying healthcare and treatment to children. Young people need our support and deserve the right to make their own private medical decisions with the help of our doctors and our families. Please put Texans first and vote no to HB 1686.

Hannah Joy
Self
Pflugerville, TX

In SUPPORT OF HB1686. No Child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

KRISTI BOMAR
Self - Homemaker
Navasota, TX

We MUST prohibit gender modification in children.

Sondra Hicks, Mrs
Self
Richmond, TX

Vote FOR

Mariah Miller
Self
Midlothian, TX

"I support HB1686!" Please do what is in the best interest for children!

Travis Ham, Worship Pastor
Bear Creek Bible Church
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686 to protect the children of Texas from the multifaceted harms of biology denying medical gender transition.

ANGELA Lasher
Self
PLANO, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Gender modification of children is abuse.

Yibing Lin
Self/IT engineer
Plano, TX

No public money should be used for gender manipulation

Jane Yuan
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support HB 1686!

Amanda Addison
Self
Tyler, TX

I support this Bill. Created in His image.

Henry Hubbard
self
Lancaster, TX

I support

Betty Johnson
Self
Sealy, TX

Public money should not be used for gender transitioning. If they want it done so bad then pay for it out of their pocket. I do not believe in this at all.

Robin Schuster
Self
Austin, TX

I urge you to let the parents walk through and gaurdian this delicate process of early childhood development, especially through their puberty age when children are just sorting through their identify. These surgical procedures are permanent and long-stsnding and can have and often do have devastating psychological impacts. Thank you.

Juanita Green
self
Trophy Club, TX

I am for this bill (1686)the public should not finance this. It is very sad and totally inappropriate to be providing any medical services especially this without parent/guardian knowledge or permission. These are children this type of life changing procedure should not be sanctioned under 21 in my opinion, you have to be 21 for e-cigs lets have some consistency please

Lisa Beasley
self--teacher
San Angelo, TX

Children do not have the capacity to make decisions that have life-altering magnitude. We don't allow them to drink or smoke before the age of 21, because we know that they don't understand the health implications. This is the case, only to a much, much greater degree, for gender transitioning or reassignment. And, this is definitely not something public money should be used for. That takes away money that could be used for life-saving treatments for cancer or other fatal conditions.

HOUBING LIU
Self and IT
Mansfield, TX

SUPPORT HB1686

Carol Latta, Ms.
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

:
I represent myself and I support HB1686. I ask that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you.

Marie Mulling
Self - caregiver
Hutto, TX

Testimony

Good evening. I am against HB1686.

I am a Texas woman. I'm a seventh generation Texan. My daughter is an 8th generation Texan. When she was little, we thought she was a boy.

When my daughter was 2, she asked me why she didn't have any nightgowns. I said, "I don't know, do you want one?" She said yes. So we got her a nightgown.

When my daughter was 3, she wore a nightgown to preschool. Another child asked, "where are your normal clothes?" My husband, a combat infantry veteran, asked, "what's wrong with what he's wearing?" The other kid said "nothing."

When my daughter was 4, she wore pink skeleton pajamas to the playground. Another child asked, "why are you wearing girl clothes?" My daughter said, "they're not girl clothes. They're pajamas."

When my daughter was 5, she broke her arm. She picked out a pink cast. When she got her cast removed, she was unimpressed with the cars and SpongeBob stickers offered to her. I asked, what stickers would you offer if she was a girl? My daughter loved the fairy stickers.

When my daughter was 12, she was the first boy ever on our middle school dance team. Other kids called her slurs and even threw a shoe at her.

When my daughter was 12, she asked if she could wear high heels to school and I asked a therapist how to gently ask if my daughter was a girl without pushing her.

When my daughter was 14, she said, "I think I'm a girl."

I said, "okay, let's get some help."

We went to her primary care doctor. That doctor asked if my daughter had changed her name and pronouns publicly. I said she had changed her name and pronouns at church. Our doctor said, "what church do you go to?" (A Unitarian Universalist church for anyone wondering.)

She referred us to another doctor. That doctor ordered blood tests and x-rays so we could determine where my daughter is in puberty and where to go from here. Both our primary care doctor and the other doctor asked about my daughter's history with gender.

I'm not here because I'm a medical professional. I'm not. I'm a mom who loves my baby. Her doctors are the only ones who can advise us on the best healthcare options moving forward for her. They're the experts. Please let my daughter's doctors continue to provide her with the best care for her, with evidence based treatment.

Yesterday I heard someone reference a Swedish study from 2011. The conclusion specifically states: sex reassignment, although alleviating gender dysphoria, may not suffice as treatment for transsexualism, and should inspire improved psychiatric and somatic care after sex reassignment for this patient group. This study specifies that trans individuals should receive more healthcare, not less.

Again I ask for you to not let this bill out of committee. Do not let it go further. Do not stand between my child and her doctors. Do not classify my unconditional love and support of my child as something nefarious. Stand with Texas parents and children.

Sarah Reyna
Self Homemaker
Mckinney, TX

FOR

Susan Lupton
Self retired
Arlington, TX

As a parent and grandparent I have seen experientially and realize that gender identification is part of a natural physiological design and event. The catalytic affect of two different complementary, life-giving forces, one from a male as sperm and one as a female egg from a woman
Produces a new life form and generation. This this is a biological fact whether in human beings, or in the animal
Realm. It is also evident in nature as the transference of different elements as in the pollinating of flowers produces new life. It is challenging to realize society is now voicing a deception that has been promoted so loudly it has become reality to those who believe the lie. It is reminiscent of those who would dispute that the earth is not round but flat.

Janice Elliott
Self
Benbrook, TX

I agree with the ban

Amber Yates
Self
Austin, TX

I'm commenting in support of HB 1686. Texas should be leading the way in protecting children from mental and physical harm. Children under 18 cannot consent to the irreversible damage that gender modification treatments and surgeries have on their bodies. There are no long term studies proving without a doubt the safety these treatments have on children as they become adults, what kind of lasting mental and physical harm or regret they will live with throughout their adult lives, becoming lifetime patients to maintain their false gender identity. Texas must protect future generations of Texans and pass HB 1686.

Janet Jones
self/retired
Fayetteville, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

John Windham, Mr
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Please vote to prohibit children from victimized by procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Arian Brumby
Self
Austin, TX

The day we began gender affirming care for my step-son was the day I started seeing him blossom. He was struggling prior to this, with school, depression, anxiety, anger, and self esteem. We were losing him. When he shared his truth and we sought out gender affirming care, it was such a huge shift. We had back our happy kid.

Unfortunately, with these bills looming, and law after law being passed attacking the trans community, it has become an incredibly scary time for us as a family. I can't bear to see him return to the dark place he was at before. I can't bear to see our society regress and undo the progress we've made.

Trans people are already at a much higher percentage to be victims of violence. Particularly black trans women. And all this for merely existing, for living their truth.

Imagine if one day, you went to the doctor, and they administered a genetics test and told you that you were actually the opposite gender. How would you feel? Shocked? Depressed? Would you change your life as you knew it and suddenly decide to live as this new gender? Abandoning the life you loved, the gender you thought you were. I'm guessing the answer would be no. So why make trans people go through that. If you feel that you are a man or a woman, why isn't that enough? Why force someone to live a certain way based on chromosomes?

If you pass this law, I shudder to think about the number of trans youth suicides you will see. Please don't force our children back into that scary dark place. They and we just cannot bear that. Nor should they have to. In this country we are supposed to be allowed certain freedoms, including expression. To take these rights away would not only be cruel, but unequivocally un-American.

Larry Blount
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Jiao Gao
Self
Allen, TX

Done

Debbie Bowman, Mrs.
Self Grandmother
Houston, TX

It is insane that this is being taught to innocent children. I support HB 1686 to stop these intentions to destroy the lives of children. Shame on any of our government leaders who support this radical thinking.

Alex Meed
Self; cybersecurity analyst
Austin, TX

Chair and members,

I write to respectfully oppose HB 1686, and to address two points raised during the public hearing.

First, I disagree with one witness's comments that so-called "transgender ideology" is rooted in gender stereotypes. I found this comment surprising given my own experience. I'm a cisgender (non-transgender) man who breaks plenty of male stereotypes: I've never been that interested in sports; most of my close friends are women; pink plays a prominent role in my wardrobe. But despite all the male clichés I don't fit into, I've never—not once—doubted that I am a man. The sensations I've heard transgender people describe are wholly different from mine: not just of not fitting into particular gender stereotypes, but of not fitting their assigned birth sex at all. The two should not be conflated.

Second, multiple witnesses mentioned possible comorbidities between gender dysphoria and autism, and I recall one worrying that medical transitions could have a disproportionately negative effect on neurodivergent people. I am autistic myself, and I think it's entirely appropriate to be alert to potential disparate impacts on people in our community. I dispute, however, that medical transitions have a generally negative effect. As we heard anecdotally from witnesses like Mr. Gonzales, and clinically from Drs. Zwiener, Mooney, and St. Amand and others, the ability to medically transition has been a powerful positive tool for so many people. It may not be right for everyone, like some of the other witnesses we heard from, and that's okay. But to cast gender-affirming medical care as universally negative misses the mark.

If the committee is dissatisfied with the state of the science, perhaps study is the right approach. But to ban this care entirely at this stage strikes me as premature. And, given how much this care has helped so many people, to ban it would be not just premature, but unconscionable.

I know all of us want what's best for the children of Texas. And the best way you can help the children of Texas is by refusing to advance HB 1686.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Meed

Gail Shannon, Mrs
Self - homemaker
Houston, TX

I am FOR bill 1686.

Claudia Smith
None
Arlington, TX

Please protect our children from procedures & treatment for gender transition that cause irreversible harm to them for the rest of their lives. Do not take parents rights to protect their children away from them.

Steven Adkins
Self
Tyler, TX

For

Laura Suffield, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill!!

Nancy Davis
Self and my children and grandchildren
Fort davis, TX

This whole matter of transgender is another attack by the minority who berates and falsely accuses those with a normal majority opinion. It is a crime to sacrifice children To this horrific activity. Another example of disgusting perverted behavior and calling it correct thinking yet conservative thinking that people are not mistakes the way they were created is called evil.
Texas stand up for truth and correct thinking and don't bow to this abominable activity of mutilating our children. It is a disgusting topic. Texas will
Be judged on this if they try to ride the fence.

Chantel Cave
Self
Richardson, TX

Let them grow!! Please SUPPORT this bill!!! Minors should not be mutilated before they've had a chance to grow and develop.

Rhonda's Jones
Self
Cypress, TX

Please be a voice to protect our children mentally and physically. May the Lord protect the ones taking a stand to protect all His children!!

Crystal Webb
Self
Hutto, TX

FOR

Brenda Smith
Self
Montgomery, TX

Do not allow children to be mutilated or be subjected to drugs to change them.

Peggy Gerst
Self. Leader
Houston, TX

I am FOR/SUPPORT this bill.

Jennifer Halpenny
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support this bill!!!

April Benson
Self
Longview, TX

Gender transitioning procedures/medications should not be used/provided on/to our children; public money/assistance should not be provided for these procedures/medications either.

Karen Light
Taxpayer
Abilene, TX

Vote FOR this bill. No child is born in the wrong body. No child's body should be altered to represent the opposite sex. Don't spend tax money for such procedures and treatments.

Hope CRUZ
Fairfield republication
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Sue Stewart
Self
Houston, TX

I'm writing in support of this bill. We must protect children from procedures and medications that will harm them physically and psychologically.

Harriett Zivley
Self
Houston, TX

I am in favor of and support this bill becoming the law in Texas.

Cindy McLeod, Mrs.
Self
Paris, TX

I do not think anyone should be allowed to authorize any procedure to change the gender of a child.

Brooke Kalbrier
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support bill HB 1686.

Lynne McGraw
Self
Tyler, TX

Children don't have any idea of consequence. Please don't allow these children to be influenced into life long changes. Let them grow up and mature so they make a truly informed decisions. We are headed to a time when so many will regret or be bitter at those who convinced them to change. Mental health is already at an all tim high, this will put it through the roof.

Katherine Gramonte
Self; registered nurse
Iowa Colony, TX

I support this bill. I don’t want my kids to be exposed to this transgender procedures.

tammie GRANTHAM
MYSELF
GRAPEVINE, TX

I AM IN SUPPORT OF NOT ALLOWING PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS FOR GENDER TRANSITIONING AND THE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO DO SO ON CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18. THEY CANNOT VOTE, DRIVE, SMOKE , DRINK, GET TATOOS AND MANY OTHER ADULT THINGS THAT ARE LESS DAMAGING AND PERMANENT THAN THIS. PLEASE ALLOW THE CHILDREN OF TEXAS TO GROW UP (AND MAYNE EVEN OUT OF) ANY CONFUSION TEY HAVE ABOUT THEIR GENDER BEFORE THEY MAKE LASTING AND IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE TO THEMSELVES. WE MUST PROTECT THE CHILDREN AS ADULTS IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. THANK YOU FOR KEEPING TEXAS CHILDREN SAFE. MR AND MRS PETER GRANTHAM

Anna Marie Weller
Self
Houston, TX

Stop allowing the mutilation of children. Outlaw the operations multilating children.

Liwen Liu
teacher/self
ALLEN, TX

I support HB1686

Hedy Pena
Self-insurance agent/business owner
Fort Worth, TX

Pass the bill!

Leah Wittig, Mrs
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Please this bill!!! No!

Heather Quist
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Charles Hernandez
Christian
Denton, TX

Thank you for bringing forth this bill.

Linda Hernandez
self
Denton, TX

I pray this bill passes, thank you.

NATALIE Cadenas
myself
Grapevine, TX

As a young happily married female adult who loved all things boy(football, boys clothes etc) I am thankful I was not allowed to make permanent decisions before I out grew my confusion and tom boy stage. I am in FULL support of the HB1686. We must keep children safe from this confusion and permanent damage.

Carlos Carrillo
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 1686

Cynthia Rice-Tims
Republican Women RRV, President
Paris, TX

A fundamental part of logic and reason is the idea that things have a purpose. The purpose of our eyes, for example, is to provide us with sight, ears are for hearing, wings are for flight, etc. The primary purpose of human sexuality is procreation. Yet, transgenderism, like homosexuality and feminism, deny this principle, and therefore attack human reason itself, which is a form of deliberate madness. The desire to change one's biological sex not only denies reality, but also offends God. Nobody is born male or female by chance, but in accordance with a plan of Divine Providence. “It is physiologically impossible to change a person’s sex, since the sex of each individual is encoded in the genes—XX if female, XY if male. Surgery can only create the appearance of the other sex,” claim Dr. Richard P. Fitzgibbons, M.D., Philip M. Sutton, Ph.D., and Dale O’Leary.Our seexual identity “is written on every cell of the body and can be determined through DNA testing. And it cannot be changed. It is most harmful to impressionable children, according to the American College of Pediatricians, the public promotion of transgenderism constitutes a form of child abuse. "Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse. Endorsing gender discordance as normal via public education and legal policies will confuse children and parents, leading more children to present [themselves] to 'gender clinics' where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures that they will 'choose' a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults."

Savannah Miller
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686! My tax dollars along with other Texans should NOT be used to provide these demonic procedures.

Linda DeLong
myself
Keller, TX

I am in support of this bill. as a 78 year old grandmother of many young children we must do all we can to help them grow up safe without making adult decisions before they are old enough to do so

Julie Porter
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR the bill.

Quentin Harrup
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR this bill passing.

Sharlene Aiken
Self
Cedar Park, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Kim Sturman
Myself
Red Oak, TX

Vote Yes! I've watched these hearings. I would be there except I'm home sick. And watching these hearings has certainly made me I'll. Gender confusion is satanic mental illness that is fostered and enabled by a sick deceptive spirit taking over the world. Actually, I have personal experience with wishing when I was 4 in 1962 that I was a boy for many reasons. I was a first born child and very close to my father. He was an amazing man and he loved my mother very much. His brother my uncle had 3 boys, my aunt had to 2 boys and all the friends where I lived were boys. I thought I would be happier as a boy because boys had more fun. They weren't as overprotected as I felt at times. And the only tv show I remember was Gunsmoke. I related to Matt Dillons heroism but what was the female role model? Miss Kitty? Really? And then those Tarzan movies. Jane could not run to save her life. At 4 I thought how pathetic. So my Daddy told me that if I could kissed my elbow I would turn into a boy. I almost broke my little arm. Then crying, like a girl(lol) my amazing and loving mother told me that I could do everything a boy could do and still be happy being a girl. I could still play with my dolls, be a dancer, grow up to be a mommy some day and I could ride bikes, shoot guns, ride horses and do whatever boys could do too. So I grew up riding horses, riding dirt bikes, fishing, shooting guns, sailing, scuba diving, hiking, climbing, flying airplanes, being a dancer, in Real Estate with my Dad, a corporate flight attendant, worked 10 years in Geophysics for Exxon Exploration in Houston on ANWR / Prudhoe Bay in seismic evaluation, 18 years as a paralegal in Family Law and I've raised 5 children to adulthood. I am so glad my mother validated who I was. I was a girl who didn't know about or care about male genitalia at all. I wanted to have fun and do things that I saw men get to do when my mother just stayed home and cared for me and my sister. I wanted to live without limits of gender which is possible for everyone and every gender. It was stereotyping gender that I saw the problem at age 4 and my mother made it clear that would not be a problem. And though there is still inequality, we've come a long way Baby! You can't allow a child to mutilate or chemically alter their bodies because they can't make that decision for themselves and neither can anyone else.I honestly don't think a person should have the right to do that to themselves at all, but not until they are at least 26 years old and then they should pay for it themselves after they have reached maturity and ability to care for themselves and have at least 2 years of counseling that helps them explore why and their faith.
I can't imagine my life without living it as God intended me to do, as a woman. I am so thankful I was not born today or I may have been a victim of enabling a very wrong decision that would have destroyed the beautiful life God has given me. Ignore the Crazy and pass this Bill!

Brandon Villanueva
MFA
Humble, TX

I support HB1686. I do not support any public money going towards providing procedures and treatments to those seeking to alter their genetic makeup.

Jana Ames
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR snd SUPPORT this bill

Mey Sean
Self
Leander, TX

I support this bill. Children are to be protected against this abuse. No public money should any shape or form goes to supporting treatments for these types of procedures.

Bobette Boyd
self
Frisco, TX

I vote for this bill

Mr and Mrs Nicholas Grantham
My wife and myself
Haslet, TX

My wife and I am in full support of this bill. We must keep children safe from harm from others and even from themselves., Making such adult decisions like gender transitioning is in no way appropriate for a child to make. Thank you for putting children first and keeping them safe with a bill like this

Susan Avera Thompson
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

I strongly support this bill!!!
Protect our children!!!

M. Joyce Thurman, Retired
Self
Abilene, TX

Please vote yes. It is essential to be passed. No child under the age of 18 should have gender transition drugs or surgeries done even with parental consent.

Al Dodds
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Leave our children alone. Once they reach adulthood they can make a decision on what they want to be.

David Sandoval, Mr.
Self, Designer
Austin, TX

Trans people all over the world and in Texas have the same inalienable rights divinely bestowed upon them as any person. It may seem difficult to accept, but just as there are young straight people, there are young gay people. Just as there are young people who suffer and crave fitting socially or physically with their at-birth gender assignment, so too are there young people who suffer and crave to live a life identifying and being identified as the gender identity they most identify with. This is as concrete and natural as generations of people now being free to be left handed. It is inhumane to deny anyone of care that lowers their chances of adverse mental health and suicide. "God makes no mistakes," does not mean that every person must accept themselves as they were born. Those with superfluous appendages, nearsightedness, or other developmental ailments all enjoy earnest attempts at relief. Even circumcision is a denial of the perfection of God's design. When a premature baby is put on life support, is this admission that God has made a mistake allowing an underdeveloped baby to be born? When an intersex child is born with two X chromosomes and a penis, is this evidence of God's fallibility? Or is it, perhaps all opportunities provided by the Lord to show love, mercy, grace, help as Christ would have us do? Are the leaders of Texas so weak in spirit, so completely deceived by Satan that they would cast out the leper, exile Mary Magdalene, or crucify Christ himself for believing something holier and more merciful than their own tradition? Christ saw the inherent perfection in all people despite their struggles or the hand they've been dealt. A fundamental restructuring of leaders' perception of their constituents must occur. You fail to protect us from weather, from fun violence, from racial injustice, from racism, and from state-sponsored violence. It is about time the life liberty and pursuit of happiness of Texas residents was finally protected. And what better place to start? What more Christ-like gesture could there be? Make the right choice. Deny the devil his victory of hate over love. Contempt over mercy. Condemnation over acceptance. Honor the Lord OUR GOD Jesus Christ with an act of mercy so grand, so clear, so loving that tongues of fire might just crown the representatives who vote against this bill. Do the correct thing. Make the. Choice that truly helps young people, helps families, and helps your souls.

Jonathan Findley
Self
Pasadena, TX

What happened to James Younger should never have happened to a boy in Texas.

I support HB 1686.

Edward Carel
Self
MCKinney, TX

I strongly oppose gender reassignment procedures of any kind for minors. Basic and fundamental developmental child psychology clearly address the normal difficulties of adolescence including understanding and exploring sexuality and sexual identity. It also clearly demonstrates that adolescence brains do not fully develop until mid and even late 20's. Gender confusion and gender establishment in most cases is a very normal and health process. Permanent and irreversible transition surgeries, drugs, and procedures performed on minors should in every case be considered child abuse and even exploitation.

Trang Dinh
None
Houston, TX

I am for HB1686!

Bun Sean
Self
Leander, TX

Children’s body are perfectly as they are. It is biologically impossible to change gender. Please, no public money provide to these gender modifications surgeries.

Shelley Ames
Self, homemaker
Arlington, TX

We need this bill to pass. We must protect children from these experiments and bodily harm that is being done in the name of body dysphoria and transgenderism. Children cannot vote, they cannot carry guns, they cannot enter into legal binding contracts, so why would we allow them to make a decision like altering their body in such permanent ways. With or without parental consent, bodily mutilation of children is child abuse, by parents and doctors. End this practice now before more children are harmed. I do not want any public money spent on abusing children in this way.

Michael Dawson
Self / consultant
Conroe, TX

I support this bill.

Cheryl Little
Self
Big Sandy, TX

I want to register my support for HB1686 which BANS pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas. Children do not have the wisdom to make these decisions. Studies show that the majority of children with gender dysphoria will outgrow it. Any doctor that mutilates children in this way should have their license revoked and should be jailed.

Tina Liu, Mrs
Self
Mansfield, TX

I support, I support HB1686

Mark Leite-Ferraz
Self
Montgomery, TX

For the sake of children’s future, I support HB 1686. Thank you

Amanda Burnett
Self
Montgomery, TX

I support this bill.

Lauren Guidry
Self
Houston, TX

FOR/IN support

Audrey Griffin
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Gender affirming procedures and treatments are important aspects of healthcare. There is no reason to prevent children from pursuing gender affirming care. Children and parents are perfectly capable of making these decisions for themselves without this kind of governmental overreach. The effects of hormone blockers can be easily reversed, the trauma of having to defend your bodily autonomy cannot. The health, safety, and wellbeing of transgender children is vastly more important than the comfort of transphobic adults.

Holly Roch
Self
Manor, TX

Should be illegal to perform such procedures on minors

Laurel Midani
Self sales
Houston, TX

For/support the bill

GC Hoelscher, Mrs.
Self. Business woman
Austin, TX

Please prohibit children from any form of gender transitioning!!!!!!!

Teresa De La Garza
citizen
Princeton, TX

FOR/Support bill HB1686

Suzanne Harrington
Myself, a sane 6th generation Texan & lover of God Almighty
Dallas, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Children have No idea what they are doing to their bodies that is irreversible- we are going to see in future lots of suicide of children that become adults that have been victimized by LGBT- etc. Many such harmed adults now say they wish they had Never let someone else tell them who they weren't biologically as they convinced them to alter their bodies but not their True identity.
Legislators don't fold to the woke LGBT agenda instead stand up for Right & why we voted you into office!!!
Suzanne Harrington

Elissa Creen
Self/Cleaning Services
Grand Prairie, TX

I do not feel we should use public money or public assistance for gender transitioning/reassignment for anyone, especially our youth. I feel this is morally and ethically wrong. Please.... please do not support or pass this bill.

Pamela Williamson-Wyllie, Mrs..
Self
Converse, TX

I am in opposition to this bill as you continue to ask the opinions of Doctors who bankroll the republican party. Lets focus on getting guns out of schools, not transgender kids.

Neyra Garcia
Self
Brownsville, TX

The outcome of this bill would be disastrous to the lgbtq+ community. This bill endangers the lives of young children who all they want to do is be who they are!

Gretchen Carel
Self homemaker
McKinney, TX

FOR! Children do not have the maturity to make this irreversible life altering choice. We are throwing out science. The human brain is not fully developed until age 24, and even older if a child lived through trauma and illness.

Shawn Savarino
Self
Houston, TX

Please support this bill!!! You have a responsibility to protect the children of this great state. Vote FOR this bill!!

Kandy Reed, Mrs.
Self
Mission, TX

I am for this bill.

Bethany Bremer
Self/teacher
Houston, TX

FOR/Support

Norma Gaston
Self retired
Hurst, TX

I support this HB 1686!

Steve Bremer
Self/engineer
Houston, TX

FOR/Support

Paula Skloss

I am not sure what you are asking. I am not representing any organiza

Mission, TX

I support this bill, as I do not believe gender transitioning or reassignment is appropriate for children (or anyone). I also believe it is wrong to use taxpayer funds for purposes such as these.

Sarah Biesterveld

Self, project coordinator

Austin, TX

Why would you take health care away from the most vulnerable youth? Trans kids already have a high suicide risk and by taking away their health care, you are killing them. Simply put. Trans kids deserve to grow up and experience joy. Please reconsider this bill, find it in your heart. Imagine if your child came to you and said they were trans. You would want them to get the care they needed, even if you don't understand it. You can show compassion without comprehension. Ever Texas kid deserves a chance to grow up.

Steve Gonzales

Self

Frisco, TX

I support this bill because gender-affirming care is actually the mutilation of a perfectly healthy person, and because puberty blockers, contrary to what the trans activists say, are not reversible and cause lifelong harm to children that take them. Thank you.

Joell Shilpi

Self

Wylie, TX

I support HB 1686.

Joseph McManis, Dr.

Self, patent agent

McKinney, TX

Children's health and mental health decisions should be determined by their doctors and their parents, not by government officials. Many studies show that child suicide rate drops when these issues are addressed and not simply ignored. Lawmakers cannot be permitted to hurt children and violate parents' rights simply because they do not understand well-established biological facts about gender, even if they find those facts strange or uncomfortable.

Nubia Devine

Self- Esther Council

Marble Falls, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. I can't think of a more cruel thing to tell a child, that he or she is a mistake and must changed. Absolute child abuse! Thank you for your time.

Randy Tyson

Self

Cameron, TX

I STRONGLY support this bill. transgenders comprise ONLY ONE PERCENT OR LESS of the population. Their rights should be protected, but not at the expense of the rest of the population. Our children need to be protected from the influence of such a tiny demographic trying to force their ideals on easily-influenced children.

Rachael Black
Self
Joshua, TX

This is really none of the government's business. Parents are capable of making choices for their own children, unless this doesn't apply anymore - specifically to school curriculum choices.

Richard Sayles
Personal
Austin, TX

It is abudive and utterly foolish to allow permanent, generation-altering surgery to be performed on minors. They know nothing about the world and do not begin to have fully developed brains or perspectives about their life or purpose. Have mercy on these children and stop these tragic surgeries.

Miriam Lambert, Ms
self
Fort Worth, TX

Please please please prohibit gender transitioning for all children under 18.

Angela Martinez
self/ sales
Allen, TX

I would like to express my support for HB 1686. I have heard first hand testimony from many who are now working to de-transition and are now faced with many irreversible consequences of their transitioning at young ages. I believe that the first course of treatment for those who truly suffer from gender dysphoria should not be surgery or drugs. If a person is counseled and, after reaching age of consent, still believes that surgery or medications are the best course, then they can seek out such treatment. However, these decisions should not be made on behalf of kids or by these kids, many of whom have not even gone through puberty. Let our kids be kids!! Please support HB 1686

Brek Lancaster
Self / Professional Musician and Instructor
Grapevine, TX

HB 1686 by Oliverson to the fullest extent. These procedures are ruining the children in our state and across our nation. If this continues it will clearly ruin our society as we know it. And to use public money or public assistance is definitely not fair to the working citizen who works hard to provide for his or her family. Please support and pass this bill. Thank you and God bless you.

haiyan he
Self
Dallas, TX

support HB1686

Walter Ruiz, Pastor
Casa de Encuentro
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686. Gender transitioning procedures are not reversible and therefore we should not allow a minor to do that (less use public money for that), the same way we do for tattoos, alcoholic drinks or unrestricted driver licenses. A child that thinks about doing something like that to her or himself is being influenced by an adult somehow and he or she may think in a different way when they grow up. However, the possibility to return to their biological body would being taken away forever. That is a high cause of suicides between transgenders when they experience sexual insatisfaction without their genitals.

H Doughty
Self
Katy, TX

SUPPORT THIS BILL

Janet Lockhart, Mrs.
Self retired
New Braunfels, TX

I am for this bill to pass protecting children from procedures and treatments for gender reassignment.
And the use of public money for these treatments.

Christine White
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I do not believe children should be subjected to surgical procedures that alter their bodies, especially because their bodies and minds have not developed enough to be irreversibly changed. The risks cannot possibly outweigh any dubious benefit.

Richard Wells, Paster
Concerned citizen
Pittsburg, TX

I completely support House Bill 1686!

Terry Allison, Dr.
GOP, McAllen Tea Party, Self, Retired
McAllen, TX

HB 1686 should not be necessary! But due to the massive evil that has brazenly arisen in our fine country this bill to protect our vulnerable children must be passed by all Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and anyone else that desire to take care of our children who cannot protect themselves from this dire threat to their future lives and the future of this country.

Support this bill with all of your might, skill, influence and courage. Step up for our future!

Mary Watkins
Selg
Little Elm, TX

Please give this bill support. Protect the kids.

Alicia Amerson
N/A
White Settlement, TX

Please pass the bill. We need to save children from people that want to harm them.

Marina Menchaca
No
El Paso, TX

I oppose this bill that will permanently damage children. I am opposed to use public monies to provide these procedures and treatments. This is not the solution to a much greater problem.

Joe Barth
Family
Gilmer, TX

I support this bill!

April Okerholm
Self, interior designer
Austin, TX

Any gender modification needs to be at the expense of the adult individual, NOT taxpayers and NOT insurance companies. The system paid for by taxpayers is strained enough on providing basic necessities for the needy without the state incurring additional expenses for gender mutilation or modification for individuals of ANY age.

Penny Gardner
Self
Elgin, TX

I have a transgender grandchild. She has identified as a male since middle school. Because of peer presure, not understanding the impact this change is and knowing life changes when you become an adult, his parents said no to any physical changes. He saw a psychiatrist, life coach and councilor. When he turned 18 he changed his name before starting employment. Through a physician he started gender transitioning medication. He is now 23 and with his own monies is having a breast reduction. He is making these choices as an adult and paying for them himself. He has worked very hard to make this happen. He is the only one responsible for doing this to himself. A parent or physician should never be able to do procedures and treatment for gender transising, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of public monies or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments to a minor. And a parent or physicians should not be able to do shock treatment, exorcism, hypnosis or any other treatment to a minor that could damage there mental ability. Learning the word of God, accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior and love are the best ways to raise children. This will allow them to make the best choices as a adult.

Racheal Barth
Self
Gilmer, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Aleta Miles
Self/ self employed small business owner
Pflugerville, TX

Gender affirming health care is vital and important. By taking away the right to gender affirming healthcare for children and teenagers you are putting those individuals in danger. It is incredibly important to support people who are struggling rather than silence them and make them pretend that they are not suffering.

Catherine Chandler
Self
Houston, TX

Children under 18 should not have the ability to make life changing decisions such as switching their gender through puberty blockers or surgery, etc. Especially when surgery cannot be reversed. Children under 18 are still developing physically & mentally. As they grow and mature, these life changing surgeries are not like temporary changes. Temporary changes like coloring hair or piercing skin or getting a tattoo…if a person changes their mind later…hair color can be reversed or grow out, pierced skin can heal, &/or tattoos can be removed.

Nor should monies for such gender changes be paid for by insurance or public monies. In my opinion, this type of surgery would be deemed elective. A fully grown and mature adult can make major decisions regarding their life & pay for their own elective surgery.

Felicia Sutton

Self / Interior Designer

Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686.
Children are not born in the "Wrong Body" and altering their Biological Gender with drugs or surgery or hormone medications is MUTILATION. These are innocent CHILDREN who are not mature or mentally / intellectually equiped to understand what is being done to them. I DO NOT WANT Children to undergo these proceedures!!!! Please do not allow parents, doctors, teachers, or anyone to harm Children with these dangerous proceedures / transitions. DO NOT ALLOW TAX / PUBLIC FUNDS / ASSISTANCE for this!

Megan Scherer

Self, Business Owner

Wichita Falls, TX

I oppose HB 1686!

Craig Licciardi

Self / Transportation, also board member of Grassroots America We The People but not representing the organization

Flint, TX

Like many who came to testify, I took off work, drove here on my own dime, sat for 15+ hours, yet did not have the opportunity to speak. I intended to “identify” as Chairwoman Klick, & see if I could take her seat, to demonstrate just how ludicrous the delusion is that we can "self-identify” as anything other than what we ARE.

Why must we have this discussion? Injecting children with fake chemicals to screw up normal development, chopping off boys’ genitals, girls’ breasts. Seriously? What kind of deranged, uncivilized society does this? What miscreants dare to pretend along with this demonic delusion to hurt children? THAT’S WHAT THIS IS. satan knows he has a short time until he’s cast into the lake of fire. Jesus said satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. In fact, while we were in the hearing for this bill, you’re probably aware by now that a deluded woman, radicalized like the 100’s here opposed to this bill, became violent and murdered 3 children and 3 adults at a Christian school in Nashville. Domestic terrorism in the name of trans rights. Yeah, it’s not dangerous, is it? If the devil can’t kill 'em in the womb, he’ll have 'em kill others, or steal their innocence and destroy their bodies. No one with compos mentis would think we should allow children to have their innocence stolen, and be abused with delusional thoughts planted by wicked people, rotting their minds with lies, with normalizing sadistic perversions like trans surgery, hormones, puberty blockers, and such. If you’re a loving parent of a child who thinks something’s wrong with them, then pray and fast and plead with God to deliver your child from satanic delusion. Push back against the devil’s lies. Don’t join forces with lucifer and contribute to your kid’s destruction.

Speaking of the boys, the smart aleck one, and the younger one, both dressed as girls, confident they were happy now that they could pretend to be something they’re not, yet they still have penises. If HB1686 doesn’t pass, they go on & have their genitals removed. Or a teenage girl, wants a double mastectomy. A few years go by, and they all have a change of heart – like more and more children do, when they grow up a little and grow out of these childish fantasies. Those parents who are using their real, though misguided, emotional pleas to keep gender bending legal, will end up being HATED by their de-transing children in a few years because they will want to be normal, and they will have had that ability taken away from them. They will NEVER be able to have a normal relationship. NEVER be able to experience sexual fulfillment in a marriage. NEVER be able to breastfeed a child. ALL of that will have been STOLEN from them and their lives DESTROYED by this fetid fallacy being foisted on them by a perverted community, and encouraged by well-meaning but misguided parents.

I urge you as a plenipotentiary of Christ Himself to do the right thing and end these execrable practices in Texas.

Valerie McGilvrey
Self
Spring, TX

Transitioning minor children is absolutely unethical in any health sciences field we know exists today. This must stop. Children need to be allowed to be children. I also think it should be a violation of the law to even speak to a minor child about the issue because this is where programming, grooming, and brainwashing begins. This is child abuse. I am for this bill.

Joyce Obst, Mrs
selg, tetiref
Alamo, TX

Please vote in favor of HB 1686. We must preserve the and protect our children from the craziness of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment, or dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Thank you for your support of HB 1686 by Oliverson

Jessica Diaz
Luke 4:18 ministries
Austin, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Jessica Diaz
Luke 4:18
Austin, TX

For the bill

Brandi Mcduff
Self- vet tech
Denton, TX

Trans people are here and are not going away. Removing the rights of parents to decide what is best for their children sets a dangerous precedent. In some case, this type of care is the only thing keeping these kids going. Studies show that suicide rates in trans kids go significantly down when they have access to gender affirming healthcare. Stop this madness and actually think of the children you are “trying to protect”. Not allowing them healthcare, not allowing their parents and families to decide what is right for each individual child is undermining our fundamental rights.

Anna Perry
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Mira Arakanchi
Self
Marlboro, TX

Kids are too young to understand the consequences of gender transitioning and pay greatly when they are older. Parents should protects kids from this non sense

Rosalie Escobedo, Ms.
Self
Euless, TX

I am for this bill banning child gender modification. Minors should NOT get these procedures. This should be something adults can elect to do at 18 or 21 or older, if at all. Their brains are not even fully formed for proper decision-making until 25 or 26 and even then, many young adults lack the maturity to make life-altering decisions. They do not have the wherewithal to make this decision. Many children rescind the decision after it's too late and end up depressed, suicidal, or worse. The parents of these children are not doing their duty to protect their own children. The State must step in when parents are abusing their own children. This is a money making machine at the expense of our most vulnerable. Please do the right thing to ban child gender mutilation immediately.

Rachel Wallace
Self
San Antonio, TX

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.
—Martin Niemöller

This quote is used often when talking about rights being stripped away, and for good reason. What many don’t know is when power was taken, they went after the disabled, gay people, trans people, and those who were different. It started off by denied and forced medical care. I think the latter is what is being used to push this bill forward. People fear that children will be forced to live as a gender that is not their own and undergo experiences that will forever scar them. Every trans person I know says that already happened to them when they didn’t have access or knowledge of gender affirming care. They were forced to live in a body that wasn’t theirs and be a person they are not. Have you ever had to lie everyday to stay alive? Pretend to be someone you’re not? Most trans people have, especially here in Texas. And many haven’t made it to adulthood because they didn’t have access to the medical care they needed. Not want, NEEDED. Similar strategies were used 80 years ago. They slowly stripped peoples bodily autonomy, their personal freedoms, their right to live until they had full control on who lived and who didn’t. This may seem like a way to help children but in reality it is killing them and setting a president that could take away how people live their lives. Their right to live as themselves with interference from the government or anyone else who thinks they know better or fears and hates the different. I implore you to vote against this bill, to save not just one community you may not understand but for everyone in the state of Texas from losing more freedoms in the future. Thank you for reading this and considering someone else’s side.

Dana Guy
Self
Austin, TX

I am for this bill.

Sheila Patterson
Self
Plano, TX

Please support

Rebecca Vescovo
Self
Houston, TX

FOR this bill!

Linda Voyles
East Texas for Liberty
Longview, TX

I support HB 1686

Raquel Vallejo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this bill

Raquel Vallejo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this bill

Mary Campbell
Myself
La Grange, TX

I am FOR HB1686.

We must prohibit gender modification treatments and drugs. Using these procedures on minor children is child abuse.

Jim Campbell
Self
La Grange, TX

I support this bill.

Suzanne Vernon
Self/homemaker
Cypress, TX

FOR/Support the bill!

Jimmy Dusek
self Farmer
Szz as n Angelo, TX

God does not make mistakes when He creates a child either male or female. The state of Texas must not condom sex change as an option in our state!

Rowan Cardosa
Self
The Colony, TX

I oppose this bill. The Texas GOP is so focused on bullying a tiny minority that they've lost sight of issues that regular people actually care about. HB 1686 would undermine parental rights. Important health care decisions should be discussed between families and their doctors, not decided by politicians.

Sylvia Guzman, Ms
Amigos de Patriots
Hilltop Lakes, TX

Our tax dollars should NOT be used for any type of, neither adult or child. gender reassignment therapy or surgery.

Mindy Stonecipher
Self
Mansfield, TX

Texas should not support this mental illness. This is child cause, plain and simple.

Victoria Starcher
Self/Admin Secretary
Canyon Lake, TX

Please DO NOT subject our precious children to the ignorance of our society…transgenderization!

Marti Horn
Self
Whitney, TX

Vote yes. No gender transitioning for children

Jonina Dickey
Self
Houston, TX

No human is born on the wrong body

Stephanie Clary
None
D'Hanis, TX

Please save the children from the horrible abuse

DEBRA MERRIKEN
SELF RETIRED
GEORGETOWN, TX

Children do not have the developed brain to make life altering decisions about their gender before the age of 21. As responsible adults, we need to protect them and provide support without allowing or encouraging the mutilation of their bodies. I remember having distaste for my body and being confused as a young teenager (hormones do that!) and my confusion could have turned to tragedy had adults been planting ideas and questions about who I was at that age. Leave children alone! Stop bowing to the 1 or 2%. Do your research. That's your job!

Richard Mathews
Self
Houston, TX

We need to support our LGBTQIA+ children and families.

Claudia Kassem
Public Health
Allen, TX

No Gander modificaciones

Edward Lamaster
self, technology manager
Tyler, TX

I have read HB 1686, and am in agreement with the changes to Texas law that it proposes. We find ourselves in a time where all of our history, traditions, and morality are under attack by those who do not know or care about the ramifications of their actions. They are good at destroying and tearing down everything that stabilizes our society and building from fantasies bases on a world without God (or thinking themselves gods). Under the guise of compassion for the confused children they are largely responsible for confusing, they propose solutions that place the transitory mental states of children above the physical reality of biology: that God created male and female. The overwhelming majority of people are clearly identifiable by their chromosomes and sex organs. They confuse how someone "feels" with what someone "is". They decouple sex and gender at every turn, inventing language to give an air of respectability to their academic fantasies. They attempt to remove the role of parents, counselors, and churches to guide children through the confusing teen years. One need only look to the "blue states" to see what they have planned for Texas, and how it has been working out. By limitless and unrestrained alchemy they believe they can remake humans to something that transcends our God-given design and limitations, knowing with each cycle of experimentation they will produce Frankenstein's monster until they supposedly get it right some day.

While these ill-advised, permanently disfiguring and disabling treatments and procedures may be lawfully entertained by adults, encouraging children en masse to make such permanent body altering changes is immoral and unethical. The risk of suicide used as an excuse for these treatments and surgeries is present in the children before and after these treatments. The underlying confusion and discomfort remains, but permanent changes are being made to the body. The other side will say only doctors and therapists are qualified to have an opinion about such things, but we know that time and again these professionals and their organization are very much influenced by their political affiliations, world view, and personal financial benefit at the expense of common sense and the public good.

I would suggest that the various crises of youth do not cry out for faddish, technocratic, Dr. Moreau-ish solutions whose cost is to be born by public monies with great long term expense trying to undo the damage caused, but rather in the acceptance of God's wisdom in creation and parental guidance that has worked for all of human history.

Joseph Ganann
Self
Dayton, TX

"FOR"

Valerie Hanson
NA
Houston, TX

FOR/SUPPORT the bill

Gina Winslow
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill to protect the children of our state and country from being medically altered or mutilated by anyone.

John Hicks
Self
Hawkins, TX

pass this bill

Elizabeth Hedger
Self
Pearland, TX

Children should be protected from any kind of procedure, medication, surgery that changes their body from their God given chromosomes. It is child abuse and wrong.

No public funds should ever be used for this evil purpose. The adult and child involved in this need mental health counseling - not fake interventions that cause long term harm.

Maggie burnsed
Self
Austin, TX

This bill would cause unnecessary harm to the people it affects. If the government of texas is pro-life, consider this a life saving measure for people who are at risk. Children and their parents should have the ability to choose their care, and government should stay neutral. Support all lives and save lives by opposing this bill. Please stop taking away our rights to live freely.

Christen Barrios
Self
Houston, TX

I do NOT want my tax dollars used to alter children's bodies for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender disphoria. We need to protect the children of this country. Not harm them!!! Use common sense and sound judgement. God created the body. He will not be pleased if we do these things to children.

Marklin Jones
Self
Fort worth, TX

Oppose this bill

Kathrine salah
Self
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. We need to protect the true identity of all children, helping them mentally transition into their true self, NOT physically change their gender when they have no capability of knowing the lifelong replications of that decision, by permanently altering their body. We need to look at all other health factors to body dysphoria before permanently altering their gender for life! The tax payers should definitely not pay for this irresponsible choice!
I strongly support HB1686! Please vote yes!!

Amy Mccay, Mrs
Self
Sugar Land, TX

FOR- Please pass this bill. This is insanity. How deceived we are. Protect our youth from this harmful ideology. Let them be children. How can they determine if they are trans when they aren't mature enough to remember to brush their teeth!!!!

Emma Bourgeois
None
Leander, TX

Transitioning of minors should be banned. They are not mature enough to make life altering decisions.

Betty Bradshaw, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

I believe every child is born in the body God gave them. Mae or female. No harm should be done to any child And certainly no public money should be done to harm children.

Julie Lyons, Mrs
Self
Montgomery, TX

I support HB 1686. We need to protect our children!

Margaret Borchert
myself - concerned parent and grandparent
Fort Worth, TX

I am for prohibiting the procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and the use of public money or public assistance to provide for the procedures and treatments.I am also opposed to abortion. Abortion is taking the life of a child.

However, since these two issues are very controversial, though they should not be(Performing irreversible procedures on children to reassign their gender is reprehensible is unthinkable. It is evil. It is not for the good of the children. These children do not know the negative permanent consequences of these surgeries, and medications. This should be obvious to any normal thinking person. The part of the bill that addresses this, should be passed. Also the abortion part should be passed, because you are protecting a human being, a child.

However, I think because in this day and age, these 2 issues, gender transition and abortion are both considered controversial although any thinking individual should realize both of these issues are abhorrent: permanently making a child impotent or killing a baby, I think the two issues should be separated. We should focus on one issue at a time.

If the bill can be passed with both, then by all means I am for the whole bill. I would be for 2 separate bills addressing the issues separately. I would be for both bills, one for prohibiting gender reassignment as stated in this bill and one for prohibiting abortion.

We need to be the adults. I see today that parents make decisions based on the whims of their children. We as parents are to guide children. We are the adults. We are supposed to have wisdom to protect them from their foolishness, not yield to things that are destructive to them in the name of loving them

PLEASE: This bill prohibiting gender transitioning must be passed. Children must be protected! I hear more are testifying against it than for it. I don't know if this is true. If that is because of the part about abortion, then remove the abortion part and let that stand alone in another bill. Fight that issue separately if necessary. Don't let this bill fail because of that. That will not be accepted as an excuse for its failure! I don't want to hear we tried to pass it but. No it must be passed. Remember these are children whose lives are being permanently destroyed. Peggy Borchert

Rhonda Savant
Ekklesia
Amarillo, TX

God doesn’t make mistakes, each of us was created while in our mothers womb.

Sophia Mirto
Self, fashion designer
Paige, TX

My name is Sophia Mirto, and I'm a Texan born and raised. I'm currently in Paris getting my bachelors degree, or I would be here today witnessing this utterly absurd exercise in government overreach. I struggle to explain to Europeans how banning medically-proven life-saving healthcare could be possible in a country and a state that prides itself on independence and freedom from big government. I really can't imagine a more absurd use of my tax dollars or legislative time than trying to prevent children from receiving healthcare.

We have real, imminent problems in Texas. This body should be weatherizing the grid, improving infrastructure so that we can drive on our roads, funding public education, fixing the shortage of nurses, raising teacher wages so we don't keep losing them at such a staggering rate, making plans for the upcoming water shortage. Instead of doing anything at all the improve the lives of the Texans who pay your salaries, you are choosing instead to make another attempt at genocide? How can you live with yourselves! How do any of you justify the brain space for this partisan, emotional, absolutely illogical agenda?

It is your right to have an unsexy, outdated, highly dramatic response to some people you don't know living lives you are not affected by. But trans people and Queer Texans have the same right to "life liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as everyone else in the United States. Fortunately for us, civil rights are not legally negated by your discomfort or dislike. This bill is unconstitutional and sets a dangerous precedent for the powers of this body to erode the civil rights and healthcare of all Texans. It is both a HUGE waste of everyone's time, and an attempt at actual genocide.

The UN defines genocide as "any act "deliberately calculated to bring about a group's physical destruction in whole or in part" and "forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." I hope that you are listening to this definition many times today because apparently you don't understand the importance of Not. Committing. Genocide.

So in summery, this is a huge waste of time money and resources for everyone. Instead of fixing real problems and doing your actual jobs, you are forcing all of these nice people to come down and sit across from you and try to stop actual genocide. This is illogical and absurd, malicious and cruel, and all of you should be ashamed of yourselves. And it's hugely embarrassing and dangerous for all Texans.
You will never win.

Trans people have existed across time, in every culture, in every corner of the planet. Their friends and family and neighbors have stood with them and protected them and supported them through all of time, and we will continue to do so. This is the dying cough of bigotry, spewing it's gross phlegm all over us. It's really disgusting and seems totally unnecessary, but in the long term society modernizes and old things die.

Kelli J. Hodges
Myself
Hurst, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686.

Fritz Faust
Self/ retired
Dallas, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time

GINETTE CHMELKA
Self
Austin, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNotHarm

Chuck Hensley
Self
Mason, TX

For this Bill

Michelle Hanson
Self
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill. Pls help our children to stay how God made them, beautiful in His sight.

Mark Harris
Myself
New Braunfels, TX

Please protect our children and vote for this Bill. The vulnerable children need our support to avoid making life altering decisions that are irreversible.

Linda Butts
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

I am opposed to HB 1686

Tom Hanson
Self
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill.

Laura Emerson, Mrs
self
Mason, TX

FOR HB 1686!!!!! Vote for what is morally holy and right!!!!!!!

Natalie Couch
Self
2805 Stonepointe, TX

I am very much in favor of this bill. Please let our children stay children!

Pam Hamlin
Self
Frisco, TX

I believe we could use public money to help more people in need of help, such as our adult special education who can't truly hold down a job, injured military service, the mentally ill that are living on our streets. It seems selfish and in fair to give money to people who want a sex change. What if I decided that I wanted to look like a gorgeous movies star and expected the government to pay for it? I am ashamed of the entitlement that some people in our country display instead of gratefulness. We are so blessed and provided for by God, and yet, many expect our government to give them whatever they desire. The moral decay of out country is happening so fast, and the spending of public monies for people who want a sex change is an example of the above. Please have the "guts" to do what is right and not what is being forced on us to accept as "right ." Thank you!

Holly Gilbert
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support Bill HB1686. Texans should not allow the mutilation of children’s bodies due to a mental health issue they are experiencing, especially since many of these children grow up to regret and change their mind later regarding their sexual identity.

Thomas Pryor
Self
Corsicana, TX

Parents, adults and our elected government has a responsibility to protect the public especially minors. These treatments and decisions are being made out of morality and are personal choice. Personal choice must be funded by that person not public programs and not at the expense of others. No one is born into the wrong body and our system should do more to promote and educate that fact not support disgusting treatments.

Steven Obst
Self
Alamo, TX

I am for this bill- please support and protect children.

Sharon Brown
Self. Retired teacher
San Marcos, TX

I am for this bill and support it.

Shana Wood
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR/support this bill.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

Recent studies have identified a growing problem - our children are having more and more mental health issues, and I believe that involving them in discussions about sexuality before they are ready for it is a big part of their mental distress. You need to support legislation that shields them from many of the issues that they are too young to process and help provide an atmosphere that is nourishing to their well being. This is not it. Please support any bills that help shield them from topics that they don't need to be introduced to before they can handle it.

Cheryl Metcalf
Self
Austin, TX

FOR. I’m in favor of passing this bill.

Sherry Franklin
NA
Willis, TX

I Support HB1686

Thomas Bubb
Self - Educator
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Terry Hensley
Self
Mason, TX

I’m FOR this bill

Kevin Lebanik
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Pass it.

Margaret Williamson
Self -Retired
Boerne, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Julie Leon
self - homeschool mother
Porter, TX

FOR

Paula Kruppstadt, MD, FAAP
self (MD, Pediatrician)
Shenandoah, TX

I am FOR this bill. In my practice as a board certified PEDIATRICIAN, children and adolescents with gender dysphoria have profound brain inflammation (autoimmune encephalitis of the basal ganglia) and/or vector-borne illness (Lyme disease, Bartonellosis, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, etc.) and almost always profound trauma. Recently a young girl, now 14 y/o, that had rapid onset gender dysphoria in my practice is now embracing her feminity (born a female) after eradication of Bartonellosis. This infection attacked her basal ganglia causing profound gender dysphoria. I am voting FOR HB 1686 and asking that OUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS DO NOT SUPPORT BODY MUTILATION SURGERIES, but RATHER SUPPORT LOOKING FOR THE CAUSE OF THE GENDER DYSPHORIA.

Beverly ward
Myself
Tolar, TX

Please protect our children by voting in support of HB 1686

Antonia Gustin
Self, retired
Houston, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Vivian Chang
self, student
Austin, TX

your ignorance and hatred disgusts me to my core. why in the world would you ever think that children should repress themselves. i have spent the last 4 years of my life trying to figure myself out and all of your decisions made it a million times harder. queer lives will never go away. you can't stop us. i cant believe that you say you all stand for freedom and the values of the constitution and you act like this. we aren't hurting you just by existing. we have existed for just as long as humanity has. look at all of the international genderqueer traditions there are in the world; like indigenous 2 spirits or the 8 genders explained in the jewish talmud. those ideas and people have existed for longer than your bigotry has. i also cannot believe that you think that queer people choose to be this way. why THE HELL would i choose to be queer in a world where people like you all exist and want me to literally die. i didn't ask to be queer. if i had the choice i wouldn't be, and that's honestly sad because queer life and love is one of the most beautiful things i've ever witnessed and experienced. i'm 17 years old and i already feel defeated by life just because of these sorts of decisions you make for people you aren't a part of. i don't even want to embrace my true self anymore because you're trying to take away the most BASIC rights for people like me. this country was founded on ideas of freedom and liberty. we know those ideas have been corrupted from the very beginning. you have the chance now to make progress and continue the promises laid in the bill of rights but instead you decide to sit on your ass and cry about people who literally are not directly affecting you. talk to some queer people around you. they will be some of the most kind, creative, supportive, and beautiful people you will ever know. talk to some ignorant people around you and all you'll be left with is hatred and negativity. the decision is in all of your hands, YOU can choose RIGHT NOW to protect life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. if you decide not to; the blood of hundreds of thousands of queer children and people will be on your hands once again. isn't there already enough blood on your hands already?

Amy Buehler
Self/recruiter
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Children are growing up confused and they are developmentally unable to make this life altering decisions before the age of 18.

Suzanne Gilbert
Self
Lantana, TX

Please stop the permanent and devastating consequences we are just beginning to see from inhumane procedures done to minors! Yes on HB 1686!

Debbie Lorig, Mrs
Self/housewife
New braunfels, TX

I do not agree that children should have gender re assignments. Nor should public money be used for this! God created then the sex He intended. Stop this!

Alison Shanklin
None
Houston, TX

Donoharm

Brandy Nesbit, RN
Self; Health Coach
Montgomery, TX

We need to protect CHILDREN. If a person cannot even legally smoke or serve in the military until they are 18 years old, why would we think they have the capacity to make a major decision (that will forever impact their lives) about changing their gender before then? This is insane that this is even up for debate. I 100% support PASSING HB 1686!

Alan Ayers
Self
Livingston, TX

We should not allow harmful permanent transitioning, it is child abuse.

Sherri Luallen
self
Katy, TX

STOP slaughtering our children! Prohibit any and all gender transitioning, reassignment, dysphoria, procedures on children. This is a mental illness and needs to be treated as such. Do not use any public money, and/or assistance to provide such sick procedures and treatments. STOP THE INSANITY!!!

Stephen Pierce
Self, author
LaRue, TX

I urge the House to support HB 1686, which effectively prohibits the use of public funds in this particularly heinous form of abuse that mutilates the body and mind of the child. Children are not viable candidates for these procedures, assuming they have any legitimate purpose at all, because they lack the mental capacity and mental maturity to consent to the procedures or to participate in the diagnostic process. Children are too susceptible to peer pressures, and are likely to use the current buzz words of gender identity only to ensure admittance into their perception of the in crowd. This “in crowd” is being defined and manipulated by pervasive social media messaging and is using children as pawns in a political agenda. This bill stops short of addressing the parents actions in this process, and may be better suited for separate legislation to address this issue.

Gloria Antosy
Parent
Leander, TX

I think they are to young to decide.

Mika Self
Self
Houston, TX

Please stop allowing childrens bodies to be mutilated.

Tracy Potts
Self
Allen, TX

These “treatments” and surgeries should never be performed - with private OR public funding - under ANY circumstance.

Jennifer Eastman
Self
Leander, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Bonnye Hall
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill! Gender, transforming procedures and drugs should be delayed until a person is mature enough to make these sort of life altering decisions. The potential harm that can be done by these invasive, drugs or procedures far outweighs any benefits from them. Sadly, even with these treatments people rarely find peace or joy in their new gender identity. Allowing a minor to make these life altering decisions is abhorrent. Using public funds for these procedures or drugs is equally appalling.

Debbie Railsback-Seelig
myself
HALTOM CITY, TX

100% in favor of this bill. If 1. Britain, a place that was known to champion these procedures for years, has started to move away from these surgeries closing its most famous clinic, 2. the latest research is proving unfavorable results and unknown long-term side-effects, and 3. more and more young people are growing up to regret these surgeries, there are ZERO reasons what Texas should move to embrace this kind of risky and scientifically questionable irreversible procedures.

Please vote to move this bill forward.

Thank you!

George Hammerlein
Self
Kerrville, TX

*"I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time"

Jill McChesney
Self
Arlington, TX

Gender reassignment surgery and mutilation of children should be banned in the state of Texas. The banning would include all procedures, drugs. And counseling services promoting this activity regardless of parental consent. No public funds should be used for this purpose and it should be deemed illegal to administer such surgeries and services on children in the state of Texas.

Nicole Self
Individual
Houston, TX

For/ support the bill

Matthew Hilyard, Mr.
Self
College Station, TX

I support this bill to prohibit any treatment or procedure to assist gender transitioning, reassignment and dysphoria. These treatments and procedures are an abomination to God’s original assignment to the “sex” of these children and youth.

Patrick Madden
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please vote yes to protect our children!

Elizabeth Elliott, House Manager
Family
Houston, TX

FOR

Elaine Gestring
Self
Dallas, TX

This is changing children from whom God created them to be. It is a Satanic effort to destroy children’s lives this way

Pat Baughman
Myself
Cypress, TX

I support this bi

Janet O’Donnell, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

God created us as we are to be

Margaret Holland
Self homemaker
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body!

Jie Z
Self
Allen, TX

I support HB1686!

Maria Tyra
Self
Houston, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Danielle Camp
Myself
Leander, TX

Children can not even get tattoos. I believe the children should wait until they are adults to make life altering decisions.

Caranne Nickle
Self
Grapevine, TX

I support HB 1686

Gary Overby, Mr
My family
Sachse, TX

Please look at the mental and physical destruction of biological males and females for their entire lifetime if adults in leadership don’t stand up for the children of our State and Country.
The social media is Loud but for my kids and my grandkids to have a future, please pass this bill.
Thank you,
Gary Overby and family

Darla DeVaughn
Self
Tom Bean, TX

As for voting for HB 1686, please make the right decision.

Cara Berkman
A Christian representing Jesus Christ!
Houston, TX

DO NO HARM

Elizabeth Lamberson
Self - attorney
Dallas, TX

Do not pass this bill.

Katie Tower, RN
Self and nursing
Houston, TX

I have been in healthcare industry for many years, and think that performing these type of procedures in children is not ok and borderline abusive. Patient's undergoing these sex surgeries will only cause potential risk and dangers. Taking out a uterus, tubes, and ovaries will alter the hormones necessary for a healthy life as a young adult. I honestly have mostly only worked in a hospital where women "transitioned" to men, so I'm not as aware as the effects from the male "transitioning" to female perspective. I work in a recovery room for surgery and young women having these hysterectomies and it is honestly is devastating. As an adult having that surgery I find it sad and borderline abusive of the doctors are performing these procedures on these patients, I still feel as these doctors do not explain thoroughly to the patients the risks and possible complications with these patients. Having a hysterectomy is a major surgery with many risks and possible complications. Also these are life altering decisions, if these adults that have these surgeries ever change their mind and want to have kids, they cannot, it's irreversible surgery. How incredibly devastating could that be if that person changed their mind and later on wanted to have children. Nothing changed to make them a male, it just taking out organs of the body. Also on top if that Ovaries are needed not just for reproductive health, but they have other essential functions such as producing hormones that help with bone growth, as well as your hair and skin health. Also I am not as familiar with hormonal replacement therapy, but from my understanding it is essentially irreversible at a certain point and also causes damage to the body. Children should definitely not be having these unnecessary, life risking, life altering surgeries and treatments. They are not old enough to make these life altering decisions. The development and maturation of the prefrontal cortex occurs primarily during adolescence and is fully accomplished at the age of 25 years, which aides in helping one make logical and appropriate decisions for one's self, therefore I think it's inhumane to allow children to make these life altering irreversible decisions before then.

Kristen Wessenberg
Self
Grapevine, TX

Support

Sarah Cooper
self
Farmersville, TX

Children do not have the understanding of the permanence of these medications and procedures. They do not understand that feelings change. And lastly they do not understand that changing their appearance does not change their gender. At their foundation, they will always be the gender they were born. These medications and procedures should be outlawed for children. If government doesn't believe they are responsible enough to drive until they are 16 and drink until they are 21, then why on earth would they be mature enough to make life altering changes to their body before those ages. And tax payer dollars should NEVER be used to support mental illness, not for the general public or the military.

Ariel Chiu
Self
Plano, TX

I suppose HB1686.

Michael Norris
Self
Hockley, TX

I support this bill

Caleb Chiu
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686.

William Singler
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support this bill

Robert Wessenberf
Self
Grapevine, TX

I support HB 1686

xiangyin Guo
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB 1686.

Donda Dye
Self
Houston, TX

You were gender assigned once & changing that is harmful in so many ways

Lee Gaudreau
Self
Frisco, TX

Gender related care is healthcare. Stop with the culture wars and focus on things like THE RIDICULOUSLY HIGH MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE in Texas.

Respectfully your constituent,
Lee Gaudreau

Misty Ray
Self
Highland Village, TX

SUPPORT

Erik Okerholm
self
Austin, TX

This is NOT a PUBLIC BURDEN! This is a personal and private choice and should be by paid by the individual or their family. Any gender modification needs to be at the expense of the adult individual, NOT taxpayers and NOT insurance companies - just like plastic surgery. The system paid for by taxpayers is strained enough on providing basic necessities for the needy without the state incurring additional expenses for gender mutilation or modification for individuals of ANY age. This should not be funded for children or adults. This is snot and should not be funded by the rest of us taxpayers - for a personal choice. I identify as skinny but no one is going to pay for my liposuction. My wife might want bigger or smaller boobs, but taxpayers aren't ever going to pay for that either. Personal choice should be personally funded.

Lacy Jones, Mrs.
Self
Carthage, TX

Ban pediatric gender modification

MONTIE SHELTON
none
HUNTSVILLE, TX

Please vote yes on HB1686 to protect children from these drastic, unscientific procedures that leave the child mutilated and sterile. How many of us made foolish decisions when we were children and teens that we later regretted? Children simply do not have the ability to comprehend what these horrible procedures mean to their future, and yet predatory adults want to persuade them that "transitioning" will guarantee their happiness. It is all a lie. We do not allow children to smoke or drink or vote. How can we allow them to destroy parts of their own bodies? We must protect them.

Melissa Murray
self
Dallas, TX

Please pass HB1686! We must protect the children. They are not be experimented upon, mutilated, or chemically castrated. God doesn't make mistakes and a man will never be a woman or a woman a man. We must be compassionate towards those with body dysmorphia but we shouldn't encourage their own self-destruction. Pass the bill!

Pamela Hamza
Self, sales
Houston, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Rose Yu
N/A
Fairview, TX

I support HB 1686

Christie Montz
True Texas Project
Copper Canyon, TX

I support HB1686

Annette Norred
Myself
Arlington, TX

Please stop the abuse of children by a greedy medical system, self-serving parents, and an ideological educational bureaucracy. Children must be protected from life altering medical treatments that will forever damage them. This is madness. Why wasn't Texas the first to say no? This is why you were elected, it shouldn't be this hard.

Linda Kaden-Ihnat
Self/ retired Rn
Colleyville, TX

Please pass this bill! It is a sad time in America/Texas that this bill is needed but it must be passed. Let our children be children! They are not mature enough to make these types of life altering and permanent choices, especially without their adult parents guiding them, not their teachers or school counselors. Our role is to protect and guide them into becoming functional and successful adults not manipulate them into changing their genders. Thank you for your support

Linda Dement
Self/Occupational Therapist
Pearland, TX

The medical community has the responsibility to do no harm. Subjecting minor children to irreversible damage of their healthy normally developing bodies in order to give the appearance of a "gender change" is misleading and damaging to the patient. This is medical mutilation, for a diagnosis (gender dysphoria) that has been well established to be something children grow out of the majority of the time. These procedures/treatments must stop, it is unethical to damage the healthy bodies of children in irreversible life changing ways. Where are the long term studies of the impact/efficacy of puberty blockers, and "gender reassignment surgery"? Where is the evidence that shows the need for this treatment? We don't have any evidence to suggest these treatments improve outcomes for children with gender dysphoria. Without long term studies to rely upon for evidence based practice, what is the medical justification for performing these procedures? How can true informed consent be achieved without knowledge of the long term risks being revealed and discussed with the parents and child? This is beyond irresponsible to continue to support a medical model of treatment that has no evidence to support its implementation.

Jorge Villarreal
www.Jorge-Villarreal.com
San Antonio, TX

Right to be who they want to be

Virginia McDonald, Ms
Self
Kingsland, TX

I support HB 1686. Our money goes to infrastructure & protection period. We aren't helping people that really need care ie breast replacement after cancer, & this coming up is not life saving care. It's a choice & as such should be paid by that person seeking "cosmetic" surgery. Children should never be approved until they are adults able to make their own decisions on something this life altering. These surgeries are child abuse plain & simple & can leave devestating results. We should not be forced to pay for others choices.

Kimberly Erb, Doctor
Self Chiropractor
Coppell, TX

I support HB 1686

Shannon Bloodworth, Artist
self
Houston, TX

I am FOR and SUPPORT bill HB1686.

Jane Phillips, Mrs
Self
Temple, TX

The One who creates life made each person as they are to be. God’s wrath is terrifying and his judgement will reign.

Larry Shoemaker
self
Collinsville, TX

Please pass this bill, and prohibit this evil and satanic practice. Instead of butchering our children, we need to be punishing the parents for letting kids cultivate this evil garbage in their minds. It sinister, barbaric and completely sick to even consider mutililating our children.
Thank you

Charles Roberts
Self
Cottonwood Shores, TX

Support

Pam Todd
Self Retired
Long Branch, TX

Support 1686

Huichen Lee
Self, None
Plano, TX

Under 18 is too young to make decisions.

Stephanie Raffle
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.'

Xiaoyan Wei
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686.

Shuxia Zhao
Self , engineer
Murphy, TX

I support HB1686

Whitney Horton
self/myself
Houston, TX

I support this bill. I believe firmly that minors should not receive treatments that will effect the rest of their lives. These decisions can wait and should not be publicly funded.

Renee Cooper
Self sales
Corpus Christi, TX

Too young to make life altering decisions.

David Wood
Self
Cypress, TX

I do not support this bill

Pat Varvel
Self
KATY, TX

I support HB1686

Robin Davis
Self
Arlington, TX

Support

yanfeng kong, dr
self
plano, TX

Boy is a boy, girl is a girl.

Karen McGowan
Self/Business Owner
Houston, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Bernhard Carol, Self
Sslf
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Clark Reynolds
Self
Bellaire, TX

I am FOR HB1686. Please stop the madness of child mutilation.

Kaylee Taylor
Self Deputy Clerk
Gilmer, TX

I agree with this bill.

Elvia Pinto
Myself
Houston, TX

Minors should wait until adult age to carry out non-reversible surgeries and treatments. It has not been proven that kids that undergo this kind of treatments are better off. Funds should be used instead to improve education and better mental health aid.

Craig and Judy Carpenter
Self
Bruceville, TX

We are in support of this bill.

Angela Melaas, Mrs
Self
Temple, TX

These children are too young to make the call. Any parent that makes the call is premature as well. Also, funding should never be govt responsibility.

Annette Covey
Self, retired teacher
Houston, TX

FOR/SUPPORT the bill

Jennifer Roberts
Children of Texas
Southlake, TX

SUPPORT this bill

Yvette DeOtte, Mrs.
Self Office Manager
Southlake, TX

I am for this bill by Rep. Oliverson. We must stop the disfiguring by surgery or homones of Texas children. Please protect our kids and pass this bill.

Erika Van Zyl
Self
Denton, TX

Please pass the bill. Children are not born to the wrong gender

Denise Evans
Self
Houston, TX

Hi! I am FOR/SUPPORT HB1686.
Thank you!
Blessings!!
Denise Evans

David Griffith, Mr
Self
Lewisville, TX

Please pass!

Tammy Bosiger
Self/loan officer
Grapevine, TX

I am for this bill

Amy Price
Self
Conroe, TX

I know so several trans people who have come out at various stages of their lives. Children should not be denied medical care that makes them more comfortable in their own skin. It is hard enough to be a youth in this world without politicians trying to make them illegal just because of how they look and feel.

Kathy Scruggs, Professor
self
San Antonio, TX

Friends, I urge you to SUPPORT this bill and vote FOR HB 1686. I am a native TEXAN, born in Houston in 1952. Public money for gender transitioning is NOT for TEXAS. Numerous stories of regrets of these procedures are prevalent. Our state has many critical needs for use of funds such as education and non elective healthcare. Please do your job as an elected official by upholding HB 1686, VOTE FOR and use state funds for EVERYONE's welfare, not just an elitist minority. THANK YOU.

Shelby Hall
Self
Larue, TX

Let children be children. It's time to wake up and protect our kids. Our money shouldn't be used to push the agenda with anything involving our kids gender. Kids don't understand what any of that means therefor it's the adults responsible for spewing nonsense into kids heads. Me and my family are not ok with our hard earned money being used to destroy children and push an agenda that is not ok in anyway, shape or form.

Caroll DuBose
Self
Aledo, TX

Please I beg you to protect our children

Judy Hamilton
Self
Arlington, TX

Support!

Ana Watts
Self / Media Associate
Huntington, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Kathy Duncan
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please do not approve the use of public funds for these types of procedures. Europe has already seen the devastating effects of allowing children such procedures.

Penny Simmons
Self
Lorenzo, TX

Please vote yes!
It is with a heavy heart that I feel it necessary to comment on this bill and that it is a bill at all. Common sense and biology testify that gender reassignment procedures including surgeries are not only harmful but a crime against our young. Testimony after testimony are now coming forth from victims of reassignment procedures who now live with irreversible mutations. Children are not capable of making these decisions, nor is any sane parent or counselor able to make that life altering decision. Please save our children from a lifetime of regret and suffering. We will be held accountable by posterity and God.

Amber Crowe
Self
Spring Branch, TX

Research has shown that the human mind does not reach adulthood/maturity until 24-26yrs of age. Until then no actions should be taken on minors.

Stacey Evangelista
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I oppose this bill because gender-affirming healthcare saves lives.

Maria Gou
Self
Southlake, TX

I support hb 1686

Amanda Morgan
Self, medical practice manager
Silsbee, TX

Children are not allowed to get tattoos and they shouldn't be allowed to make changes to their bodies that will effect the rest of their lives. Some things you should not be allowed to decide until you're an adult. This is one of those things.

Karrie Pennebaker
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please stop mutilating and confusing our children!

Donna Pierson
NA
Houston, TX

I believe this is a decision that taxpayers should not be paying for and not involving children.

April Ritzenthaler
Self- Executive Director
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because it’s targeting one group for exclusion when there are parents and children making permanent life changing decisions about children’s bodies by putting them in sports. These treatments are reversible but an injury from sports is not.

Brian Coulombe
self - college professor
New Braunfels, TX

I am strongly in favor of this bill as written. Such elective, life-changing decisions should not by made for a child. Adults are able to make these decisions for themselves.

Dakota Hernandez
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I support bill #HB1686.

Cheri Ray, Mrs
Self
Temple, TX

I am for and support this bill. I am against the mutilation and attempts to change the God given sex of children

Suzanne McKenzie, Mrs
Self/ housewife
Sugar Land, TX

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill to protect precious Texas children from cultural insanity, modern day child sacrifice, and from incurring irreversible harm by those who have pledged to first "do no harm."

Linda Galloway
Self, RN
Austin, TX

Please educate yourselves!! If you are voting on this bill it it your DUTY to learn about gender issues.
This bill was written by people who have not educated themselves.

Lynda Morris
Self
Rockwall, TX

Do not wish gender mofification paid for by public money

Doreen Cardenas
I represent myself, I am a retired builder
Fredericksburg, TX

I am FOR HB1686. Protect our children!!

Mary Chancellor
Self/Educational Diagnostician
Red Oak, TX

Please support this bill

Colby Metzler
Self
Gainesville, TX

I would like the bill to be passed.

Keri Wilson
Self
Austin, TX

Children aren’t ready for it.

Cory Young
Self patient services
The colony, TX

Gender affirming is healthcare

Nicole Rodriguez Oliva
Self, nanny
Austin, TX

This bill restricts the freedom of transgender youths and completely forgoes the role of parental choice in regards to the mental and physical wellbeing of their child. This bill will directly result in higher mortality rates among transgender people, particularly transgender youths who are being robbed of their choice in how they present themselves to the world and of being comfortable in their own bodies. The allowance of medical care for transgender youths does not hurt anybody. All of the medical treatment typically and most commonly provided to trans youths is all reversible treatment or treatment that, such as puberty blockers, allow for the individual child to delay irreversible bodily changes while they figure out the particulars of their identity and how they feel most comfortable in their bodies. From what I understand, puberty blockers will still be available to cisgender children regardless of this bill, further proving that the aim of this bill is to target the transgender community. What much of the Texas Senate does not understand is that gender dysphoria in young trans kids makes life feel unlivable. Having to live not as yourself but as someone the Texas Senate is forcing you to live as is not an acceptable standard of living, especially to trans children who already tend to be so ostracized by not only their peers but, as we can clearly see, adult residents of Texas. Make no mistake, this bill will kill transgender children. It will kill children. Do not pass this bill.

Cristina Barrera
Self
Round Rock, TX

Members of the committee,

My name is Cristina Barrera. I am 27 years old born and raised in Round Rock, Texas. I graduated with two Bachelors degrees from Southern Methodist University and just completed my Masters at Yale University.

I'm writing today to voice my opposition to TX HB 1686. I am an ally for members of the LGBTQ+ community and believe this bill harms the interests of this community.

The intent of this bill is to protect our youth, however I believe that it will have the opposite effect and and seeks to intentionally harm the mental and physical health of a marginalized community of young people who already face an outsized number of challenges in their school and home life.

Regardless of political or religious beliefs, healthcare is a fundamental right that should not be denied to anyone based on their gender identity or any other characteristic. Denying access to healthcare for trans individuals would be a violation of their basic human rights and could have serious health consequences. Part of the duty as a public representative is to protect the health and safety of ALL your constituents, and this means allowing people to choose their desired health care procedures, regardless of if it aligns with the personal worldviews of our politicians.

Additionally, HB 1686 would send the message to Texan students that their gender identity is not valid or worthy of equal treatment. This bill sets a dangerous precedent that it's acceptable to treat people differently based on their gender identity which is not the lesson in tolerance that young people should be learning.

The bill will also impact healthcare providers who may stop providing any care to transgender individuals out of fear of legal repercussions. Instead of limiting access to healthcare, we should be working to ensure that all Texans have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare regardless of their gender identity, race, religion, or sexual orientation.

I urge the committee to reject TX HB 1686 and begin working to provide equal access to healthcare for all individuals.

A concerned citizen,
Cristina

Nikki Patzer
Self, order desk
The colony, TX

Gender affirming care is health care! Trans lives matter! This bill is awful and I oppose it!!

Marsha Saucier
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am a retired Texas public school teacher with 37 years of experience in elementary, middle and high school. I know how impressionale children and young adults are and how easily they are influenced by their peers. Please protect innocent children and young adults from gender reassignment, gender transitioning and gender dysphoria. These are major life changing decisions that they are not capable of knowing the lifetime consequences of these major changes to their bodies. Please make yourselves aware of the many young adults that now want to detransition, now knowing the lifetime consequences of their decisions made at a young age. Please make wise, common sense decisions for what is best for the children and young adults in Texas.

Braden Dodson
self
Sugar Land, TX

I vehemently oppose this legislation. This will harm children, and the rights of parents to know what's best for their child. There are real issues at hand, and this is not helping anyone or anything. I strongly urge a NO vote on this bill.

Chris Moore
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This bill would absolutely cause harm to many children, adults, families, parents, friends, and communities due to the loss of access of life saving, medically necessary care for Trans people that is backed by EVERY major medical and psychological organization in this country. Texas stands for parental rights in raising their own child and making decisions that best support their child in a way that only the parent knows. Texas also stands for personal freedom and bodily autonomy to make the decisions that only an individual knows is best for themselves, with the assistance of trained medical professionals. Legislators are NOT medical professionals and have no business in meddling in the area of the decisions parents have the right to make to bring their child up in the best way they know or meddling in the decisions between an individual and their medically trained Healthcare provider. More cisgender people receive gender affirming related care through hormone replacement therapy and all sorts of other treatments to be their best selves. To deny that to trans people just on the basis that they are trans is outright bigotry. Trans people are out here serving in all kinds of positions in this state, loving this state, and contributing to what makes this state great. Please stop attacking parental rights, trans kids, and trans adults. Trans people walk among you, work with you, talk with you, love you, are part of your family, are your colleagues, stock your grocery store shelves, cut your hair, serve to protect this country, teach children in the schools, build our housing, and the list goes on. Bottom line is trans people are valuable, contributing members of what makes Texas great. Please strike down this bill that will kill trans people who are just here to continue to make Texas great.

Darlene Wood
self
Dickinson, TX

We don't allow anyone to drink until they're 21. Why would we think they are able to make decisions about have surgery to change their sex. It simply doesn't make sense to give children that kind of decision to make. Let them wait until they are adults. Then if they still want the surgery, let them have it. This is a life altering surgery and CHILDREN should not be making the decision. My mom, when she was young, wanted to be a boy. She even picked a boys name for her friends to call her simply because she liked to do boy things. If she had been persuaded as a child that she could be a boy, she might have picked the surgery. Instead, she realized that she wasn't limited in what she could do just because she was a girl.

PLEASE pass the bill to eliminate this horrible pressure. Childhood can be stressful enough without having to decide what gender you are. Let nature decide.

Ronda Metzler
Self/homemaker
Gainesville, TX

Children under the age of 18 should be protected and cared for. They are far too young and immature to make decisions regarding their health and well being. Children are growing and hormones are changing as they develop into young adults. For goodness sake, we don't even allow them to vote in elections!

Tori Guzy
Self
San Marcos, TX

As a Texas resident and voter I oppose the passage of this bill. If my representatives allow this to happen I will absolutely be voting for their opponents in the next election.

Madeline Kilburn
Self
Austin, TX

This bill flies in the face of established silence and best practice medicine established by doctors that are experts in their field in order for guileless conservative politicians to win over the fringe, conspiracy theorist voters they'll need to secure re-election. It will exclusively harm youths to deny them medical care, and Oliverson et al do not seem to deny this. This bill is documented evidence that these representatives have knowingly put their personal biases and bigotries ahead of the best interests of Texas youths.

Kathy Christy
Self
Kingwood, TX

I support this important bill to protect our children from receiving irreversible alterations to their body.

Lawrence Lopez
Self, University Lecturer, Theatre Lighting Designer and Technical Director
San Antonio, TX

This bill is targeting a minority group for the single purpose of causing pain and suffering in the name of religious zealotry. The science is clear, Doctors have made it clear that gender affirming care for trans youth is a lifesaving practice. Trans children grow and thrive when supported, and criminalizing it will result in Texan children dying. No one is giving an eight year old hormone treatments, and they are certainly not cutting up their genitals. Let trans kids be.

Megan Eggleston
Self and Substitute Teaching Assistant
San Antonio, TX

I would have been one of those children different time and different circumstances, I first knew I was Transgender Female to Male when I was 15 and I would have liked to take Puberty Blockers, but I didn't know it was a thing and if My parents had applied for me to get Social Security Income as a Child and then I would have received The resultant Medicaid probably would have used The Medicaid to help pay for The Puberty Blockers, because they probably aren't inexpensive, and maybe if we had I wouldn't have been Suicidally Depressed at The Age of 15 and 16 years old and then went on to pick up Self Injury when I was 22 to 24 years old and that is what many unsupported Transgender People go through, they become Suicidal and Self-Injurious, because they are not living life as they want to be perceived, they are not living life as their true selves!

Marissa Trigo
Self, self-employed
Houston, TX

Children are too young to make a decision such as altering their bodies because of gender confusion. This is abuse.

Petra Hotchkiss
self
Lewisville, TX

For the bill

Sandy Knight
Self - teacher
Austin, TX

Don't try to spew hate at our generation of young Texans who have been through so much and are fighting to want to keep living in this world. So much has been taken from the generation of school shootings and lockdowns, climate change ignored for the sake of money, and a president as the national spokesman for hating your neighbor.

Their wants have been stripped down to one... The desire to be their authentic selves and do whatever it takes to protect their hearts and souls and bodies from those that value control over compassion.

Young people, their parents, and their doctors are obviously better able to make choices in deeply nuanced situations than are legislators forcing a one-size-fits-all or else! healthcare agenda.

If you claim to want less government, shouldn't that start with the rights of each citizen to control the essential core of who they are and what they do?

If the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are supposed to be universal, then we should not be limiting health care that helps decrease suicide rates in trans people. We should give them the freedom to make complex medical decisions with the people who have cared for them every day of their lives and know them best. Let's acknowledge that their pursuit of happiness is valuable and desirable, and remember that these young people deserve the support of their state leadership to protect their rights.

Jeffrey Boutte
Self
HOUSTON, TX

I support this bill and want Texas to protect children from the transgender movement by making it illegal to mutilate children and/or give them puberty blockers. Children with gender dysphoria need help not indoctrination.

Katarina Schumann
self
Austin, TX

I'm writing to strongly oppose HB 1686.

I oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. It is not the governments job to control what individual people do with their bodies.

the vast majority of medical professionals & organizations agree that gender affirming care is vital & life saving for trans people.

Transgender people are vital members of our community & deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. They should be able to get the healthcare they need.

Thank You

(Norman) Rodney Havins
Kilgore "self". Retired
Kilgore, TX

We should not allow gender transitions to be done on any of our children because:
1) it is against the laws of God Almighty
2) Who really knows best for a child! That child was created by God, in His image and who are we to make a decision to change a child, let alone any other human being.
3). We are all created in God's image as He designed each one of us to be!

Rosalind Evans, Dr.
Self
Arlington, TX

I am against the passing of this bill. I believe it will cause long term impacts on youths overall health and well-being. This bill specifically targets the accessibility for life saving health care service and resources. It is alarming to review this bills presented summary of potential treatment towards medical professionals/providers who assist children and their families with the necessary resources and services for health and well-being. It is disheartening to see how politics are being developed to create these barriers to health care and services for children. Especially children who are already experiencing different forms of discrimination, oppression, and marginalization in our society based on their interesting identities.

Policies should protect children and advance resources and services for their overall health and wellness. It is essential to invest in the future of all children and their health regardless of their gender, gender identity, or sex assigned at birth.

Kristy Childs
Self/ Veterinary Technician
Sugar Land, TX

Public money should not be used for gender transitioning to minors or anyone for that matter. Gender dysphoria is a mental disorder that should be treated as such. Minors do not have the capacity to make medical decisions that can affect their entire life.

Mikel Fry
Self
Cypress, TX

For this bill

Catherine Corrigan
Self
Dallas, TX

FOR

Danny Wilde, Mr
Self
San Angelo, TX

I support hb 1686

Adriana RuizNavarro
Self. Teacher
Montgomery, TX

I support HB1686

Johnny Jones, Dr
Self
San Antonio, TX

I fully support HB 5188, SB 1338 and SB 2499. Election integrity is important for our democracy to remain free and just. I support these bills.
I also support any and all bills to protect children from being exposed to any gender confusion ideology or surgeries to alter their biological gender at birth.

Faith Reed
Self
Austin, TX

Children will die off this passes and their blood will be on your hands

Emelie Sullivan
Myself
Houston, TX

My name is Emelie Schmidt, I am 24 years old and I am for this bill. As a preteen I was riddled with depression and anxiety like most teens are. I also struggled with my body image due to puberty and Polycystic ovary syndrome, also known as PCOS. PCOS caused me to have higher testosterone levels which resulted in me being different and not quite fit in with the other girls. My depression and anxiety started to get better just before I discovered the trans community. This community latched onto my insecurities and illnesses teaching me that my body was wrong and needed fixing with harmful hormones and surgeries. I was the most depressed and suicidal when I was deep into this community of adults telling me that my body was wrong. My parents are amazing and love me very much but this community made me believe that my parents wanted me dead just because they wouldn't let me start hormones or call me my preferred name. At school however my teachers were required to call me Jacob and use he/him pronouns. I believe that if they would have called me by my real name I would have come out of my delusions and depression sooner. I am proof that a child can overcome gender dysphoria by not feeding into their delusions. “Affirming” a child's gender dysphoria with hormones and surgeries only furthers their delusions while keeping them in a dark unhappy place. Every child hates their body during puberty and they shouldn't face lifelong consequences because of a phase.

I'd also kind to note that as a child I had trans adults message me on Facebook offering to teach me how to make DIY HRT.

Due to the trans community making me hate my parents I moved out at 18 and had to resort to being a stripper to survive, this later led me into being sex trafficked and surviving an active shooter at the club I worked at. If the trans community never made me hate my parents I would not have the trauma that I do today. Luckily I have reconnected with my parents and they are amazing loving people.

Korey Young
Self, Teacher/Musician
Austin, TX

Dear Chairwoman Klick and Committee Members,

My name is Korey Young, and I strongly oppose HB 1686. Transitional healthcare is life-giving to trans adolescents who have received mental healthcare for gender dysphoria and have a consistent, persistent desire to transition. Nobody, of any age, takes transition lightly. People who transition at age 40 or 50 often have to give up their marriages, children, or careers in order to live freely as themselves. When I began my own transition at age 21 I experienced financial hardship, educational setbacks, the end of a serious relationship, and permanent changes to my professional relationships. Transition is simpler without the stresses of adult responsibility. Under current Texas law, trans kids experience the joys and challenges of transition knowing that they will always have a warm meal, a roof over their head, and a network of loved ones and mentors to support them. Many trans adults were not so lucky and must live out the rest of their lives dealing with the social and professional consequences of transition. Transition before adulthood is a golden ticket to a normal adult life. Under HB 1686, parents and doctors are criminalized for giving children the normal adulthood they so desperately want. No such restrictions are placed on non-transgender children or their families and doctors. HB 1686 is not just a robbery of trans kid's futures; it's a flagrant violation of the 14th amendment. Stop wasting Texan's time with unconstitutional bills that target such a tiny fraction of Texas' population. Vote no on HB 1686.

Monica Schwartz
Pray Group
Ozona, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Jeana Riley, Mrs
Self
Midland, TX

I am FoR this bill - please help save the children from this

Hannah Thalenberg
Self, nonprofit worker
Houston, TX

On behalf of my trans, nonbinary self and with the conviction that all kids are worthy of safety, dignity, and belonging, I urge representatives to NOT vote House Bill 1686 out of committee.

To the proponents of HB 1686, be honest about the fascistic intent of this bill. If you wanted to protect young Texans from irreparable harm to their health, you would be banning medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children and investing in care for our communities. Denying trans youth health care and punishing providers will not eradicate transness, only upend and even endanger lives. How can you live with that?

People have existed outside of and beyond western, white supremacist conceptions of gender since the beginning of time. Our gender identities and expressions have survived colonization, the Holocaust, organized abandonment, and countless governments' attempts to contain our expansiveness. Trans is freedom, and no settler colonial state's laws can limit that.

To the young trans people reading, be proud to be part of this lineage. Your existence is a blessing to us all, and as you explore the infinite ways in which to feel at home in your bodies, know that you have a whole community ready to defend the homes that you are making for yourselves. You are loved, you are supported, you are enough, you are everything.

shaojun miao
self
katy, TX

I support the bill!

Joe Hilyard
Self
Missouri City, TX

I'm for this bill passing

Yan Wang
self
katy, TX

support the bill

Carmen Troyo
Montgomery
Montgomery, TX

Please! Save the children, save the future!

Kathy Bateman
Self
Austin, TX

This is a dangerous and deadly attempt to override the judgement of doctors and parents who provide essential healthcare to trans children and young adults.

It's absolutely absurd that you think you know better than the entire medical establishment. I personally know multiple trans teens and kids and this would greatly negatively impact their health and mental well-being.

Deadly consequences from lack of appropriate healthcare are very real and of huge concern. You wouldn't deny a premature baby breathing support, why are you trying to deny other types of critical care?

Thomas Schroeter, Mr.
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686. Transgender procedures, surgeries, and treatments on children are abusive and morally gravely wrong. They are destructive of the child and family. Children certainly do not have the maturity to make decisions in this area.

Alexandra Rios
self
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill.

Lee Andra Ellermann, R.N., M.S. (ret)
self
Rosenberg, TX

I am whole heartedly opposed to any bill approving "treatments of minors with sex altering hormones or surgical procedures with the intention of altering a minor's biological sex." The human brain is not fully formed until the age of twenty-five. Therefore, I would be in favor of banning all such "treatments and procedures" until a persons 26th birthday. Contrary to what the trans community and their supporters are pushing, these so called treatments are in fact detrimental to a person's health both mentally and physically. What these minors need is licensed counseling by a professional to help them accept and feel comfortable with their biological sex.

Rebecca Momberger, Ms
Self
Houston, TX

Young children and teens are conflicted about so many things, some struggle with gender. Children and young adults need to be protected from gung-ho parents ready at the drop of a hat to do whatever necessary to transition their kids. Eighteen years of age, along with proper mental health recommendations is plenty soon enough for such “alterations.”

Caitlin Taylor
Self / Assoc Production Mgr
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill, which will cause irreparable harm to trans people of all ages and their families.

Lisa Wakefield
Self, unemployed
Austin, TX

Please listen to the people who will actually be affected by this bill. It doesn't even make sense for a state government, especially a conservative one to intervene here. It is not a conservative stance to increase regulations on citizens. Small Government?? Doesn't seem like it.
Listen to the HUMANS that will be affected and please stand down.

Walter Waller
Self / Retired
Houston, TX

Stop this gender nonsense. Pass this bill.

Henry Dang
self
Houston, TX

l strongly oppose HB 1686. Lawmakers should not be policing children's bodies. You are attempting to circumvent proven medical science to pass bills based off of your own personal ideology and that is shameful. Gender affirming care has saved lives and has been proven to reduce suicide ideation, attempts, and depression (study in the Journal of Adolescent Health). Should a body of representatives

James Miller
Self
Keller, TX

By the Grace of God and Natural Order, I support this bill. We are all created by God at birth: Male (XX) or Woman (XY) chromosomes. This is also a scientific fact. Opinions to the contrary are: Delusional, Anti natural, satanic and "sin"ister… This is child abuse, Also, the suicide rate among this population is another indication along with procedure reversal examples later in life. The school killings at the Nashville Christian School by the imbalanced shooter are just one more tragic & undeniable case study example.

Susan Combs Russell
Northwest Austin Republican Women
Austin, TX

I am very much against gender modification for someone under 18 years of age. It should be a crime for parents to allow their children to go thru this surgery. It is unthinkable. Please vote down gender modification. Thanks, Susan Russell

Dylan Bierman
Self, student
Austin, TX

The right to transition genders is a fundamental right that every American should have. Imagine being trapped in a body you hate, and having the entire world be against you when you try to change it. By denying the right to transition to children who want to, it traps them in a body they hate. Self-hatred can lead to things such as self-harm and suicide. By denying children the right to transition, it is ultimately harming their generation as a whole.

Leslie Monceaux
Self; Clinical Laboratory Scientist
College Station, TX

Keep government out of healthcare decisions & parental decisions.

R Jones
Self
Burleson, TX

Gender transitioning of children should be outlawed and those who perform these procedures should be arrested. Please make sure that public funds cannot be used to perform these procedures.

D King
Self-AR specialist
Houston, TX

Please do NOT pass this. I think every parent should have the right to treat their child with their doctors advise and their own child in mind. This should not be relegated by government!!

Shelia Franklin
self
Fort Worth, TX

Children, especially under age 18, are too young to make these serious life-altering decisions for themselves. Because minors are still forming their own ideas and can be easily persuaded by adults they love and trust, those adults should not be allowed to make these life-altering decisions for the minor. Regardless of age public money should never be used for any of the treatments as stated in this bill.

Kara McLeod
Self
Leander, TX

I am for HB 1686. I am appalled that we are even at the place in history where adults are considering physically mutilating our children through procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and gender dysphoria. This is child abuse. Period. Stand up for the children of Texas who have no voice or choice.

Kevin Albritton
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

It's real simple. You are not considered an adult and capable of making adult decisions till ages 18 to 21.
And more importantly, my tax money could be spent on many more things like roads and bridges and helping the elderly who have worked all their lives, paid taxes and now can't afford to pay their bills on the stipend they receive for all their years of hard work.

Andrea Esparza
Self
Port Arthur, TX

I oppose the passing of this bill because it is a harmful one that would affect thousands in Texas, leading to worse consequences.

DeLois Bomberger
Self
Kemp, TX

Please stop this multation

Carol Daley
Self
Arlington, TX

Ban of Gender transitioning for children - HB1686
I am in favor of this bill, which bans gender modification for children. Thank you!

By
https://comments.house.texas.gov/home

Cameron Dysarz
self Real Estate Investor
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686 on the basis that it seeks to protect Texas children from the irreversible psychological and physical damage that occurs as a direct result of the procedures HB 1686 addresses. I will not fund sinful procedures with my taxes.

Esteban Flores
self
Brenham, TX

This is outrageous. There are other things you should be focusing on. Trans rights are rights and this is an infringement on our first amendment right as American citizens. We will not be silenced or hushed. It is no one's right to tell people what they can and cannot do WITH THEIR OWN BODIES.

Daniel Manco
Grimpeur Bros. Specialty Coffee
Austin, TX

This legislation is misguided & hate-filled targeting the most discriminated group of people in Texan trans kids. The GOP is all for small government & staying out of people's lives unless it pertains to healthcare. The number one killer of American children is gun violence yet you our elected officials choose to focus on trans kids, trans adults & their healthcare? Shame on you for your hate, empty ideas, and the blood on your hands for Uvalde & El Paso. You are the biggest threat to Texas' children & adults, not healthcare for the trans community. Shame on YOU.

Melody Ginn
Self
Red Oak, TX

I support HB1686. Please consider that God created man and woman and we are not to damage what God has created or suggest He did it wrong. Please protect our children. They are subjected to false ideology and confusion. It is our responsibility to uphold truth and purity for our children.

Joshlyn Thomas
self, HEB partner
Houston, TX

Gender affirming healthcare is life-saving. Taking this essential care away from trans kids has serious, sometimes fatal consequences. You cannot legislate transgender people of any age out of existence. HB 1686 is cruel, unnecessary, unacceptable, and an attack on trans kids who are just trying to live their lives. These kids deserve to be supported, not targeted by cisgender adults who refuse to see their humanity.

Sara Engelhard
Self / student
Austin, TX

Hello! I think this is a private matter that the government should not be deciding for children.

Lindsey Soennichsen
Self LMFT
Midlothian, TX

I want to protect the children and even mine from being preyed on by medical predators

Bonnie How
Self nonprofit
Cedar Park, TX

I oppose this legislation. All children regardless of gender identity need access to adequate health care, without restrictions. If a child is struggling with their gender identity and are unable to discuss this with medical professionals, their risk of suicide will increase significantly. These lives matter.
My own child is trans and has struggled with suicidal thoughts. I thank God for compassionate health professionals! Don't prevent children from receiving medical care.

Larry Jacobs
Retired
Nederland, TX

Our Lord made us male & female and nothing else.....this gender reassignment garbage is absolutely the work of Satan.....don't fall for this,,,,,just go read Romans 1:22

Kelsi Beaver
Self / Musician
Austin, TX

we shouldn’t even have to explain why health care should be accessible to everyone.
The only question here is what exactly is the desired outcome you are looking for by restricting health care to our trans/non binary communities?

Everyone, regardless of age or gender identity, should have the same access to health care that is afforded to other groups. Medical uses of testosterone/estrogen/hormone blockers are used by people of all ages and backgrounds for many different reasons.
To take this access away from a SPECIFIC group is discrimination in its full form. Taking away this healthcare does not stop people from seeking gender affirming care, it will only exacerbate our mental health crisis and create more obstacles for our trans, non binary, and gender diverse communities. Restricting access to care will in fact cause more harm to these communities

I find it so hypercritical that during the hearing the past week that one of the committee members said "everyone deserves access to healthcare" even though that is what we are here having to fight because this committee needs someone to be the scape goat while you ban books, defund libraries, take away access to knowledge and voting rights for communities of color and low income communities. What is being done here is not only wrong on so many levels but it is a clear and disgusting violation of basic human rights and in direct violations of the constitution.

Rebecca Fitz
Self
Austin, TX

I'm came to testify as a mother, a Texan and a doctor. I believe that HB 1686 endangers children, that all children and all communities thrive in acceptance and diversity.

I watched a friend go through the transition process prior the days of hormone therapies. He attempted suicide 3 times, the 3rd time was successful; he was survived by 3 children. Suicide is a real risk associated with gender dysphoria.

I'm concerned about the civil rights of children, who don't officially have civil rights in Texas as far as I can tell. This bill makes trans kids 3rd class citizens, placing trans kids and parents in a situation where they cannot defend themselves. The repeated pressure for testimony as to whether treatment for gender dysphoria is child abuse was inappropriate and looks like posturing to remove children from LGBTQ homes.

HB 1686 discussions makes it appear as if transgendered and intersex kids are one group but the bill separates their rights and is discriminatory against both groups. This bill prevents trans kids from having gender therapies of any kind at any age as a minor, but allows some intersex diagnoses standard treatments which could include genital surgeries performed on infants causing gender mutilation and hormonal therapies.

Withholding public funds from public health needs is dangerous for public health:
-Kids with gender dysphoria need mental health support regardless of income.
-Research cannot be conducted in un-funded sciences; HB 1686 strategically blocks public health funding reaching Texas' research institutions in this important area of public health.
-Withholding public health should not be used to discriminate against children based on sexuality or socioeconomic standing.

I notice that the question, "what is a woman?" was been mostly asked of male doctors. I am a woman and my uterus is under all of your control; the real answer to that question is that women are not Texas property, nobody is and it has nothing to do with HB 1686.

Alexandra VonHaven
Self— student
Austin, TX

Restricting the right to healthcare because of personal views is an irresponsible and dangerous step for the state of Texas to take. In many cases, these types of procedures can often be life saving; a study conducted by JAMA in 2021 concluded that the rates of suicidal ideation and psychological distress were significantly lower in transgender people who have taken steps to transition, as opposed to those who have not. Furthermore, the notion that doctors are carelessly giving hormones to young children is completely unsubstantiated and, quite frankly, absurd. Transgender minors seeking gender affirming healthcare aren't given hormones until they reach a certain age (usually 16 or older). For younger patients, if they receive anything at all before that period, will receive hormone blockers to delay puberty. Hormone blockers aren't just prescribed to transgender patients, but those undergoing puberty at a significantly early age or growing too quickly as well. When a patient is deemed eligible for hormone replacement therapy, they still often need to go through thorough psychiatric evaluations. Overall, it's irresponsible to propose bills such as this that reflect such a blatant misunderstanding of the topic at hand by our representatives.

Patricia Vicenteno
Self..Chef
Houston, TX

I vote against this action

Donna Gallardo
Self
Hereford, TX

Stop vilifying children. You're completely out of line and you know it. Your behavior is sickening to watch.

mark atchison
Self
Tomball, TX

Everyone knows gender mutilation is wrong in children. They should wait until they are an adult age to consider it. Anyone pushing for this has a mental disorder. Pass HB 1686!

James Savage
Myself
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria

Brian Anderson
Myself
Austin, TX

Listen to the medical associations: denying trans youth access to gender-affirming care leads to more youth suicides. A 2019 Canadian Health Survey on Children and Youth, which surveyed 6,800 adolescents, aged 15 to 17 from across Canada, found transgender youth are five times more likely to think about suicide, and 7.6 times more likely to attempt it. Suicide is the second leading cause of youth mortality in Canada. New Zealand and California have had similar results in their studies.

With 30 million people in Texas, passing this law will result in more youth suicides. This is life-saving care. To knowingly take it away is to vote to kill these kids. Don’t do it. We beg you.

Susan Patterson
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

Only people over 18 and after having 3 doctors approvals, including 1 psychologist/psychiatrist, should be able to have a sex change. They should know of all of the life-lasting effects this will have on their body and psyche.

Melvin Floyd
Retired
Richardson, TX

PROTECT children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments!!

Mia Goldstein
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to state my total opposition to this bill and I urge you all to vote against it. We really need to give our children some credit — let's listen to kids when they tell us who they are.

I am not trans, but I am a former child and when I was growing up, I was what you'd call a "tomboy." I always got the boys' toy at McDonalds, I played with the boys at recess, I had pretty short hair and would always shop in the boys' section. I refused to wear dresses or skirts and I hated the way they made me feel. One day, I was in the girls' restroom and someone saw me and asked, "Are you a boy?" I told her I wasn't a boy because I never felt like a boy. I was always felt like a girl, but the kind who loved to play in the mud.

I could have been born trans and my answer would have been different. And up until that moment in third grade, my experience would have been no different.

Dysphoria comes from your assigned gender at birth not matching up with how you feel internally. And the best treatment for dysphoria is gender-affirming care.

What I'm trying to say is — kids know who they are. No one is trying to force transness on anyone. But trans kids exist and they are worthy of being seen, respected, and afforded the same healthcare rights as children who are not trans.

Also, this bill is discrimination. If you are going to ban trans kids from puberty blockers and hormone therapy, ban those same treatments for cis kids. Or don't legislate medical treatments and vote against this bill. Thank you.

Teresa Cena, Mrs.
Self / Homemaker
Hockley, TX

Relating the prohibitions on the provision to any children of procedures and treatment for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphasia and on the use of public money or public.assistance to provide those procedures and treatment.

Lisa Ventura
SELF
Arlington, TX

I am for this bill prohibiting gender modification on children. Minors should not get these procedures. Once they are adults, they can elect to do at 18 or 21 or older. Children lack the maturity to make long term life decisions. Please do the right thing to ban child gender mutilation/modification/reassignment/transitioning immediately.

Stephanie Rinaldis-Monroig
Self
Friendswood, TX

Biological Sex Cannot Change

Those who embrace the transgender ideology pretend that men can morph into women or that women can morph into men. But their claim is false.

“It is physiologically impossible to change a person’s sex, since the sex of each individual is encoded in the genes—XX if female, XY if male. Surgery can only create the appearance of the other sex,” explain Dr. Richard P. Fitzgibbons, M.D., Philip M. Sutton, Ph.D., and Dale O’Leary in a well-documented study. These doctors affirm that sexual identity “is written on every cell of the body and can be determined through DNA testing. It cannot be changed."

James Love, Mr
retired
Celeste, TX

A person should be at least 21 years old before they can be eligible for for gender change procedures. And be of sound mind a be considered by the state capable of making the decision. To prevent others taking advantage of someone with documented disabilities.

Lauris Massa, Mrs
Self/retired
Dallas, TX

I support this bill

Teresa Lusk, Pastor
Self, Pastor
McKinney, TX

Please help shape the future of our children and of our nation by doing your part and prohibiting any funds or procedure assistance for gender transitioning. While parents and children may think this is a good idea, there are serious repercussions for this as children get older. I am in the mental health field and I can tell you that some of what is happening is simply a cultural and emotional response to trends. Young children cannot decipher between something that is genuine and a season of needing to follow the crowd to be different and to be liked. Please understand that there are parents who also respond to cultural trends, and may not necessarily understand what they are signing their children up for. In addition, there are so many pressing issues that could use funding right now. There are veterans who have been waiting for help, there are homeless people who could use mental health, and other more pressing situations.

Thank you,

Pastor Teresa Lusk

Omar Barnhart
Self
Austin, TX

Keep government out of medical care and how parents choose to help their children. Doctors and medical professionals have the knowledge on how to best help Texans. Government officials are not doctors and have no business imparting their personal views on the people.

Darryl White, Dr
self , physician
Teague, TX

Since a large part our current medical science community has disregarded the foundational ethic of first do no harm it is neccessary for legislation to step in and provide boundaries. I have been a practicing physician for the past 33 years, well trained in our best US medical facilities and taught a high ethical standard. It is unfortunate in just a few short years the current enviroment in medicine in our country has lost its connection to ethical medicine. The rapid push by the medical culture in the past few years to administer medications and surgical procedures that try to reverse a person's natural biological sex that is not diseased and is functioning well is beyond reasonable and ethical science. I urge the legislature to enact measures to protect the individuals struggling with gender dysphoria and other mental health concerns from a medical community that has somehow lost its direction. The interventions to "transition" children are child abuse.

Dr Darryl White MD FAAFP

Felix Barnhart
Self, Psychotherapist
Lago Vista, TX

This bill would hurt children and increase suicide rates in Texas. I provide therapy in schools and have personally provided grief support when a transchild dies by suicide. This is preventable, first step would be to acknowledge their existence and value then to support these hurting kids

Diane Powell
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Children are under age and cannot give consent. Please vote against.

John Coon
Self
Houston, TX

We must protect Texas children who are suffering mental illness from the predatory influences in the medical community and big pharma. They can't smoke or get a tattoo until they are 18, how can they be allowed to make changes they will certainly regret?

Michelle Viquez
Self, Nurse
Frisco, TX

I disagree with such procedures and especially the use of public funds for said procedures.

Edgar Baquero
Texas Values
Klein, TX

This is pure evil. Taking Gods creation of man and woman made in His image and playing god and altering the 2 sexes to placate someone perception that they can choose what they feel like. This is crazy. Please stop the mutilation of kids that can’t decide what to wear to school, what they want to be when they’re adults or saying no to so many bad choices they make due to peer pressure. If allowed, kids would eat nothing but junk food, not attend school or even not shower for days if they were let to their own choices. Kids aren’t mature enough to know the consequences of these mind where are the and body altering treatments that will hinder their growth and drastically affect their emotional and psychological state of mind. Give these kids time to think things through at least until they are adults. Where are the adults in the room willing to protect the easily manipulated youth that shouldn’t be allowed to ruin their lives with life altering treatments and procedures? God help us.

Lauren Blachmsn
self
Bellaire, TX

The government should not be determining the health care decisions of children. Parents should. This is an invasion of privacy and overstepping into the private lives of families to determine what is best for their children’s wellbeing.

Gwendolyn Secord
Self
Allen, TX

I believe an adult 18 or over can do what they wish with their body. I believe children under age 18 should be protected from not only their own immature thought process and vulnerability to peer pressure, but the often under or ill-informed, or worse, potentially politically motivated actions of those charged with their care. Considering the permanent and irreversible effects, it is my strong opinion that gender reassignment or transitioning treatments, medications, and/or procedures be absolutely and completely banned for anyone under the age of 18 years. Thank you.

Julia Montzingo
Self, mother
Austin, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Please don’t fund this. It is criminal to allow children to undergo such drastic changes to their biological sex when their brain hasn’t fully developed. Also, please don’t use my tax dollars for something I completely disagree with.

Tara Bonner
Self
Austin, TX

Parents know what is good for their children...LIFE SAVING for their children. I assure you, any parent considering these treatments have done their homework.

Rachel Greer
Self - Finance Director
Fort Worth, TX

Join me in standing up for family values in Texas by supporting HB 1686. As a society, we've deemed that young people aren't capable of making important decisions until they reach certain age milestones, such as voting at 18 and drinking at 21. It's clear that these age restrictions exist for a reason, as minors simply aren't equipped to make such such significant choices. Now, some are proposing that we allow young, undeveloped minds to make a serious, life-altering decision as significant as gender reassignment. This is simply unacceptable, and it's time to take action to protect our children and safeguard their futures. Join me in supporting HB 1686, and let's make Texas an even stronger bastion of family values.

Charles Busbey
Myself
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX

I urge you to pass HB1686 in order to protect the children of our state. I find it repulsive to allow the physical abuse of children in the name of
"gender modification." The trendy practice of gender dysphoria is absolutely ridiculous and it leads to increased suicide rates among teens, especially teenaged girls. Efforts to prevent parents from having any say in the chemical or physical modification of their children simply indicates that proponents of this disgusting treatment are well-aware that it is wrong.

Katherine Hellyer
Self
Dayton, TX

I’m totally against anyone changing their gender. God made you.

Trevor Tasin
My family/My Texas
Tyler, TX

God assigns your gender. He doesn't make mistakes. Gender transition is child abuse.

Alida Viljoen, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please prohibit people from transgender children

Mary Ellen Cuzela
Self
Katy, TX

Please vote i favor of HB1686. All gender reassignment procedures or surgeries on children should be outlawed.

Terri Elliott
Self
Kingwood, TX

Most certainly public money or public assistance should NOT be used for this purpose. Furthermore this practice of gender transitioning should be illegal on anyone under the age of 18! This trend is an abomination to God.

William Habshey, Mr.
Self
Bedford, TX

1 support house HB 1686.

Judy Staats
Myself
BEDFORD, TX

Please do not allow any public money be used for gender reassignment. The Lord allowed them to be born a boy or a girl and humans should not change that especially at an early age.

Charlene Barnes
Uvalde County Republican Women
Uvalde, TX

I support this bill.

Morgana Terry
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686!!!!!!!

Jannifer Elliott, Mrs.
Self/Rancher
Uvalde, TX

Children are not born into wrong bodies. I am FOR this bill to protect minor children from abuse by adults.

Jada Conrad, Mrs
Self, school teacher
Bellville, TX

Please do not allow gender transitioning and gender reassignment treatments and surgeries to be performed on minors.

Rosemary Chacko MD
Self
San Antonio, TX

It is a harm to the children to engage in procedures and treatmentd for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria . Taxpayer funds should never be used for such procedures. Healthcare risks long term, pain, mental distress, and mutilation sterilization is a serious wrong. Suicide risk has remained despite these lucrative and devasting manipulations long term.

Richard Womack
Cooke County Conservatives
Valley View, TX

I support this bill and wish that all True Texans stand against gender modifications in any form including puberty blockers!

This is a crime against all humanity! Gods created male and female and he made no mistakes!

Janet Womack
Self
Valley View, TX

Where have we gone in this nation that was founded on Christian principles! God made them male and female! Why are we acting as gods changing what God has made. There are consequences to opposing God. Just read the Old Testament! I for one will stand with my God!!! I will escape His wrath! I hope you will too!!!

Josh Ervin
None
Greenville, TX

I am against this bill. It should not pass. Trans rights are human rights.

Gregory Brown
Self / IT Specialist
Sugar Land, TX

I fully support this bill to prohibit the extremely harmful procedures/treatments mentioned. These actions can permanently scar someone to the point of suicide and, moreover, are contrary to nature and likely place the soul on the road to perdition. Also, these procedures do not truly change anyone's gender but put the rest of us in a situation where we have to either cooperate with that big lie or go against the culture at the risk of persecution just for stating what ought to be obvious. Thank you for advancing these safeguards in Texas!

Elaine MacIntire
self
Dallas, TX

Support this

Clare Venegas
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Support HB1686 to protect kids!

Kim Nowak
Self
Denton, TX

Support HB 1686!
NO CHILD is born in the wrong body!!!
??????

Jill Smith, Concerned citizen
Self/retired
Springtown, TX

God made people male and female for a reason. Children do not understand the Biblical significance of being what God made them to be. Gender rearrangement is something no child should ever have to consider.

Tony Picou
Self
New Caney, TX

Transgenderism Is Tyrannical
On May 13, 2016 the Obama administration issued a sweeping diktat, ordering all public schools to allow members of one biological sex to use the showers, locker rooms, and restrooms of the opposite sex. In one fell swoop the federal government imposed transgender bathrooms on all public schools in the nation. States that opposed the measure have been threatened with severe penalties such as the loss of federal funds.

What the transgender revolution wants is self-estructive, tyrannical, unscientific, immoral, abusive, and unhealthy.

The legitimate concerns of parents for their children were brushed aside. The right to privacy and the importance of guarding our children's innocence were likewise trampled upon. The transgender movement, like Islam, is only satisfied with total submission. Under this new tyranny, schools, universities, businesses and even Churches are no longer free to follow their moral principles. Christian morality is not tolerated.

2. It Fuels Child Abuse
Transgenderism is especially harmful to children. According to the American College of Pediatricians, the public promotion of transgenderism constitutes a form of child abuse:

"Conditioning children into believing that a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse. Endorsing gender discordance as normal via public education and legal policies will confuse children and parents, leading more children to present [themselves] to 'gender clinics' where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures that they will 'choose' a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults."

This form of child abuse must be vigorously opposed.

Don Arnold
Texas Values
Bellville, TX

Please approve this bill

Ryan Lam
Self
Arlington, TX

For HB 1686

Jenny Fain
Self, landlord
Gainesville, TX

This is NOT in the children's best interest. I wouldn't let my 4 children choose a spouse before they are mature enough to make that decision, less yet get permanent body modification surgery. We won't even let children get tattoos under 18 in Texas because we know that they are too young to make permanent decisions. There are many people that have had gender reassignment surgery that later wanted reversals. This proves that it's not always a permanent belief to think one's gender is wrong. So we shouldn't let children mutilate themselves permanently until they are old enough to make such a huge decision. Even if there was something that I thought would make my child happy, that they really wanted, if it were a permanent decision, I would postpone the decision until they were old enough to understand all the implications. I would in the meantime teach them that they are loved and accepted by who they are in the inside, and the outside doesn't matter as much. I would teach them that they are valued not based on how other see them, or address them, but based on who they are. I think an over emphasis on their physical attributes, even size of breast etc, teaches them to put their worth in the wrong place.
Let's talk about the root behind the need for gender reassignment surgery. The root is these individuals believe that if they were the opposite sex they would be accepted, feel happy/satisfied/safe. And the belief is, "I can't feel these things unless I completely change my appearance. Can't you see this is dangerous? It's all about the outside? A huge percentage of people that have transitioned gender still declare feeling suicidal, rejected, depressed, and anxious. Changing the outside cannot change the feeling on one's inside. Are we willing to take such a risk for our children? In the hopes that a few end up feeling better? Don't harm the children with such dangerous legislation.

Doreen Holley
Self
Roanoke, TX

Please support this bill! No child is born into the wrong body. Once a person at 18 can make their own decision.

Christine Anderson
Self, project analytics
Shepherd, TX

I support this bill

Lark Maresh
Self retired teacher
Richmond, TX

All children since the dawn of civilization are born either male or female! This assignment is given by our Creator! Those with gender dysphoria should be lovingly treated to accept their gender at birth. Children are too young to make decisions about changing the gender they were given at birth! So many after trying to change and live as the opposite sex regret their decisions and have damaged their bodies for life. This is a travesty with devastating consequences. Besides, it is impossible to change your gender, your DNA never changes. Please pass this bill to save the lives of children in Texas!

Kenneth Bullard
Self
Sadler, TX

Any physical alterations to the human body of a child, due solely to the mental disorder of gender dysphoria should be considered child abuse and shall be banned with harsh punishments to parents and all medical professionals that are involved in illegally conducting such procedures.

Kayla Guest
Self/Retired
Turkey, TX

I support this house bill!!

Don Dyess, Mr.
self (retired school counselor)
Diana, TX

I believe a person's sex is NOT optional either to that person nor to persons of interest. A person's sex is determined at conception and should NOT be manipulated afterward. Neither sex is inferior to the other, but all the manipulation of "gender" is demeaning to both. We're trying to play God when we attempt to change gender, and, frankly, we're NOT God.

Karen Florance
self, wife, mother, grandmother
Fort Worth, TX

I believe that gender reassignment and gender transitioning is evil each and every time it is done. Public funds should not be used to further these horrific procedures on people! Also public school libraries should not be places where children see and read these harmful confusing topics. Children are being brain washed and destroyed with this ideology. The suicide rate in the lgbt community is much higher (I’m sorry I don’t know the exact number off the top of my head) than the greater population. Please help keep all children innocent and whole as God created them. Thank you.

Timothy Craig, Mr
self, Youth Minister
Rosenberg, TX

I fully support. This is heinous that it even needs to be considered. Please pass as soon as possible. Thank you!

Mark Taylor, Dr
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686. Permanent mutilation of minors is never the best answer.

Maria E Gossett
Gossett Family
Warren, TX

I want to help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

First and foremost, to make children choose a gender, a concept that they don't fully comprehend, is irrational and inhumane. This is child abuse!
Secondly, this in no way is science. It is definitely a malicious ideology.
Thirdly, Men and Women are two separate identities that cannot be changed by surgeries and/or drugs. Male and female is what we are born as.
Fourthly, this goes against all sane reason. Next thing that will be expected is if I can be a woman, why can't I be a dog?
Fifthly, the omniscient God knows what He was doing when he created us. Do not tempt Him.

I implore you to use right reason and logic in making your decision on this. Too many lives have been destructed by this ideology.

God Bless,
Maria E. Gossett
Female mother of 4 children, 3 male and 1 female, just as God created them.

Sarah Forbes, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Stop this order! Medical and mental health services should be determined by doctors not politicians!

William Sharp, Mr
Self
Bastrop, TX

Please do not allow the disfigurement of children who change there mind frequently and may regret a decision when they are confused and not mature to make such a life altering decisions.

KENNETH W JENKINS
self. collision repair tech
WEATHERFORD, TX

HITLER WOULD Have LOVED THIS SICK MADNESS, HAVE WE FORGOTTEN WERE HUMANS BORN E I T H E R MALE OR FEMALE.

Regan Brunsvold
Self
San Antonio, TX

These treatments are life-saving and to limit or deny access to them would be condemning trans youth to depression, dysphoria, and suicidal ideation. These children require support and care from their community just like any others and they should be able to trust that it will be provided for them.

Chelsea Hampton
self
The Colony, TX

Please move HB1686 forward to Calendars. I support the bill on banning gender mutation on a child. You've banned children from being able to smoke and drink until age 21, you've decided children can't make decisions for themselves until they're 18 when they are considered an adult. So what makes society think a child that is confused can make a life altering decision at a young age? Where is the research into self-harm for those that did this at a young age and later regretted it? There is no going back. Please move the bill forward for Calendars and vote to pass the bill.

Carol Ramsey
self
Austin, TX

This bill will kill transgender kids. Please stop the hate. - Carol Ramsey

Seth McCarty
Self IT Specialist
Temple, TX

I support HB 1686.

Karen Pritchett, Ms.
Self
Bryan, TX

Our children are being used and abused by people that don't care about them. The bottom line is money and hate.
I support this bill and thank you.

Amelia Houser, Ms
Self, small business owner, student, mother of a 13yr old trans boy
Austin, TX

The truth is that for most of you this House Bill 1686 is inconsequential, and it won't impact someone you know or love. So, let me introduce myself. My name is Amelia Houser and I am a resident of Austin, Texas, and I am the proud mother of a 13yr old trans boy. When my son came out he was six years old, and it would be an understatement if I were to say that not a single person in his orbit was surprised in the slightest. He has been receiving gender affirming care in every aspect for more than half his life. Banning my son access to life-saving gender affirming care is not only goes against best practice guidelines agreed upon by every medical association in our country, it tells my son he is not welcome in the State of Texas.
The facts are facts. The data is undeniable. Gender affirming care saves lives. Ask yourself what you would do? Put yourself in my shoes. Would you rather have a trans child? Or would you rather have a dead child? It's that simple. You know that what you're saying is bullshit. You were given the data and had the science explained to you yet some of you continue to use language you are aware is inaccurate. There is no mutilation happening, there is not one doctor forcing a child to transition, "rapid onset gender dysphoria" isn't a thing, none of your experts are actual experts, and the snake oil they're attempting to sell is junk science. You know this, and yet you continue to spew vitriol so dangerous it will literally cost children their lives.

To the authors and supporters of this bill:
SHAME ON YOU. Let's be clear, it's you, the authors and supporters of this bill. It's you, you are the problem. YOU are the ones who our children need protection from. God forbid one of your children or grandchildren is queer, because I if they were I doubt they would survive having you for a parent. How dare you. You are adults, and you are attacking children. It must be easy to disregard the wellbeing of children when it's not your child being harmed. The world is watching you. Your children and grandchildren are watching you, and you are on the wrong side of history. Your legacy will be that of the anti-abolitionists and segregationists, and I think we can all agree that look didn't age well.

Billy Huffman, Father and husband
Self
San Angelo, TX

I think this is ludicrous it’s the responsibility of parents only to talk and teach their children on this subject . I would vote a resounding no on this issue,

Joseph Martinez, Preacher
Luke 4:18 Ministries
Austin, TX

no comment needed you now what is right and wrong. the day of judgement is coming soon and we will all be held accountable for our actions.

Neil Guest
Self/Agricultural Producer
Turkey, TX

I am FOR and SUPPORT this bill.

Catherine Petty
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please pass this bill.

David Bradley
Self
Midlothian, TX

I urge you to make a stand for our children. We all know that children do not have the maturity to make life decisions concerning careers, who they will marry, etc. Why would we EVER think a child could make a decision concerning anything that’s irreversible? Please don’t listen to the radical and immoral LGBTQ+ mob who is threatening our nation’s moral fiber!! Please send this bill out of committee for a full vote of the house.

John VanDeventer
True Texas Patriots
Grapevine, TX

Please move this Bill out of committee and on to the calendar. Without this law the state of Texas is propagating FUTURE mental illness issues.

Genni Pereira, Mrs.
Self
Keller, TX

I am in favor of this bill banning the mutilation of children.

James Goode
Texas
FRISCO, TX

A parent should never be able to decide these life altering decisions for a child. Relationship is not consent. Stop these procedures now.

Roger Lowe
Self
Lantana, TX

I agree that public money and public assistance should not be used to perform any sex change surgeries.

Jayme Burkhart
Self
Katy, TX

Gender transitioning is tantamount to child abuse! Please pass the bill that restricts these activities!!

Mary Bentley
Self
Houston, TX

I Mary Bentley from Houston TX oppose HB 1686

Any medical treatments should be left up to families and not the state. This is abhorrently wrong to have the state involved with the medical decisions of a specific group of human beings. Leave family decisions to the family.

Marilyn Hall
self
Odessa, TX

Please vote to protect our youngest citizens. They are too young to make such life altering decisions. They need time to be kids run, play, and enjoy life. These decisions should be made after they are 18. I urge you to take a strong stand for Texas kids.

Jerry Bologna
Self (retired Engineer)
Houston, TX

Let me list the wats that transgenderism is the family's worst enemy ….. 1) transgenderism is tyrannical. 2) it fuels child abuse! 3) it contradicts biology and science. 4) biological sex cannot change. 5) it warps manhood and womanhood. 6) it destroys reason. 7) transgenderism is self-destructive. 8) transgenderism will lead us to "trans-species". 9) transgender ideology directly linked to religious persecution. 10) it offends God (ie., the entire LGBTQ "movement" is against natural law)!!

Bottomline - protect ALL children in Texas from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments, and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments!!!

Brenda Barbedillo
Self Event Planner
Montgomery, TX

We shouldn't let such an important and definite decision to be taken at such a young age.

Jennifer Fordham
Self
Southlake, TX

SUPPORT

Raymond Martinez, Mr.
Self
Castroville, TX

I will set aside my Christian beliefs on this issue for the moment. We do not allow under age children to make what could be life altering decisions, such as buying and driving a car, buying and consuming beer, wine, or alcohol. Neither should children be allowed to have their gender altered. God created us male and female for a reason and God doesn't make mistakes. I urge Congress to put an end to this so-called gender reassignment treatment.

Vivian Rhoades
Self
Mt Vernon, TX

Children have the right to be children. Changing their sex should be a decision they make when they are over 21 years of age.

Julie Thompson, Ms.
The next generation
Cushing, TX

I don't believe in sex changes for children or anyone for that matter. It goes against the Word of God. And I strongly believe that public funds do not need to pay for this procedure.

Money needs to be spent in mental health,

Lucy Ricketts
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

As a clinical psychotherapist of 38 years, it's reprehensible that children are being forced to these forever life changing surgeries made by their parents. Allow them the freedom to grow and guide them and process with them any issues they may be having. The child is not yet fully formed in his/her understanding & reason.

Susanne Sinnhuber
Self
KINGWOOD, TX

Good morning,
Thank you to the representatives who are standing up for our children with HB1686. Our jobs as parents and grandparents have always been to protect our little ones from groups who are trying to push an agenda that is harmful to the psyche of children. It seems everytime they turn around, they are being bombarded with gender questioning instead of letting them be kids and learning who they are in a healthy environment. We should be affirming their identities as perfectly created by God, and he doesn't make mistakes.
Thank you, Susanne Sinnhuber

Sabrina Smith
Self
San Antonio, TX

I do not support any Bill supporting gender transitioning or gender reassignment in children up to age 18. Bill 1686. This would be a violation of our human rights and protection of our children as parents and grandparents that we are. Also this would be unamerican and hostile to our beliefs and customs.

Phyllis Weatherston
Self
Charlotte, TX

For/support

Ashton Sims
Self
Denton, TX

I am against this bill because it infringes on the rights of two underprivileged groups of people, children and transgender Americans.

SHARON HOLCOMBE
Self mortgage underwriter
Sugar Land, TX

This bill is Harmful for children and families. Parents have the right to provide healthcare for their children!! Gender affirming care saves lives. I vehemently oppose this bill

Angie Rodríguez
Self
Uvalde, TX

Yes

Alice Riley
Self
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686

Eddie Douglas, Col
Self
New Braunfels, TX

No taxpayers money or public money or public assistance should be used for anyone for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria; especially for underage children.

Phillip Bakke
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Cristian Podea
Myself
Little Elm, TX

Please vote to stg mutilation of young children. As a fathof young girls my heart breaks to know that any child is being pushed to have this done if they express any gender confusion. This should never be on the table for children or teens! Do not be afraid to stand up for kids! As a believer in a higher power I urge you to heed the words of Scripture found in Esther where she is encouraged to remember that if she remains silent the consequences of that silence will be detrimental, but just maybe just like Esther you are this position for such a time as this. Stand for truth! Be strong and courageous, do not be dismayed, for the Lord our God is with you and He is on the side of truth.

Megean Noble
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

This is child abuse.

Dana Domingue
Self
Austin, TX

Members of the transgender, non-binary and LGBTQ+ community deserve the right to the medical care they need to live and thrive. Baring access to gender affirming care is abhorrent. This bill would lead to an increase in already awful mental health statistics and would lead to the loss of trans Texans lives. I won't stand by this. Protect our beloved trans community!

Parker Wallace
Responsive Education Solutions
Sanger, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Lana Loveshade
Self / telekind / Texas health Action / Kind Clinic
Corsicana, TX

I'm a firm believer in our body's our choice, and other freedom of choices that keep getting opposed. LGBTQ+ should not have rights taken or manipulated against, we are human too . If you prick us do we not bleed , when asked if capable, do we not serve, we are all human and have needs like everyone else. These needs and rights should not be oppressed, subdued, ridiculed, taken, abandoned, aborted, manipulated against, or denied for any reason. This country was based on freedoms, these freedoms are continuously being strained and cross-examined. My options and concerns regarding these bills that oppose choice of care acts and heath assistance, and the aids from medicine to surgeries and any other health care assistance like Gender affirming Care to Sexual Reassignment Surgery or SRS no matter age , sex, or religious choice, I too oppose these bills against such care and believe that we are all should have the rights and ability to accept these care services and treatments with no exceptions or exclusions that wouldn't allow access and treatments. Thankyou and let's keep heading for a better future by improvement to our present and keep these bills from being accepted and our rights opposed. Our bodies our choice or freedoms, please don't let them get taken away , we are human , we deserve to exist and live as with choice and authenticity and have the access to care and it's treatments , so please , let's rid these bills that oppose us and bind us from heath care and treatments . These care and treatments save lives , and all lives matter.
So I write to voice to oppose these bills that oppose the rights of LGBTQ+ to the acts of health care and it's treatments , thankyou

Stephen Plett
Self
Aubrey, TX

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These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686

Bundy Campbell
Self
Turkey, TX

For bill HB 1686. When you were conceived your gender was determined the way God intended. No person should have the right to change what our Heavenly Father has done. There is a book that y’all need to read it is called The Holy Bible.

Paul Brown, Mr
Self
Garden North Drt, TX

These procedures should never be performed on anyone under 21 years of age and should never be funded with public money.

Dax Bennington, Dr.
Self
Denton, TX

I support this bill.

Children are not able and to make an informed consent concerning these life altering and deleterious treatments.

Tarissa Quick
Self
Leander, TX

This bill will affect the Texas trans community. If this bill passes it will strip parents of the rights to seek crucial care for their trans youth. A community that is already plagued by hatred, hate crimes, a high suicide rate and misunderstanding. Any doctor, therapist and other treating physicians who treat trans youth will be forced to violate the code of ethics all of them took as physicians. Leave medical decisions to parents, their children and their doctors.

Tammi Trevino
Truth
League City, TX

Support this bill. If a child cannot get a tattoo until 18, why in the world would they be allowed to mutilate their bodies. This dysphoria untreated only gets worse for the individual and those of us that understand Absolute Truth, understand that fact. Support the ban on these procedures. Texans are watching.

Jeffrey Morgan
Self - Financial Institution Examiner
Dallas, TX

This is a short addendum to my previously submitted comments.

In the press conference hosted by Senator Kolkhorst on Senate Bill 1040 on March 29, 2023, pertaining to hideously evil and barbaric practice of forced harvest removal that Uyghurs, members of Falun Gong, and Chinese house Christians have experienced by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), one of the ladies mentioned that she had been "forcefully sterilized" by the CCP. Allowing children to be gender "transitioned" or "reassigned" is every bit as barbaric as what takes place in China among the persecuted.

I couldn't help but compare that practice with what we permitted in Texas when we allowed a non-biological mother to take a father's 10-year-old son to California for the purpose of "gender transitioning." He will be forcefully sterilized by his non-biological mother in California - and we did nothing. China makes over $1 billion a year by treating people as less than human. We allow pharmaceutical companies and gender ideologues and attorneys to reap profits by treating children as less than human.

Even more astounding to me is that the Texas State Supreme Court permitted this action by a vote of 8-1, with only Justice John Devine dissenting.

I know James. He is a boy. He wants to be a boy. Only his non-biological mother wants him to be a girl. I condemn this barbaric practice that the CCP is doing to others. But I also condemn our state for not Saving James Younger from a similar situation.

Melissa Fonseca
Self
Dickinson, TX

I am not in support of using public assistance to provide gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria to children or adults. I do support a bill that would prohibit public assistance for such things.

Joyce DeMasi, Ms.
self
Van Alstyne, TX

I support HB1686. The decision for this healthcare should be determined as an adult with the use of personal funds. The suicide rate related to these procedures is concerning.

Laura Wallace
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Over and over again, studies have shown that a) social, non-medical transition benefits children, even those who ultimately desist and do not continue transition. Most children (and for that matter, most adults), spend months or often years socially transitioning before seeking medical intervention. b) for children and teenagers who do continue with medical transition, this is a slow process that is constantly calibrated to the child's individual body and needs, c) the first transition-related intervention for children is almost always puberty blockers, which have been safely given to children for non-transition reasons for decades. The effects of puberty blockers are reversible. There is widespread concensus that has developed slowly over time among medical professionals that supporting transition is the best practice. Allowing children, teenagers, their families, and their doctors to decide what transition steps to take is best for everyone involved and for society as a whole. I personally know a LOT of trans people across ages and have seen how access to medical care and medical transition helps people thrive.

James Peel
Self - insurance
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Zoe Doan, Mrs
Individual
Amarillo, TX

Please stand firm in support HB 1686, Texas children are counting on you to vote Biblical values as God created male & female as He wanted each individual to be. Thanks

Trevor Goodman
Self, Small Business Operations
Austin, TX

This bill is not aligned with the values of Texans and you're setting a horrible precedent for government control over our personal lives.

Government should stay out of the Healthcare decisions of its citizens. This goes for teens or adults experiencing gender dysphoria as much as it does to those choosing not to get vaccinated.

And with the current focus on parents rights, I'm *shocked* that we are even discussing medical care supported by both parents and medical professionals.

Even worse, intersex people have been begging for protections against genital mutilation as newborns. This bill doesn't regulate this horrible act, committed regularly against literal babies who have about a 50/50 chance of agreeing with the genital mutilation that was forced on them.

In support of bodily autonomy in Texas, please reject this bill and any others like it outright.

Susan Hall
Self/homemaker
San Antonio, TX

Vote FOR 1686

Linda Lowe
Self. Retired
Leonard, TX

Aiding a child or any individual to change in any way from the gender it was born is wrong on every level. Children (1-18 yrs) are not mature enough to make such permanent decisions. I oppose using public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments because not all the public
Agrees with this bill.

Lorena Podea
Myself
Little Elm, TX

Voting to support this bill will not make you transphobic or hateful. It makes you a rational human being that will not bow down to the intimidation of the left to eradicate truth. Gender is not a construct, and it cannot be changed, and to feed this ideology to young kids and allow gender mutilation in the name “progress” and “inclusion” is sick. The people that support this narrative are either blinded by greed or blinded by the lie that kindness is allowing people to just be themselves. Kids were not born in the wrong body, and those that believe they are need our help and support to understand that, not our help to allow a lie to prevail in their lives. There is absolute truth! Once we no longer believe that we as a nation are doomed. Do not be be afraid to stand up for truth!

Carolyn Rothrock
Self
Winnsboro, TX

I vehemently oppose any act which suggests to a child the possibility that their gender identification can be optional from the biological fact of their sex—male or female. To think of my tax money being used to actually perform a procedure to transition or reassign the gender of a child is abhorrent to me. Please vote to enact prohibitions—protections— called for in this bill to insure that no adult can reassign the gender of a child.

Jace Yarbrough, Attorney
Self
Dallas, TX

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For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Karla Kinsky
Self / Homemaker
Amarillo, TX

Protecting our children is of utmost importance and I would like to officially register my support for HB 1686 prohibiting gender realignment surgeries on children.

William Hall, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686.

Allyson Garro
self
Austin, TX

Trans people are important members of our community, and deserve the same rights as everyone else. The restrictions to healthcare this bill proposes will threaten the health and safety of children who already have a challenging path to walk. It is not the job of legislators to make medical decisions against scientific fact. Please protect our vulnerable siblings by voting against this cruel bill.

Mallory Quinn
Self
Little Elm, TX

This bill CANNOT go through. It is not only harmful to our youth but it is flat out morally wrong to deprive CHILDREN of the care that they need.

Susan Brundidge
self - retired teacher
Georgetown, TX

As a grandmother of 8 school age children, I plead with this body to pass HB 1686 out of committee with a yes vote. Our children are being besieged on every side with harmful threats to their well- being. Certainly no one under the age of 18 (if at all) should be subject to the harmful effects of drugs and surgery to change their God-given gender. This is inhumane. Absolutely no public money or public assistance should be available to provide for those procedures and treatments. As I have listened to the testimonies of young people seeking to detransition, their grief over having gone through the transition process is real and heartbreaking. Please, Please, do the right thing.

Sharon Pavone
self - Dir. of Ops
Arlington, TX

I want to help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Kaleigh Burch
Self, mom
Temple, TX

In favor of protecting our children from damaging procedures

Ines Hughes
All children
Denton, TX

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Patti McLetchie
Self
Dallas, TX

Please do not take away this right that should be left to a person, a family and their medical care team. Texas does NOT need to restrict medical care and it is vastly over reaching to do so.

James Theisen, Mr
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote yes for this bill

Matt Sullivan
Self
Dallas, TX

This is absolutely outrageous and a complete overstep of our government. Leave medical care to the doctors on what SHOULD be treated or not.

Robert McClimans, Dr.
Self, Family Practice Physician
Burnet, TX

There are only two genders. There has always and has only ever been male and female. In Basic science genetics there has only ever been XX and XY.
There has never been any other than XX and XY.
What a person "feels like" has never, and will never be considered when an XX or XY is created. "Feeling" like you are having a headache cannot make a person into a "headache " .
Surgically carving and giving mood altering drugs to an XX or XY is a most horrible life altering torture. In addition you should understand that the XX and XY cannot ever never be changed. Ever. All our body cells are permanently "stamped" with either XX or XY.
Any medical or psychiatric or "counselor" who causes the travesty of "sex change" is cruel and irresponsible and should be prevented from causing such life long torture. At the least remove their license and create significant penalties against such irresponsible actions.
Please study the science as it reveals the unalterable fact of XX and XY.

Thank you for your time.
Dr. Robert McClimans
Burnet, Texas

nicholas winter
self and wife and 5 kids
corinth, TX

Friends,
TX House committee is considering today a bill to prevent genital mutilation of children.

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For these reasons, I ask th
e committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

LeAnn Embry
Self, homemaker
Cedar Park, TX

Children do not have the mental capacity and fortitude to understand the ramifications of gender transition. These decisions have lifelong impacts on their physical and mental well-being. We need to address the root causes when a child is denying their true gender, sexual abuse and mental illness.

Jessica Winter
Self
Corinth, TX

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e committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Anne Meng, Ms
self
Houston, TX

Protect our children. Support HB 1686

Mary Rawles
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am fully in support of this bill.

Beth Kohlmetz
Self, teacher
San Antonio, TX

The decision to receive healthcare should be between the patient, their parent or guardian, and their doctor. The procedures put into place to eliminate frivolous or unnecessary treatments already ensure that these decisions to receive care are medically appropriate. It is not the government's job to interfere with this care. All of the research shows that children who are allowed to socially and medically transition are better off emotionally than those who are not. Suicide rates and mental health issues affect children whose identity is not recognized, and criminalizing parents for providing support and care is unconscionable.

Jeffrey Newberg
Self
Austin, TX

Stop being so fearful of “others”. It is a free country. Please focus on public works, education, the environment, etc and stop the hate and persecution coming from our State Capitol. Leave the transgender community alone.

Shannon Walker, Mrs.
Myself
Spring, TX

Please protect t the innocence of children. They are too young to have their bodies deformed. They cannot consent. Fine when they are older.

Shawn Martin
Self/small business owner
Shady Shores, TX

FOR

Linda Taylor
Self, Retired
Friendswood, TX

I do not want my tax dollars to be used to mutilate children who obviously have severe mental issues. Please vote for this very important bill. It is imperative to save our children from this life-altering insanity. As a parent, grandparent, and great-grandparent, I have had enough experience with children to know that children do not have the capability to make such a decision as gender transitioning. We prevent them from obtaining drivers' licenses, alcohol, cigarettes and voting until they are considered adults. Why would any sane person let a child decide permanent mutilation of their body? We must protect our children!

Elizabeth OConnell, Mrs.
Self
Laredo, TX

This is abuse of children. Doing these things to children who are too young to know who they are or what they want to aspire to is child abuse and should not be tolerated. It should be unlawful and punishable by long imprisonment. Most young people don't know what they want to be or do with their lives until they are in their 20's. Do not allow this.

Richard Linn
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Please spare children who are too young to make mature life-long decisions for themselves from being subjected to gender modification procedures. They should be protected from harming themselves not encouraged to make life alternating changes to their bodies. Their gender confusion needs to be dealt with on a psychological/mental basis not through physical modifications (mutilations) of their bodies.

Antonia M Buban
Self
Valley View, TX

Compelling legislators to support this bill and protect under age children. No public funds should be used for gender procedures and medications unless it is for mental health care.

Kevin Calcote
Self
Duncanville, TX

I would like to officially urge support for this bill. It is not a good thing to have medical professionals, who are supposed to do no harm engaged in these kinds of mutilation and disfigurement. I hope you will put a stop to this as quickly as possible.

Wendy Newberg, Ms
WDUA
Austin, TX

I support parents letting their children have gender-affirming care. It's important that transgender kids get the care and support they need so they live and mature to adulthood. 80% of trans kids who do not get support will attempt suicide. Parents who get their children the care they need love their children and want them to survive.

Megan Krueger
Self, licensed professional counselor
Dallas, TX

Ending gender-affirming care for minors will result in devastating consequences for transgender children and their families. Criminalizing treatments currently considered best practice for gender dysphoria is unethical, nonsensical, and a violation of human rights.

Kurt Norbut
Self Retired
Austin, TX

The practice of genital mutilation and hormonal restructuring on children who do not possess the maturity to understand or decide on these drastic life altering "treatments" is unconscionable and should not be sanctioned by government at any level. Instead those suffering from gender dysphoria should be provided with adequate psychiatric care and counseling. Instead of catering to mental and emotional confusion and disorder we should seek to treat it without irreversible physical alterations. I therefore strongly urge support and passage of HB 1686 by Oliverson. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Francis McClure
self
GRANBURY, TX

I am against supplying public funds for gender reassignment. It is against my Christian values.

Lori Gossett
Self educator
Dallas, TX

Please allow children and their families to make decisions for their bodies. They deserve to live as their true selves and know what is best.

Jessica Anderson
Self
Austin, TX

Any Texan who supports individual liberty should oppose this harmful and frankly ridiculous legislation. The author and supporters of this bill claim they are trying to protect children, when in fact, laws such as these cause more harm to children who are in need of gender affirming care. The facts are clear that gender affirming care is beneficial to transgender minors' physical and mental health. Why some Texas lawmakers believe improving the quality of life for these children is a bad thing remains unclear. Transgender youth deserve the right to live full and happy lives without constant fear of legislation that threatens their right to exist. I urge you to reject this bill and refuse to advance any future legislation of this kind and leave transgender people, especially transgender youth, the hell alone.

Valerie Newberg, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

Until you are in that person or the parents shoes, you have no business denying this option. It is not an easy decision by any means for anyone to go through this but you are born a certain way and unless it happens to you or someone you love, it is their business and their decision. Why can't everyone just respect that and mind your own business about your own body?? Their body, their business!! Please stay out of it and it's painful enough having to live this life. No one chooses it, they are born with it.

William Rudd
Self
Lewisville, TX

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Robyn Goettelman
Self
Austin, TX

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE the passage of HB 1686 and all other proposed bills that try to strip transgender people of their rights and their humanity. None of the bills are backed by evidence or science only hate. As a constituent, do your duty to serve THE PEOPLE.

Mary Kiewlich
Self
Lakeway, TX

Stop the medical abuse of our children by the Transgender movement. The outrageous attacks on our children by the WOKE movement when they are unable to understand what gender surgeries will do to their bodies needs to stop! That we sit by and watch our Legislative bodies do nothing to protect the innocents who are being indoctrinated by the WOKE adults when they are too young to understand what is happening to them is beyond shameful. I watch so many issues of importance go from the Texas Senate only to be killed in the Texas House by Dade Phelan and his Democratic cronies as well as many Republicans that ignore their voters priorities to go along to get along. Texas taxpayers should not be funding this outrageous abuse of our children. Please vote to stop this destruction!

Nancy Burdine
Self, retired RN,MSN
San Antonio, TX

Vote for this bill. I support it’s passage.

Tanika Haddad
Self
Kennedale, TX

Tax dollars should not be used for this issue.

calvin watson
self, engineer
Austin, TX

All teenagers are confused and uncomfortable about their body and mind. Please don't allow parents and children to create lifelong regrets because of a potentially temporary confusion as a child.

Patricia Harker
Self retired
Galveston, TX

Has the DEVIL been let loose???? These are children, not ADULTS to make life changing choices!!!! You POLITICIANS are SICK!!!! We will VOTE everyone of you out of OFFICE!!!!

Micki Ducote
Self mother and grandmother
San Antonio, TX

We do not allow our children to drive, buy liquor or cigarettes, or vote until they reach a certain age. In developmental psychology, it is taught that children first identify with one parent (one gender) and then the other before settling in on their natural born gender. Please do not allow any permanent changes to a child's body that may only be a passing phase of normal development! Our children need protection from an overzealous population willing to sacrifice our children for their cause.

Lindsay Moncibaiz
Self/RN
Colleyville, TX

Please ban this for our children’s sake

Rose Bunch
Self
Garland, TX

Giving care to trans kids will save so many lives, just like it saved mine. Please listen to all of these people crying for help. We just want to live and be happy. That’s all. Listen to medical professionals. They are ALL telling you that trans healthcare is a good thing. Please choose to save lives.

Skye Blanton
Self
Addison, TX

I oppose this bill

Janice Demboske
Self Chef
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Stacy Winston
Self
Boerne, TX

I support HB 1686

Maria Detorres
Self
Baytown, TX

I dont agree

Christopher Sweet
Self
San Angelo, TX

Studies continue to show that children with gender dysphoria largely self-correct as they age. These drugs and procedures cause permanent, irreversible harm that results in great emotional distress as children age and recognize that their perspective has changed.

In addition, more and more reports are surfacing of medical facilities and doctors persuading minors that they need these procedures for their own financial gain.

Finally, a look at the statistics that demonstrate the sharp rise in gender dyphoria cases along with the age groups and genders most effected, reveals that this is more of a faddish trend among young people than it is a representation of reality.

To allow this severe of a procedure to be performed on minors when they aren't emotionally mature enough, and often have external emotional traumas effecting their judgment even further, is irresponsible and will only lead to those making these decisions and performing these procedures to being called to serious account in only a short few years as the number of detransitioners is sharply on the rise already.

Ultimately, we must return to common sense and leave imagination to entertainment and innovational products rather than allowing it to redefine and permanently damage an individual who is likely seeking help for a much deeper issue than gender dysphoria. I have experienced a few young ladies who believe they are, or can be, boys. Every one that I know have been subjected to abuse and/or the broken marriage of their parents which leads to instability in their development.

I hope and pray that you will consider the longterm effects of these decisions according to reality and common sense rather than believing the much-repeated fallacies that are being pervaded through media outlets. Just because something is repeated often from a media outlet does not establish its veracity. There is much support available to demonstrate the harm that can come from such procedures and treatments: both professional and anecdotal. Please see the books "Irreversible Damage" by Abigail Shrier and "When Harry Became Sally" by Ryan T. Anderson. Both use interviews and scholarship to support these truths)

Thank you for considering my comment. I pray you will make the healthy and right decision. These kids need love much more than they need a pill or procedure.

Meg Fowler
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

It is child abuse to mutilate the child, who has little to no understanding of gender dysphoria. Please pass HB 1686 to protect Texas children from this outrageous abuse. Thank you.

Thomas Herring
Self
Plano, TX

I fully support the adoption of this legislation into Texas Law. My thanks to all that are of like mind in Texas!

Phillip Lamb, Mr
Self
Plano, TX

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For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Teresa Rogers
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Jessica Bakke
Self
San Antonio, TX

For/Support this bill

Ricardo Ruvalcaba
Self
Odessa, TX

Let Children along, let them be children

joyce gouldie, Mrs
CHPP
Tyler, TX

Children should NEVER have authority to change their sex. Their mentality is different in the sexes. Their health completely changes. There are both mental, physical and psychological changes that make it unsafe for a child under 18 to deal with. NO to gender changes under 18 years old; age 20 would be better!

Guy Hundere
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill.

Joaquin Rodiguez, Mr.
Self - Retired
Southlake, TX

We must stop this "Woke" insanity now and pass this bill. I believe this condition/mentality starts in our public schools and spread by our Liberal Media and websites like TIKTOK.

debbie carter
Texline isd
DALHART, TX

Please put an end to harmful gender transitioning for our precious kids

David Watts
Lswlf
Forney, TX

I strongly oppose gender modification for children. This is gender mutilation, plain and simple. It is absolutely wrong and immoral and it must not be allowed in Texas. No public money or public assistance should be used for this purpose. And even as it relates to private funds, gender mutilation must be prohibited in Texas.

RICHARD VENIER
self
FRIENDSWOOD, TX

Get this bill passed. Texans must take a stand against this madness.

Shellie Ryan
Myself
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill going through. Family should get to make their own decisions about their own bodies as well as the bodies of their children.

Kaitlyn Hill
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. I am sickened by how my state and others are showing a disgusting abuse of power to harm trans people. Politics does not belong in the conversation between a doctor and a parent. You should all be ashamed of yourselves.

Connie Vignes
Self
Orange, TX

Please vote to end procedures to change genders on these children. Tax dollars should never go towards this.
Thank you for hearing and voting for prohibiting parents from changing their child's gender and not helping pay for such a cruel act.

Denise Neu, Mrs.
Self
Lindsay, TX

Please pass HB 1686

Leticia Urieta
Self
Pflugerville, TX

I am commenting to register my extreme concern and opposition to this bill as a community member and educator who works with youth. Families, medical professionals and trans youth deserve the autonomy to make medical decisions based on scientific studies and proven effectiveness and safety of gender affirming care, especially as it affects the mental well-being of trans youth.

I encourage this committee and the House representatives to reject this bigoted bill and vote no against hate towards trans people. That is how we truly protect children.

James Maxon
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please protect children from the harmful and life altering mutilation of their bodies. Vote to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance for these procedures and treatments. This is not where our hard-earned tax money should be going. It needs to go to benefit the majority of taxpayers, not the few who would abuse both the system and their bodies.

Marilyn Barnes, Mrs
Self, Retired
Burleson, TX

I am in favor of HB1686 which would ban gender modifications for children in Texas and not allow public money to be used to fund surgeries or medications.

Kim Jochetz
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. Especially if paid for with tax dollars.

Please vote FOR this ban

Jennifer Daniell
Self
Ovilla, TX

AGAINST: Please DO NOT allow Texas public money Or assistance to be used for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.
Not only should our public funds NOT be used, but these surgeries and and medications to start this procedure on children under 21 should be ILLEGAL. Thank You

Aileen Ding
Ding’s family
Houston, TX

I support this bill.

Mitzi Money
Self
Greenville,TX, TX

I write on behalf of innocent children who cannot speak for themselves…
As Legislators, one of your charges is to protect the innocent.
There are laws that forbid serving alcohol to minors. require protective car seats, and protect children from abuse.
The Legislature acknowledges that minors do not have the judgement to enter into legal contracts and write laws prohibiting that.
But….Texas law currently allows doctors to deliver treatments and surgeries that permanently mutilate the bodies of children… beginning these treatments even while some of these children are still required to sit in car seats!
Research shows that 70-90% of children who struggle with their biological sex come to accept their biological sex IF they are allowed to go through puberty without affirmation of the delusion that they are not their biological sex. (X)
The gender industry is a business structure that has spent hundreds of millions of dollars very successfully lobbying to institutionalize and normalize gender transition, treatments that most of us would have never imagined ten years ago. (X)
These treatments…puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, genital surgeries…are unsupported by rigorous studies establishing long term efficacy and safety. (X)
What I am reading next graphic…and I do not relish reading this in a public form…but, I think it is important that we have a mental picture of what is happening.

I am going to read from the Gender Resource Guide published by Partners for Ethical Care (X)
QUOTE
….wrong-sex hormones have serious, long-term consequences that are permanent and irreversible.
UNQUOTE
(Following is just a portion of the impact described in this same document…)

Girls who take testosterone…for as little as two months develop a … masculine voice, squaring of the jawline, and widening of the shoulders, and an enlargement of the clitoris giving the appearance of a micro-penis, all of which are not reversible.
….significant head-hair loss… accompanied by facial and body hair growth that does not go away even if … injections are halted.

Boys who inject puberty blockers and/or wrong-sex hormones experience stunted growth in height (if they have not yet achieved their adult height), and changes in bone structure.

The growth of the penis is halted at the introduction of puberty blockers, leaving little tissue to be used … to construct what will be a non- or poorly-functioning “neovagina.” To make up for the lack of penile tissue necessary for the neovagina, colon tissue is removed from inside the body and used generating a host of unintended, dangerous consequences….

AND MORE

I want you to understand that this is a heinous experiment on a generation of children…You as legislators can be heroes who act to protect these children…or you will be complicit in these practices if you do not act now…You have the power to stop this experiment in Texas…..
I beg you to vote to stop these procedures.

But whoever causes one of these little one who belie

Jack Daniell
Self
Ovilla, TX

I do not agree with the use of public funds or public assistance with gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. I believe gender is determined at birth and is determined by God. Further, I believe children do not understand or have the maturity to make life changing decisions such as this. I also believe it is wrong for parents to make these life changing decisions on behalf of their children who have to live with the results of those parental decisions. This is totally different from a life or death medical decision.

Sarah Chavarria
Self
San Antonio, TX

Trans youth deserve to receive the Healthcare they desire. They know what is best for their bodies and it's our responsibility to honor and support their needs. I request all trans youth have access to gender affirming care.

Bruce Gregory
self
Port Neches, TX

I strongly favor restricting to age 21 before gender transitioning procedures and treatments for gender reassignment are available for minors. Texas law restricts when minors can purchase alcohol and tobacco and it is illogical that such permanent procedures would be permitted to be decided at an age the State has already determined to be too young and lacking in sophistication and maturity to handle adult matters. Certainly counselling regarding gender dysphoria should be available as determined by those licensed counselors and therapist. NO tax dollars, absolutely NONE of our tax dollars should be expended for anything related to gender transitioning/reassignment. Allocating tax dollars simply empowers the medical and pharmaceutical to push for such procedures at taxpayer expense. They profit and lives of minors and juveniles are permanently altered without any assurance that their quality of life will realize any improvement or even be as good as if they had simply accepted their gender.

Gerri Caldwell
Self retired
Conroe, TX

Please protect the children of Tx from any gender confusion or actions to change their gender.

Richard Hinckley
Self, Program Management
SPRINGTOWN, TX

The mutilation of children and endorsement of child abuse by malpracticing doctors should never be allowed in the great state of Texas. Zero taxpayer dollars should ever be spent on these activities.

Benjamin Guyton
Self, farmer, parent
Dripping Springs, TX

I think it is essential for ALL procedures and treatments to be available for children who are considering transitioning, reassignment, or experiencing gender dysphoria. The consequences of not supporting these children with all tools necessary are depression, severe social anxiety, and suicide.

Melinda Roberts
Self - Realtor
San Antonio, TX

Please ban this hideous practice and protect our children. Enabling children to become something they're not through altering their created gender is abuse by parents as well as our medical community. Children don't have the maturity to make this life-altering decision.

Barbara Bolton
Self—retired
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

This is a terrible bill. These kids need our support, not punitive actions like what this bill proposes. Please listen to what docto

Isaac Smith
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Our children fantasize about being fairies, tigers, teachers, athletes, soldiers, dogs, mermaids, doctors & dragons. That is what they do, they fantasize. That is what they are supposed to do; play, imagine, create, explore, discover & learn. As their parents it is our job to provide for them an environment where they can do that & provide boundaries that are safe. They can try & fail. They can learn the easy way or the hard way. They can get hurt but should not be maimed. They can want & try to fly but we don't give them access to roofs. They can crawl & act like a tiger but we don't give them knives to use as claws. They can pretend & want to be soldiers but we don't give them real guns to shoot with. They can fantasize or even believe deep down that they are mermaids & can stay underwater, yet we don't give them unsupervised access to our pools. Our job as parents, is to protect kids literally from themselves as well as from outside dangers. Now as for me & my family, we will do that, we will protect our kids. Your job, as our representatives is to listen to your constituents & to do the right thing. Protecting kids is always the right thing. Defending their ability to grow up, live a full life, become the best that they can be, to have life, liberty & pursue happiness, is your job. As adults, with an ability to consent, to understand the ramifications of their actions, to understand the amazing differences between men & women, then they can then decide for themselves what they want to do. If as adults they decide that transitioning will make them happy, then let them. That is a decision between them, their doctors & families. What about women who want larger breasts, should we the tax payer pay for those? What about men who want a higher salary, should we pay for that? What about women who don't want body hair or men that want hair on their heads, that would make them happy, are we the tax payer responsible to make them happy too? Your job is to protect the pursuit of happiness, not to buy their happiness with our money. Keep our kids safe, protect our freedoms, do the right thing, do your job Kronda.

Keilah Grosze
Self
Aledo, TX

I support HB 1686

Killian Piraro
Self
Austin, TX

I am firmly against these restrictions on transition care for Trans kids. Doctors and the people themselves should be able to make their own decisions about how to live their lives and be true to their identities.

Jennifer Traver
Self - Realtor
Fredericksburg, TX

I vehemently oppose giving access to gender modification to minor children. This is destroying children and their innocence. Please vote against allowing this type of thing to happen in our state!

Deborah Rose, Mrs
Self
Moody, TX

I don’t want public money or assistance in providing these treatments

Donna Price, MS
Self
McKinney, TX

I am "for" this bill. Please pass to protect our children .

Nate Reyna
Self
San Antonio, TX

Stick to the conservative principle of keeping government out of peoples lives. There are far more pressing health care needs in Texas, going after gender affirming medical care is nothing more than a cheap political stunt. There is definitely room to have an open, honest discussion about transgender issues and the needs of young people but to simply ban procedures implies that it isn't about health care needs but is actually about bigotry against the LGBTQ community.

Janie Scantlin
3025
San Antonio, TX

I am in support of this bill to help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and asking you to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Thank you for your service in representing me on this matter.

Brian Cleary
Self
Highland Village, TX

For the sake of kids and our future, please prevent kids under 18 from receiving surgeries or medical treatments to attempt transitioning from 1 gender to another, which is impossible anyway.

Jennfier McLaughlin Comadoll, Ms
Self
Sanger, TX

I do not agree with this. We were born what we are.

Adair Apple
Self/marketing and events
Corpus Christi, TX

My son is a happy, healthy college freshman. He is also transgender. Every parent wants their child to be ready to fly the nest at 18. That is why gender affirming care for minors is so important. I didn't want my son to have to wait until he was an adult to find happiness. I wanted his high school years to be joyful. With gender affirming care, we watched him come out of his shell. He was no longer hiding from the world. Instead, he wanted to be a part of the world. Gender affirming care made him happy. Since he was happy with himself, he could focus on high school and planning his future. He was ready and able to fly the nest at 18. Now he is doing fabulous in college. Despite the testimony I heard from called witnesses, I can tell you from experience that gender affirming care in Texas follows WPATH standards. My son was in therapy for two years before we could even start the process of gender affirming medical care. It has been life saving and life altering. He has had several friends commit suicide in the years since he came out as trans. They were not supported by their parents and they did not have access to affirming care. I urge you to vote NO on HB 1686. Please leave gender affirming care available for those parents who wish to save their children.

AJ Keyser
Trans texas
New Braunfels, TX

This is wrong to ban surgery and hormones for trans kids. Where is your heart? They will consider suicide and suffer mentally if they aren’t having gender affirming care.

Hannibal Boone, Mr
Self
Navasota, TX

A female is a female is a female God makes no mistakes!

Bridget Shelton
Self
Graford, TX

SUPPORT
Protect our children, you get to be an audit and make hard adult decisions for a long time!!! Let them be kids!!

Susan Conrad
self retired
San Antonio, TX

This bill must not pass. It endangers the lives of Texas children. The state should not b involved in this family issue.

Guadalupe Perez
SelfHB
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

Clovis Dever, Man
Myself
Abilene, TX

NO NO NO if you clowns want to butcher yourself pay for yourself not my money

Nola Mcjunkins
self
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686.

Cari Tasin, Mrs.
The Tasin Fanily
Tyler, TX

I am strongly opposed to the mutilation of chdren and beg you to make transgender surgeries illegal in our good state.

James Winston
Self
Boerne, TX

I support this bill 100%

Michael Smith
Texas Values
Humble, TX

Absolutely not!

Lan Johnson
Self
Euless, TX

As a resident of Texas, I rely on my government to represent all of us, including folks we may or may not agree with. This bill is an obstruction of that trust. It is a reactive solution to a sensationalized issue. We can create safety and trust without harming others. I want to believe my government can protect and respect all of us regardless of partisan beliefs. I implore you to reconsider your stance and be an advocate for a better path forward.

Charlene Kuprel
True Texas Project
Laguna Vista, TX

Children need to be protected from permanent solutions to a temporary problem. When they are 18, they can decide to mutilate their bodies, but children shall NOT.

Kay Klumpp
Self- School Counselor and Therapist
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives. In my 25 years in mental health I have seen suicide rates increase dramatically for youth. As an elementary school counselor I have gone from seeing one child under the age of 10 with suicidal thoughts every couple of years to doing a dozen or more suicide risk assessments for that age group yearly. Transgender youth are seven times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender peers. This is due in large part to discrimination and stigmatization within our society. HB 1686 would not only further stigmatize the existence of transgender kids, it would take away the rights of parents to provide life-saving care to their children. It ignores established medical best practices in order to use children's lives as political pawns. Texas is better than this.

Maria Torres
Self
Katy, TX

I support HB1686

paula bolton
myself
cedar park, TX

please do not pass this bill

Peggy Carpenter
Self / retired
Grand Prairie, TX

Please support HB 1686

Jan Whitten
Self
Schulenburg, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686!!!!!!

Denise Brisson
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

Rachael Shannon
self
Austin, TX

Monday March 27, 2023 was a historic day for the people's house, in which 2810 people showed up to register against HB 1686, in contrast to the only 95 who registered support for it. A majority of the people, if not all arguably, who showed up that day were people directly affected by this legislation in that they themselves or someone they love has received care for gender dysphoria or gender transitioning. I am someone for whom this legislation stands to affect many many people I love. Doctors with years of experiencing working with folks who need this care spoke to you all at length. Other doctors with much less experience attempted to speak to it. What it comes down to, is that our government is here to support our livelihood and well-being. To do that, you must all make the choice to BELIEVE PEOPLE when they tell you what they need to survive.
If it isn't directly affecting you and those close to you, then perhaps it is your time to listen, learn and support, rather than suppose to make decisions for others that multiple people who are experts on themselves, and multiple health experienced care providers have repeatedly shared are harmful. There is no reason to denying people the love, support, and medical care that they need and desire to live fully and safely. Public moneys get used everyday so that people can have procedures they hope will solve the issues they face. The history of medicine is one of sometimes hitting the nail on the head and having great success, and occasionally faltering, but that does not mean we stop reaching for the best care that people need and their doctors recommend.
I am baffled by any stake in blocking the explicitly stated needs of a large swath of Texans, that comes at no cost to you and the rest of Texas. This is and can just be medical care.
Youth receive medical care all the time. We make decisions based on information and the specific needs of each person in conjunction with their families and their doctors.
This is not new. But the resistance to support our own people is certainly not the Texas that generations of my family had in mind. Please do the right thing and stop blocking the care that people need to live. It's very simple. Thank you.

Natalie Gray, Veteran
Self
Houston, TX

I am in opposition of this bill. For one because this infringes on the rights of Texans, capital ‘T’. For two, assuming that younger people do not know their gender identity, sexuality, etc at a young age is a ludicrous statement. Every child has an individual personality, likes, dislikes, etc that parents and other people in their community come to learn and appreciate. Not to mention, a lot of us have to grow up too fast because we are pushed to learn and experience things by members of society that aim to harm instead of heal and grow. Children can read the room and emotions a lot better than adults who’ve learned to hide over the years. They KNOW how they feel and they only learn to hide when they are met with shame and harm from others.
On top of all of this, queer, trans, and non-binary people have been recorded in history since 2000 B.C. and were seen in very high regards. Read again: the lgbtq+ community has been around longer than certain religions. And in this day and age of communication, people are bringing to light societies, cultures, and etc that have been pushed to the back due to these self-righteous religions and ideologies. They have been here the whole time whether you choose to see them or not. Whether you deem them against your religion, morals, or not.
Frankly there are far more things to worry about than if a single child (remember, trans people only make up 1% of the population) in your school district you’ll probably never meet in your life gets hormones or some type of reassignment surgery. We could focus on missing persons, orphans, police brutality, tax evasion, radicalized neo nazis, KKK members hiding in plain sight, sexual assault in church, sexual assault in school, abuse of the elderly, abuse of special needs students, abuse in daycares by caretakers, abuse in nursing homes by caretakers, sex trafficking rings, homelessness, concealed carry safety classes, pollution limits, our terrible electric grid system, to name a few things that actually hinder every Texan on a daily basis.

Queer people have only been here to spread love and light to others. Adjust your priorities to fix things that actually harm society. Thank you.

Nikki Malott
self, retired Realtor
Uvalde, TX

I am highly in support of this bill.
I can't believe this is even happening. Protect our children!

Lonnie Lassmann
self
San Antonio, TX

I strongly support this legislative measure to protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Please move this legislation forward as a top priority for Texas.

Kindra Gunn
Self
Euless, TX

Children are not considered old enough to consent to marriage, to sex, or even to drinking alcohol or smoking because their brains are not fully developed. They have not had enough time to figure out who they are, much less who they are not. We don't Allow 6-year-old girls to get breast implants, then we should not allow them to change their external organs before they know what it is to be a man or a woman.

Vicki Booth, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support HB 1686

Bethany Johnson
Self, professor
Austin, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. Gender-affirming health care is best-practice medicine that is evidence-based and life-saving. Please leave medical recommendations and decisions to the relevant experts: healthcare researchers, providers, caretakers, and patients themselves. Even just debating such legislation is painful to the trans and queer community; our lives and rights are not up for debate. The passage of such legislation, however, would be devastating to trans youth, their families, and the integrity of all of Texas. Thank you.

Tiffany Cox
Self, RN
Lake Jackson, TX

I support HB 1686. Children should be allowed to be children and explore thoughts and ideas without permanently altering their self and their future. They should not be used as pawns by adults with agendas. Please protect our children.

D'Ann Leonard
Self
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

FOR HB 1686 and fully support the bill.

Russell Reinoehl
Self Salesman
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. This bill is anti-Texan. It will take away life-saving care from children. It will take away the rights of doctors and healthcare professionals from providing the best possible medical care for children.

Every major U.S. medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has approved and set standards for gender-affirming care for transgender young people and adults. This bill puts not only the lives and well-being of transgender children at risk, but also doctors for helping children receive best-practice medical care.

This bill may force many Texas families to move out of the state, including many doctors and healthcare professionals. This bill may also result in many corporations withdrawing their business from Texas.

Texas families know what's best for them. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. If you care about Texans, vote NO on HB 1686.

Beverly Adams
Self
San Antonio, TX

The human brain is not fully formed in a man until he’s about 25-26, in a woman about 21-22. The last to be formed are the frontal lobes where we make decisions. Therefore a child is not mentally able to make this life changing decision. I consider this child abuse. Please don’t do this to our children.

Lynn Robinson
Self
College Station, TX

As a friend to someone whose own daughter mutilated her body and now pays the consequences of her decision as well I see the devastation it has caused her family, I have heard others speak to how it made things worse and the regrets they have and wished their doctors had refused the mutilation instead of promoting as the answer. Please ban these disfiguring gender mutilations

Lane Ingram
Self, psychotherapist
Austin, TX

I am a therapist who has worked directly with trans people in Texas. If Bill 1686 passes, you will be creating a public health crisis. Gender affirming care has a hugely positive mental health impact on Trans youth. Research shows that gender affirming care greatly reduces the risk of suicide attempts and completion in the trans youth community. The following article provides links to multiple studies that show the mental health benefits of providing trans youth with gender affirming care. https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives

In banning gender affirming care, this bill would put an already vulnerable population at greater risk for suicide. Trans adolescents have a much higher risk of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts than other populations. A 2020 study of suicidality among transgender youth wrote that 56% of the trans youth participants had attempted suicide and 86% reported suicidal ideation. (Austin, Craig, D'Souza, McInroy, 2020). These are staggering numbers compared to the already high 8.9% of general youth who have attempted suicide and 18.8% of general youth who have experienced suicidal ideation. (CDC,2020)

I am begging you all as someone who works in mental health, do not pass this bill. Like any prescription medication, hormone therapy is only used under the supervision of a doctor and with parent's consent for minors. Adolescents and adults undergo gender affirming care with the help of medical experts. I trust patients, their doctors and parents to decide what is best for them. Please let doctors, trans patients and their parents decide what healthcare is best for them. Please do not take away access to gender affirming care which is literally life saving. Below are links to the studies and percentages I referred to.

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/su/su6901a6.htm

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/

Cynthia Grubb
Self and Husband / self employed
Dallas, TX

I Absolutely OPPOSE any use of public funds for transitioning procedures for anyone, period! This transgender issue is toxic to children and to adults and Texas should not use citizens hard earned dollars for ANY of these procedures.
PROHIBIT ALL of these procedures, period!

Carly James
Self
Kyle, TX

I strongly oppose this and any bill that will harm our Trans individuals and youth. Trans folks play a crucial part in all of our lives, whether you yourself knows it or not and, implementing a bill such as this will end up harming even killing some of our community. What anybody does with their body or lives has nothing to do with you or I, it is also neither of our business- being able to live and exist as their authentic self is what life is about. The Government has absolutely no business in calling the shots on ANYBODY'S BODY. This is not protecting children, this is butting in and trying to bully folks into submission and we will not stand for it. This day and all days moving forward, I, Carly J oppose this and any bill harming Trans youth and Trans individuals

Matthew Baker
Self - Engineer
Irving, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. Therr is no reliable scientific evidence that they are reversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and associated surgical procedures even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

The promotion and use of these treatments is not supported scientifically, and the origin of the use of these treatments is ideological, not scientific. The very concept of "gender identity" was developed by Dr. John Money, whose research was unethical, unscientific, sexually abusive, and fraudulent.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Also, I want to be clear that I do NOT support any amendment that would allow these treatments to continue for those minors who are already undergoing them.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686, and vote against any amendments that would allow these treatments to continue for minors currently undergoing them (i.e. any "grandfather clauses").

Alisha Walthall
Self-Adminstrator
Henderson, TX

We should protect our children as it states in the Bible. They are too young to make such a permanent decision. There is a reason that children are not allowed to vote, buy alcohol, buy cigarettes, sign up for the military, drive cars, etc. They are not mentally mature enough to make important decisions and commitments. Why should gender modification be any different??? Do not pass this bill!! Do the right thing and protect our children.

Jacob Morrison
Self, NRS
Austin, TX

Denying transgender people, whether kids or adults, gender affirming healthcare increases their likelihood of depression and suicide. This is a simple fact. Trans people are not a threat to society, they are just the current marginalized population used to for political purposes. This bill will result in people dying and their blood will be on your hands.

Benjamin Long
Self
Princeton, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children from life altering procedures. These procedures are child abuse. No one should ever do this to children. Tax money should never be used to support these horrific procedures.

Mike Parks, Mr
Self
Georgetown, TX

Gender mutilation should NEVER BE ALLOWED on children under the age of 18.
It should be a CRIME.

Larry Jones
Self
Burleson, TX

I am not going to waste your time, or mine, attempting to persuade those of you on this Committee who support HB 1686 that it is wrong and violates the right of transgender youth to receive gender affirming healthcare. Nor am I going to argue that HB 1686 denies the rights of their parents to decide what is in the best interests of their children. Your minds are already made up. You have chosen not to hear us.

You have also chosen not to hear the warnings of healthcare professionals with expertise in caring for transgender persons, who have repeatedly stated that denying access to gender affirming healthcare for transgender youth will result in even higher suicide rates among this population than we are seeing now.

What I am going to do is share an excerpt from the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, ratified on 9 December1948 and entered into force on 12 January 1951, which was ratified by the United States by the signing of the Proxmire Act by President Ronald Reagan on 04 November 1988:

Article I

The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.

Article II

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

(a) Killing members of the group;

(b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;

(c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

(d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

(e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article III

The following acts shall be punishable:

(a) Genocide;

(b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;

(c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide; Attempt to commit genocide;

(d) Complicity in genocide.

Article IV

Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in article III shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals.

HB 1686 violates Articles II(b), II(c), III(b), III(c), III(d), and III(d) at the minimum. History will judge harshly those of you who

support HB 1686 should it move forward and become law.

I oppose HB 1686.

Nicole Long
Self - School crossing guard
Princeton, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children from life altering procedures. These procedures are child abuse. No one should ever do this to children. Tax money should never be used to support these horrific procedures.

Jacqueline Taylor
Self
Lubbock, TX

Vote no in HB 1686
We should be doing everything in our power to care for the physical and mental health of all the children in our state. We are wasting tax payer dollars to demonize children for who they know themselves to be and risking losing qualified medical professionals for doing their ethic duty to do no harm.
It is best medical practice to provide gender affirming care and there are age appropriate boundaries to this care.
This bill would cause Texans to leave our state and or potentially lead to suicide.

Valli Welch
Welch
Georgetown, TX

HB 1686 (Gender Mod ban) has been extended until Friday, March 31!

Protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Izobeau Loureiro
Izobeau Loureiro
Austin, TX

Please leave the medical care and decision making to the individuals and their doctors. Government has no business meddling in these very private and delicate matters.

Marsha Rahn5463
Me
Westworth Village, TX

Support

Randall Walton
Self
Iola, TX

Performing "gender affirming care" on minors is child abuse. Children cannot decide such an important decision. Adults who enable or encourage this should be locked up in the worst prisons.

Sandra Turner, Ms
Self
Milano, TX

Please stop this!????????

Debra DeMoss
Self Realtor
Flower Mound, TX

This is my message to my rep: Children fantasize about being fairies, tigers, teachers, athletes, soldiers, dogs, mermaids, doctors & dragons. That is what they do, they fantasize. That is what they are supposed to do; play, imagine, create, explore, discover & learn. As their parents it is our job to provide for them an environment where they can do that & provide boundaries that are safe. They can try & fail. They can learn the easy way or the hard way. They can get hurt but should not be maimed. They can want & try to fly but we don't give them access to roofs. They can crawl & act like a tiger but we don't give them knives to use as claws. They can pretend & want to be soldiers but we don't give them real guns to shoot with. They can fantasize or even believe deep down that they are mermaids & can stay underwater, yet we don't give them unsupervised access to our pools. Our job as parents, is to protect kids literally from themselves as well as from outside dangers. Now as for me & my family, we will do that, we will protect our kids. Your job, as our representatives is to listen to your constituents & to do the right thing. Protecting kids is always the right thing. Defending their ability to grow up, live a full life, become the best that they can be, to have life, liberty & pursue happiness, is your job. As adults, with an ability to consent, to understand the ramifications of their actions, to understand the amazing differences between men & women, then they can decide for themselves what they want to do. If as adults they decide that transitioning will make them happy, then let them. That is a decision between them, their doctors & families. What about women who want larger breasts, should we the tax payer pay for those? What about men who want a higher salary, should we pay for that? What about women who don't want body hair or men that want hair on their heads, that would make them happy, are we the tax payer responsible to make them happy too? Your job is to protect the pursuit of happiness, not to buy their happiness with our money. Keep our kids safe, protect our freedoms, do the right thing, please do your job! Ben Bumgarner

Melissa Bodenger
self, stay at home Mom
Dripping Springs, TX

My kids go to school with peers that are on this path and it breaks my heart to see how unaccepting they are of how they were born. I don't understand how in Texas a minor can't get a tattoo but can do this.

Kimberly Branyan
Self, licensed RN, but an at-home mom
Houston, TX

All of these “transitioning” procedures should NOT be allowed on children. If grown people wish to have these procedures done, that’s one thing and THEY should pay for them themselves. Children, who have NOT matured, should NOT be allowed to undergo these life-altering procedures that cannot be reversed. And IN NO WAY should public, taxpayer money be used to pay for such procedures, no matter the recipient. We as a society seem to have lost common sense!!

Jamie Buchanan
Self None
San Antonio, TX

Please protect our kids from these treatments and surgeries!!

Alexander Andersen
Self- Public Health
Austin, TX

My name is Alexander Andersen and I live in Austin, Texas. I am representing myself, a transgender man and I am representing my Transgender community. I strongly oppose HB 1686 and I will explain why.
I was born right here in Austin at a hospital off Red River. I'm the oldest of 3 and grew up moving around all over our beautiful state. I was raised in the church with strong family values and faith-based values. As a kid, I felt something was missing, but I wasn't sure what. When I was 15, I joined the Varsity Wrestling team at Reagan High School in San Antonio. My teammates referred to me as "one of the guys". I felt extremely validated in this acceptance, and I soon realized I was in the wrong body. Growing up both Southern Baptist and within the Texas public school system, I never learned about Transgender people, and therefore, I thought I was the only person who felt this way. I was very involved in my youth group as a teenager, and I would pray every night for God to take these feelings away, but he never did. I thought I was doomed to live this life in the wrong body, and I accepted defeat for the sake of survival.
It wasn't until I took a Human Sexuality and Gender Studies course at Texas Tech University as a requirement for my bachelor's degree that I learned about Transgender people and the difference between gender and sexuality. I had no idea where to go or who to turn to, and I stayed in the closet out of fear.
It wasn't until after I graduated college, moved back to Austin, and got integrated into the LGBTQIA+ community that I finally felt safe to explore my gender and sexuality. I began my transition at the age of 25, but I wish I had the education and resources to begin at age 15, when I knew I was Transgender. Today, I am a successful 32-year-old-man who works full-time as an HIV Prevention Specialist and part-time as a Drag performer.
Our young Texans deserve to grow up with the freedom to be who they are, receiving the same option for healthcare coverage as everyone else. I can't think of anything more opposite of Texas values than restricting healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people in Texas are vital and integral members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. Jesus said in Matthew 22:39 that you are to love your neighbor in the same way that you love yourself. Transgender people are your neighbors, your co-workers, your congregation members, and most importantly, they are your constituents. Please, trust doctors, healthcare professionals, and families to make the right medical decisions for themselves and their lives. Our youth have the right to grow up in a world where they are free to be themselves and the doctors who care for them can do so without punishment. I urge you to do the right thing and stand for freedom, stand for Texas values, and stand against this legislation. Thank you for preserving life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness by opposing HB 1686.

Gennavieve De Rosa
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and all that it includes. To stop providing these life saving medical treatments would be a detriment to our community. By passing this bill, you are acknowledging that you don't care about the people and children of this community. You acknowledge that you don't understand this topic or those it affects and that you aren't trying to. That's not good enough. The government needs to remain out of healthcare and making decisions for communities they aren't a part of. This bill would force many families to leave the state of Texas and build new lives elsewhere. Texas has so many other issues that need our attention and money. This is not one of them. Thank you.

Stacy Hackenberg
Self
Round Rock, TX

No one performs reassignment surgery on a minor. Minors transition socially - change their name, dress and hair. They may choose to use TEMPORARY hormone blockers to delay puberty until they come of age and can undergo surgery. This bill protects no one but yourselves, your supporters who have been given the wrong info and hate. Fix the damn grid and leave healthcare decisions to families and doctors.

Peter Glasser
Self - Data Engineer
Austin, TX

I feel this bill is reactionary and based on an irrational fear that there is some plot among liberals to forcibly change childrens' gender. The truth is that this type of care is an attempt to ease the real suffering of a small percentage of children who feel very real distress about the gender to which they are assigned based on their genitalia.

I understand that it makes sense to discuss whether surgeries and hormone treatments should be allowed for people under 18. But this kind of blanket ban of any sort of treatment is just sweeping children under a rug and hoping they don't suffocate. We need to learn about what is going on, with an open mind, before we pass this kind of blanket legislation. And we need to stop confusing our discomfort with morality.

In the world we grow up in, the clothes we wear, how we act, and the activities we pursue are heavily regulated based on our gender. In this country, people should be free to wear what they want and act how they want. That's freedom. But the truth is that kids who want to wear clothes or pursue activities contrary to what their gender specifies are prevented from doing that. Most parents would not let their son wear a dress, and even if they did, that child would be bullied relentlessly at school and most school officials and teachers would be on the bullies' side.

It's understandable that under these conditions, a child and parents would come to the conclusion that something is wrong and they are not the gender they're supposed to be. The only solution a lot of people, whether young or old, that feel these feelings is to switch teams to the gender that fits their personality. In a rigid binary environment, that makes sense. Whatever letter we assign to a person, it's about people not being forced to be something they're not. And if that includes altering one's own body, how is it different than taking medication, or getting breast augmentation, or a tattoo or a piercing, or even working out to get a six pack?

As a parent, sometimes it's appropriate to force our kids to do something they don't want to do for their own good. But a lot of times, when we try as parents to push our kids toward being someone they are not, it backfires on us. We need to listen to our kids, listen to what they're going through, and do what's best for them, which is oftentimes not what we as parents are comfortable with.

There is a questioning and rebellion against gender norms going on in this country. It's disturbing to those of us that don't have direct experience with it. It questions hard fast beliefs that we have had all our lives. But it is also honest and based on the real emotions and feelings of real people. There is no army of trans kids coming into your neighborhood like zombies to infect your kids. There are only children trying to make their way in this world and express themselves honestly. Don't punish them for that based on the irrational fears of your constituents.

Janice Haddad
Self, retired
San Antonio, TX

For/Support the bill

Diana Calvano
Self
Kyle, TX

No allowed transgender at school! Kids need to be behaved! No more spoiled brats! Don’t let doctor killing or cutting kids open! Or God will be mad!

Hannah Kemp
Self, registrar
Austin, TX

Puberty blockers should be made available to children that need them. Regardless if they are trans or have early onset puberty.

Velvet Quartemont
None
College Station, TX

I am appalled to think that anyone would approve the genital mutilation or hormone treatment for children. After age 18, they can make that decision on their own, but before that their frontal lobe is not developed enough to make a decision as crucial as this. Please vote to block any bill that would make this legal for minors.

Teresa Covey
Self
San Angelo, TX

SAVE OUR CHILDREN!!!! Only God can determine what constitutes a male and female, not man.

Julie Rutherford
Self and PROGDK Austin (Parents of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria Kids)
Round Rock, TX

I am the parent of a daughter who experienced rapid onset gender dysphoria. I came to the Capitol on Monday to share my story, I waited 12 hours and had to leave at 8 pm. I have written many letters to various legislators over the past 4 years including the Speaker and the Governor of the State of Texas. My story, I am sad to say, is not unique. My smart, artistic, socially awkward, slightly autistic daughter was approached and groomed over the internet through online chat rooms. She was convinced that the only solution to her rejection by peers over the years and her inability to fit into "normal society" was that she must be trans. A group of women she met online eventually convinced her to leave her loving family and home and move to Portland OR. They PAID for a plane ticket for my 19 year old daughter to leave her family and come live with them in a dinghy trailer. My daughter has been in Oregon almost 4 years now. She has regressed in her development in just about every way possible. When she left Texas she was attending college, had her own car, she had held a job for almost a year and was making progress toward an independent life. NOW, in 2023, she sits in a trailer all day long, she has no job, is not going to school, is taking cross sex hormones and her mental health has declined into a state of pure delusion. SO, I ask you, did the trans promise deliver? Did it solve all of her problems? Is her life better now? The trans cult has convinced her that we, her loving family, are the enemy. She no longer speaks to us. Her loving nuclear family. Her parents, who have been committed to each other in marriage for over 25 years. Her brother, now 22 years old, who used to look up to his sister, no longer has a sibling to share his life with. DO YOU SEE the destruction yet? I watched the entire 8+ hours of testimony in the hearing on 3/20/23. Nowhere in this hearing did I hear the agonizing stories of the parents who are rejected by their own children because they will not affirm a delusional, destructive LIE. True love tells people the truth, it does not indulge lies for the sake of falsely keeping the peace. If you wonder why there were not more parents like me represented at the hearing, allow me to explain. We parents, who will not affirm lies, are cut off, demonized, cancelled and persecuted by the trans cult. Many parents live in fear that if they push back and tell the truth, that the notion that men can become women and vice versa is a delusional lie, they will no longer have any relationship with their child. The child they have poured their heart and soul into raising for the past 20 years of their life rejects them. The name their parents lovingly chose is thrown in the trash can and called a "dead name". DO YOU SEE the destruction yet? I could continue, but allow me to share this essay with you by a parent who shares my pain: https://pitt.substack.com/p/culture-of-death. Please pass HB 1686.

Tifphanie Rhymes
self
Argyle, TX

I do "not" want public money or public assistance provided for these procedures and treatments of our children.

Beverly McDaniel
Self
McQueeney, TX

I support HB 1686

Sally Howard
Self
Austin, TX

Please defer to the major medical and mental health organizations in the U.S. - leave transgender children and their families alone. Their healthcare is a choice for themselves, their parents, and their healthcare providers - not for the government. Focus on the things that matter - public education, school shootings, fentanyl and other drug related issues. Stop persecuting the transgender population.

Sherry Wynn, MSgt (ret)
self, IBM Program Manager
Austin, TX

Please don't put Texas back in the dark ages by banning medical care that EVERY major medical association endorses. Please do not take away life-affirming treatment from poor kids and adolescents. I'm a disabled vet who has chosen to remain in Texas for my retirement. But unfortunately, the backwards direction of legislation like HB 1686 makes me feel very unsafe and concerned for the future of our children and our morality. There are many, many more like me.
I'm also a tech employee. I can promise you this -- if you keep putting bills like this up and worse, passing them, this state will no longer be able to attract top talent for tech jobs and you will destroy that part of the state economy. We will all leave. No one wants to raise their children in a state that cares more about religiosity than human rights and values.

José Ramón Avellana
Self - HR Program Manager
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to legislation that would seek to prevent gender affirming care for children. This legislation is harmful and discriminatory, and it would have a devastating impact on the lives of transgender youth.

Gender affirming care is essential for the health and well-being of transgender youth. It has been shown to improve mental health outcomes, reduce suicidality, and increase self-esteem. Denying this care to transgender youth is a cruel and inhumane act.

This legislation is also harmful because it would discriminate against transgender youth. It would send the message that transgender youth are not worthy of the same care and respect as their cisgender peers. This discrimination would have a devastating impact on the lives of transgender youth.

This legislation is also based on a false understanding of gender identity. There is no scientific evidence to support the claim that gender affirming care is harmful to children.

I urge you to oppose this legislation. It is harmful, discriminatory, and will have a devastating impact on the lives of transgender youth.

Christian Aguirre
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Mr. Chairman,

As a Texas resident, I strongly oppose this piece of legislation as it would negligently allow government to control Texans’ life and the right to let families make the decisions they seem best and for for their families.

Respectfully,
Christian Aguirre

Katie Seigler

Self/God

Austin, TX

Genesis 1:27-28 "God spoke: “Let us make human beings in our image, make them
reflecting our nature
So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea,
the birds in the air, the cattle,
And, yes, Earth itself,
and every animal that moves on the face of Earth.”
God created human beings;
he created them godlike,
Reflecting God’s nature.
He created them male and female.
God blessed them:
“Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge!
Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air,
for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.”
There can be NO REPRODUCING under the 'taking away/mutilating' ones bodily functions, created to function to, produce another human life. MOST tragic in this arena is the FACT that there is much depression, self-mutilation, oppression, taking of ones life, under, under such lack of truth. Let our children be free, free to be who they were created to be, children who run, play, sing, dance, have dreams, have joy, return to laughter. HANDS OFF OUR CHILDREN!

William Disch, Rev.

self

Austin, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children.

Jennifer Lopez

Self

Sachse, TX

Protect our children from this insanity! It’s child abuse and so destructive! We look uneducated as a society, worse than China as we know this is not acceptable behaviors!

Ricky Menking

Lt. Col, USAF

Calvert, TX

I see gender manipulation of anyone under 18 as child abuse. I have personally known two people who decided to change genders while adults and came to regret that decision; one committed suicide. To subject anyone under the age of 18 to gender manipulation should never be done.

Adam Feriend

Self

Weatherford, TX

I fully support this bill and am adamant that we need to continue to fight for and protect the most vulnerable in our society from these heinous lies that are being propagandized. Please vote in support of this bill!

Alan Higginbotham
Self
Reklaw, TX

I strongly urge you to support this bill. We must protect our kids from these insane proceedures. We protect them from smoking, guns, drugs, heck won't even let some ride a bicycle without a helmet, but they want 3 yr olds to be able to decide to mutilate their bodies. This nonsense has gone too far. It's time people stood up against this insanity. You are what you tolerate.

Will Carson
Self, Esthetician
Austin, TX

Hello, I am commenting to express opposition against HB1686. I would like to start by saying that any bill banning healthcare for any group of people is inherently discriminatory. A study from the National Library of Medicine shows that “40% [of trans people] have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth”. Passing this ban would only make that suicide rate increase. A state like Texas, which ranks 42nd in American healthcare (according to Harvard Business Review), should focus on fixing its current system before worrying about who should or should not receive it. Bigotry is rooted in history, and America has a long, ugly tradition of discriminating against trans people. By passing this bill and the many other homophobic/transphobic bills introduced this week, Texas would repeat history and effectively take LGBT laws back to the 1960s. As a gay man, I am here to say: never again. I will not let the Texas government try to outlaw LGBTQ+ out of existence. For those reasons, I oppose HB1686

Kassidy Kotulan
Self, consultant
San marcos, TX

This bill would not stop harm to children, but rather induce it. Children who know strongly of their autonomy and are unable to act in such a way that protects their self image is devastating to our community. Individuals who know who they are know at a young age, and have the right to their own body. Disallowing someone the ability to receive treatment they seek forces them into an irreversible state chosen for them by opposing ideals. This is extremely dangerous, and historically fatal. The future generations of our community deserve better. They deserve the choice to get help if they seek help without a governing body artificially opposing their attempt at autonomy.

Brittany Strenger
Self
McKinney, TX

This has to be passed

Jermaca Brown
Self
Dallas, TX

These decisions should be made by only parents/guardians, the child, and a medical professional. That’s it.

Andreya Evans
Self
Austin, TX

I stand in opposition to HB 1686. Trans kids deserve care and to grow into adulthood as who they truly are not who you think they should be.

Melissa Traebecke
Self
Austin, TX

As a woman of color, why should anyone prohibit any form of healthcare access because of their gender transition or reassignment? They are just as human as everyone else in the world and don’t deserve to become even more discriminated against and undergo through lengths to require the basic needs for healthcare.

Austin Burns
Self
Austin, TX

I stand in opposition to this bill which is guided buy transphobic logic and not on any scientific or objective foundation. As a pediatric psychologist (intern), I have seen both the harm of restricting access to these treatments (i.e., dead children and teens) and the benefits of allowing access (i.e., flourishing healthy children).

Katherine Blakeley, Dr.
Self
Dallas, TX

As a physician, I believe all medical choices should be made between a patient and their doctor. I oppose the intrusion of government into these highly personal decisions by individuals and their families.

Robert Rando
Retired
Dallas, TX

This is a must pass bill! Help the children.

Cleo Meredith
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill to protect children who are too young to make their own decisions

Lorin McGuire
Self
Dallas, TX

I fully support gender affirming medical treatment for transgender individuals, including children, under sound medical and psychological care. To deny such treatments can cause extreme psychological distress and increases the risk of substance abuse, self-harm/suicide, homelessness, depression and violence against trans kids. Please educate yourselves on this topic before legislating against their best interests. From a family member and a friend of trans youth.

Debra Delaya
None
Laredo, TX

The use of testosterone will bring about “Roid rage” and cause psychological problems, outbursts of violence and rage, and personality disorders when used repeatedly and in high doses.If they feel they’ve had dysphoria beforehand they will truly experience real, exacerbated dysphoria upon administration of hormone therapy Perfect example of the tragedy that occurred in Nashville, TN. Stop the mutilation of Texas children.

Richard Parker
Self
Colleyville, TX

This is a must. I know too many that feel they made a mistake

Todd Hedley
Self
San Antonio, TX

I believe this bill is woefully misguided and violates the Republican Party's belief in limited government. It is placing the government in between parents and medical professionals and prohibits them from making the best decision for the child. It contravenes established expert medical advice in the service of ideological purity. This bill is extremely cruel and should be swiftly rescinded from consideration. If Republicans truly claim to protect freedom they hopefully will realize this bill does the opposite.

Gregory Aylmer
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

Please save our children from mutilation

Helen Lueders
Self - arr librarian
Houston, TX

This bill does nothing for children except engender fear and suspicion in places that should feel safe to them - school, with doctors, and at home. Trans children and their healthcare is a fake boogeyman that politicians are using as to threaten people who loves trans people and frighten those who simply don't know any. The idea that children are being tricked into procedures is demonstrably false, while forcing children into shutting up about their feelings and identity is demonstrably harmful.

Kyle Felkins
Self, library staff
Waco, TX

This bill does not represent the good of the people of Texas. Bills such as this reflect a desire to discriminate, codify hatred, and force morality based on religious beliefs of some. This bill shows a lack of judgement based on social education. This would be a choice made for some by people who do not understand or care to come to know those whom the bill would effect. I would encourage lawmakers to seek out their trans constituents and listen to their testimony. Then, all lawmakers should truly seek for a separation of church and state in places of government.

Miguel de Socarraz, PhD
Self-retired Clinical Psychologist
Temple, TX

I had a psychology practice for 40 years, approximately 30 of them evaluating and treating children, families and adults. About half of my patients were children (including adolescents). I never had one patient tell me they felt they were the opposite sex. I also never heard a colleague report dealing with a so called "transgender ". I never read an article on this issue other than the man from Sweden who had had a "sex change". In those days, my profession considered anyone who cut off a healthy part of their body, psychotic.
Nowadays (in the last 10 to 12: years) there has been an astronomical explosion in the rise of "transgender " numbers. Given the clear and obvious encouragement and support (grooming) by the leftists, it is safe to tie the large numbers to the propaganda. The so called medical professionals participating (and profiting) from this should be held accountable for the institutionalized child abuse they perpetrate. HB 1686must be passed.

Mark Schulte
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill

Helena Gonzales, Mrs.
Self
Katy, TX

Children deserve to be protected by adults, not led to perdition according to their whims. You are in a position of power . Please do all that is necessary to protect them.

Sandy Alford
Self
Wimberley, TX

Please do not make it legal or give provision and /or public money or assistance providing medical procedures for gender transitioning, reassignment or gender dysphoria for children or adults.
Thank you.

Frank Netscher, Mr
Self - State Worker
Austin, TX

I am opposed to any bill that will make more Texans live without healthcare and live in fear and make it more expensive to live in Texas. I am against any bill which takes power away from working people in Texas.

Roseann Keeler
self, attorney
Spring Branch, TX

This is a horrible and inhumane bill. Stop criminalizing transpeople. There are so many important issues the legislature could be working on to improve the lives of its constituents and it is so disappointing to see all this energy focused on pure hatred.

J Emmett
Self
Sachse, TX

I support this bill. When you are an adult - these are choices you are free to make. These procedures and treatments should never be allowed for minors - period. One would like to find reasonable exceptions but recent history, personal experiences within my family and friends indicate that deferring these decisions and related treatments until one reaches adulthood is the best, most unambiguous path.

Melanie Hutzler
Myself
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill HB 1686 because I believe medical transitioning of a child is child abuse. There is clear evidence that when a child grows up and has medically transitioned they regret it and sue because they were too young to make that decision.

Mark Dowd
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686.

Toby Taylor
AlphaGraphics US#607
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686 and would appreciate your vote also.

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Tori Lambeth
Self
Carrollton, TX

Medical decisions should be between a doctor and a patient. Let trans kids have access to healthcare!

Richard Rafferty
Self - Attorney
Dallas, TX

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Texas House,

I am a 57 year old lawyer that was raised in Dallas, attended UT, and has spent my entire career practicing law in Texas at major law firms. Both my children were born in Texas. As any parent can understand, I love my kids like no one else in my life.

I have a transgender son that, with the consent of my son, his mother, and myself, received puberty blockers and cross sex-hormones via the Genecis Clinic at Children's Hospital in Dallas. The Genecis Clinic required that my son receive extensive counseling and assessment over an extended period of time before prescribing any gender-affirming medication. Either of I or his mother could have stopped the process at any step along the way. We - the three of us - and our son's cross-disciplinary health care team of physicians each unanimously decided that it was in my son's best interests to receive gender-affirming care that would be banned if HB 1686 becomes law.

I implore you to allow other transgender youth to continue to receive the care that my son received. He is now a Junior in College, doing well academically and socially, and well on his way to becoming a happy and productive, law-abiding, tax-paying member of society that will support himself without reliance on government assistance. What more could a legislative body desire as a testament to that body's success in promoting the welfare of the public that it serves?

I mentioned before that I love my son. It is because I love him that I listened to him when he told me about his gender dysphoria. It is because I love him that I approached the topic with a healthy skepticism. It is because I love him that we (he, his mother, and myself) consulted with multiple physicians and mental health care professionals about the best course of action or inaction. It's because I love him that I and his mother debated and agonized about what to do. It's because I love him that we ultimately followed the advice of his doctors and gave permission for him to receive puberty blockers and cross sex hormones. At every step along the way, my actions were guided by the question "What is best for my child?", because that's what a loving parent does.

My view is NOT, "I love my son despite him being transgender," the way a parent might say "I love my child despite his faults." Being transgender is not a character flaw. I love my son. Full stop. The best way that I could do what was best for my child - to let my actions be an embodiment of that core principle of parental love - was to assist him in his transition, not impede him.

Please let Texas parents - both the ones that support their child's transition and those that do not - do what they think is best for their children. In other words, please let Texas parents love their kids.

Robert McDonald, Mr
Self, aerospace engineer
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686

Cassie Baker
Self - Project Manager
Austin, TX

People and parents should be allowed to make their own decisions about healthcare. Period. Trans healthcare saves lives. Trans healthcare doesn't harm. Trans healthcare prevents suicide. The government has no right to control what people do with their bodies. Parents have the right to make decisions for their children and their childrens best interest.

Lisa Albracht
Self
Austin, TX

I am a Texas mother who supports gender affirming care for youth. This bill is part of an aggressive ongoing effort in the Texas legislature to target LGTBQ+ equality, and especially the rights of transgender children and the people who love them.

Sumner Haye
Self - Director of Business Development
Fort Worth, TX

I fully support HB 1686

Lilly Rose
Self
Garland, TX

My name is Lilly Rose and I am writing this on behalf of myself to testify against HB 1686. I am an educator, coach,parent,tax payer, voter, transgender woman, and a human being. This bill blocks the health care rights for youth as well as the parents choice as to what is best for their child. I believe that this is an overreach by the state to tell anyone what to do with their bodies. So for minors that need help and guidance it should be up to the parents to make healthcare decisions about their child. Because they know their child best, and not the state. I personally had to overcome so many emotional, mental, and physical hardships, because I didn’t receive the support and care that I needed. If a child is suffering from depression or anxiety and it was to the point that medical care is needed of course you would say yes please give them the care they need. This care as well is needed. The suicide rate amoungst trans youth is significantly higher than any other demographic. This care is vital in reducing and preventing this. Many there parents advocate for parental choice and parental rights within education why shouldn’t apply to medical and health care as well.

Shelby Feinberg
self
Corpus Christi, TX

These procedures are life saving. Coming into our homes, doctors offices, and parental decisions is a gross overreach of the government. We have the right the the pursuit of happiness written right into our constitution. Children are one of our most vulnerable populations and to make such a bill directly assaulting their civil liberties is despicable and dangers. Trans rights are human rights.

Terry Warren
Self/retired
Pantego, TX

I am opposed to the chemical castration and transition of minors. We acknowledge that children are not capable of making life altering decisions and always have acknowledged this in every area of their lives, this is no exception. Many older victims of this new woke cult have been vocal about the destruction it has caused in their lives and the sincere regret they have for pursuing it, along with anger at the adults who allowed and even encouraged them to do this. This is wrong on every level. Using our public money for any of it just adds insult to injury. Have courage! Stand up for what is right! Be the adults and leaders that children need us to be to protect them.

Kathleen Wilson
Spicewood Christian Academy
Lakeway, TX

As a school counselor for over 30 years, I can tell you that children cannot give informed or realistically valid consent for any form of medical, hormonal or surgical treatments. They do not yet have the cognitive ability to decide that the gender they were born with is not the one they 'really are'. Pretend and role playing are a normal part of childhood exploration of the many different kinds of people they see in the world (not to mention the prevalence of imitating imaginary characters they see in movies or tv). Please prohibit the misguided (at best) and greedy (at worst) practice of the medical community to support and encourage children and their parents to take these physically dangerous and experimental procedures that would cripple people in their later lives from being able to live as the gender they are, have normal relationships and have children. I do not consent to my tax dollars being used to further these barbaric practices.

Randall Summarell, mr
self
Weatherford, TX

I am in support of HB 1686 and protecting our children from making decisions they can't unmake.

Amy Zavala
Self- Registered Nurse
Fritch, TX

I oppose this bill. Medical decisions regarding children need to be made between doctors and parents. Give them their privacy, and stop this governmental overreach. I do not believe this bill was introduced over “concern for children”. Children are slaughtered at an alarming rate by guns in this state. If the legislature wants to protect kids, start there.

Sarah Kanu
Self / Designer
Plano, TX

I strongly, lovingly and with my whole heart Oppose HB 1686 and urge you to do the same. Please put an end to the attack of trans youth in the state of Texas.

HB 1686 risks the loss of life, robs transgender youth of hope and sends a clear message that the Texas Legislature believes that transgender young people are not welcome in the state of Texas. In addition to the devastating consequences on the health of transgender youth in Texas, HB 1686 would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. This is now not only an attack on our citizens, but your states hired and paid workers.

This is not the way Texas should be written in the history of this nation - the United States. When we allow all people to be treated fairly and with care and safety that is when a state/nation/community can TRULY THRIVE and rise to a level of success never seen before. Why not choose to led the way to a bright beautiful future for all Texans rather than a miserable one built on the back of harm and violence?

Wanda Montemayor
community arts
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. I am a LPC in texas and I can say that Children will Die if this bill is put into place.
Current statistics show that 50% of trans kids have contemplated suicide in the past year, and 1/3 of them will attempt it. Gender affirming care cuts that number in half.

Chloe DelBusso
Self
Austin, TX

The people of Texas oppose this bill. Gender AFFIRMING care is not only necessary but can be life saving. Passing such an irresponsible bill will only lead to greater dangers for the youth in Texas.

Bob J Brown, Rev.
Self Mortgage Broker
Garland, TX

PLEASE pass this bill !!!

Toni Kleiber
Self as a Registered Nurse
Princeton, TX

NO CHILD under 18 years of age should be able to make decisions on whether they want to be a different gender. They cannot vote, they cannot smoke, they cannot drink, and yet they are allowed to make LIFE ALTERING decisions that will destroy their bodies and affect the rest of their lives??? This AGENDA by the LGBTQ+ needs to have a huge brick put in their way to STOP this insanity, and it IS an agenda. Look at the statistics of gender transitioning before this agenda was set in motion. Children are looking for something to make them special. If saying they want to be a different gender will do the trick, then they will say whatever it takes to get noticed. "TRANS" has become a fad, plain and simple. PLEASE STOP THIS MADNESS!

Jennifer Liggit
Self
Krugerville, TX

I am for laws prohibiting these acts on children and on the use of public money/assistance for such acts, procedures, and treatments. A child does not have the full mental capacity to make such life altering decisions in my opinion.

Rebecca Gordon
self, Investor Relations
Houston, TX

Public money or public assistance SHOULD NOT be provided for those procedures and treatments

Jena Cameron
Self, software engineer
Austin, TX

Preventing people from getting gender affirming care is not only harmful but this is a slippery slope of controlling what procedures are considered okay or not for certain people. This should be decided between a doctor and their patient.

Nancy Reynolds
Self
Cleburne, TX

I am FOR this bill. I find even the suggestion of these procedures and treatments on children abhorrent!!!!

Erin Kreisel
Self, LMT
Austin, TX

Gender affirming treatments for children should be between the children, their parents, and their doctor. The law should not be involved.

Nikki Machacek
Self, student
Houston, TX

All people have the right to the medical care they need to live a happy and healthy life. There shouldn't be a restriction of access to public funding based on gender identity. Everyone deserves a share of public funds- all people! Trans lives matter.

Konnie Clayton
SELF, Self-employed
Dallas, TX

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial "transition" and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT "transgender" medical industry destroys children's bodies.

Joy Noack, Mrs
Self and all Bible believing Christians in Texas
Waxahachie, TX

Despite the very vocal trans community coming before the committee, know that the overwhelming majority of your constituents (myself included) believe that the issues involved with the trans community are that of the psychological, emotional and spiritual and NOT appropriate for responding to with pharmaceuticals or surgical support. These poor people need help, psychiatric help, not further trauma to their bodies. As you heard, there are those who have gone through the excruciating process of de-transition only to find they may never feel all the nuances of their God-given gender, never to feel fully who they were meant to be. I have no doubt that as our society goes further on in our current bent, we will see more and more people opting to sue those practitioners who chose to "affirm" rather than to help. As our representatives, do not be among those who are responsible for further injuring the troubled and hurting among us. Rather, do all you can to pass this legislation to preserve and protect children from this heinous misunderstanding of what love does. Love does not "affirm" misunderstanding or try to build upon lies. Love encourages right understanding of reality for a better grasp of all that is true and right in order that the child can cultivate and exercise a love of truth and work toward becoming a trustworthy, mentally and physically healthy, contributing member of our society. Do not be swayed by the tantrum diatribe that doing so will cause death. It is true that people cursed with this problem have a significantly higher rate of suicide, but studies Indicate that to be true whether they transition or not. The higher suicide rate is proof positive that this is a mental disorder best cared for through psychological care, not "affirming" irreversible medical intervention that only exacerbates the break from reality. Do all you can to protect these children from well-meaning but confused adults. Help the state of Texas to express to the world and all its residents that love is tough, strong, true and real and embraces reality for all our good.

MEagan Mullin
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. My best friends have a transgender child and they are fighting to give their child a proper life that all humans deserve. This will harm so many children and families.

Holly OBrien
Self
Dallas, TX

This issue should be only between the family members, and not the concern of the state. Additionally, as a Texas constituent, I protest our state funds being spent on this issue, which I furthermore view as an invasion of privacy.

Meagan Burt
Self
Temple, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! TRANS RIGHTS FOREVER.

Debra Dodson
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not limit the ability of parents and their doctors to determine the needed treatment for their children. That would be a giant over reach of the State government.

Elizabeth Hoesley
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose hb1686!

Cecile McAllister
Self
San Antonio, TX

In favor of this bill

Nicholas Summers
self
Austin, TX

Trans youth should be safely, legally allowed to access these treatments, and public money should be provided to help fund these treatments. This bill goes against the scientifically-backed advice of medical experts.

Rachael Cutrone, Ms
Self
Spring, TX

Iam Rachael Cutrone and I am against HB 1686. Not only does the bill go against expert advice from multiple medical organizations, such as AMA, APA, AAP, ES, but it also does not affect anyone but those involved. Those under the age of 18 shoukd have access to medical treatment they need in order to feel themselves. I have grown up with one of my best friends being transgender, who knew they were born the wrong gender at an early age of 13. This lead to heavy amounts of anxiety and depression which lead to many things including, lack of eating, lack of sleep, suicidal thoughts, and suicidal attempts. No child should ever consider ending their life because they do not have access to the medical treatment that can help save their life.

Mariana Faye Krueger
Self, City Commissioner, Nonprofit manager
Austin, TX

Trans children deserve access to life-saving healthcare. The government should do what's needed to protect children and ban assault rifles-- not healthcare. I vehemently oppose this dangerous, discriminatory bill, as do all the major medical associations, and I will make note of anyone who votes for it next time I'm at the polls.

Will McLeod
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for any bill that protects our children from genital multiation. You cannot choose your gender, you are either male or you are female. And sex is assigned at birth. Having minors privates removed to feed a minors mental illness is absurd. And has no place in this country. Those who are okay with that something is mentally wrong with those people. Don't Commiefornia my Texas. Don't mulitiate private parts of minors. What on earth is a wrong with people. Like I previously stated you are a male or your a female at birth. God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve.

Allison Manning, Miss.

Self- College Student

San Antonio, TX

As you consider this attempt to override the judgment of parents and medical providers, I urge you to think about the real-life implications for trans children and young adults. These are individuals who already face so many challenges and obstacles in their lives simply because of who they are. They deserve the same access to essential healthcare as anyone else without fear of discrimination or judgment.

Imagine being a young trans person, struggling with feelings of isolation and rejection from society. Imagine finally mustering up the courage to seek medical care, only to be denied that care because of your identity. The impact of this kind of rejection and exclusion cannot be overstated. It can lead to feelings of hopelessness, depression, and even suicide.

As state legislators, you have the power to make a positive difference in the lives of trans-Texans. Please consider the devastating impact that this proposed policy could have on vulnerable individuals, and take a stand for inclusivity, equality, and compassion.

Greg Dalton

Me,my wife and my children and grandchildren

Katy, TX

Please support HB 1686 to prevent harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. it is outrageous that we would fund and encourage kids to make life changing decisions during a time of confusion. God made two genders and there is no difference between sex and gender. There are plenty of examples who went through all the surgeries, hormone treatement, counseling, etc that later regretted their decision. I pray that you will support HB 1686.

Mike Ahuyon

Self/ production manufacturing

Irving, TX

Leave The Kids Alone! Save Our Children!

Donna De Socarraz

Self retired

Temple, TX

This is child abuse, it should not be allowed in Texas or any other state. Physicians should be held accountable for destroying the lives of underage children.

Rain Kincaid
Self, Student
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is a prime example of both dangerous and callous government overreach. This bill is designed to restrict all access to gender affirming care for minors. There is no other outcome this would have other than increasing the depression, fear, and even the suicide of the children this country is supposed to protect. I know this is true because I have experienced it firsthand. When I was just 12 years old I would spend all of my time laying on my bedroom floor crying; I refused to leave my home, even for school. I was in the worst physical and emotional pain I have ever experienced, and I was constantly considering killing myself. Even when I was able to leave my house again, I was constantly reminded of how different I was. My voice was high pitched, and maybe that could pass in middle school, but not high school. I stood out among my peers because I had none of the characteristics they had already developed. I begged my mom to let me start hormones, and she didn't let me until over a year later. I had changed everything I possibly could've, and it still wasn't enough. All of my friends and peers were granted a normal development, fitting in perfectly, and I was still fighting for mine. Once I was finally able to start hormones, my life became bearable again. For the first time in my life, my voice began to match who I was. I was able to gain a normal amount of weight, something I had struggled with for years. My appetite returned, and I even had the beginnings of a small mustache. Every single change I've experienced has made me happy beyond belief, and I cannot think of a single negative experience. However, I was not able to access puberty blockers, and I experience the pain of that every second of my life. I have features I can never change, and ones I'll have to spend tens of thousands of dollars on to rectify. A lot of the time these features bring me back to my previous state of mind, and I know I'll only be able to be truly happy once they are gone. There are trans kids younger than me, and if care is restricted for them, they will have to go through everything I did, without a solution in sight. If this bill is passed, transgender teens will never manage to arrive at the second half of this message, and their stories will end abruptly and tragically.

Vanessa Phan
self
AUSTIN, TX

Limiting access to any form of healthcare is wrong and unjust. These are children's lives you are dealing with. What benefit do you get from taking the rights away from young children?

Katherine Copeland
Self
Cedar Park, TX

There is a rush in this country to address trauma inducing situations in children while they are small. I think the hope is they will live a life fully realized and feel free and accepted. But we have forgotten that you can't help a chick out of its shell. To do so is to deprive it of the struggle they need to survive. Children must explore what is in side them and try on many hats before finding the best fit. Identity is an evolving process of self discovery. When my children were young I asked them and their friends what they wanted to be when they grew up. One said a whale. One said a Craver. That's the Honeycomb cereal mascot. I asked. It's an animated Tasmanian devil thing. Neither of those children want to be that now. I'm not making light of the seriousness, just accentuating the fluidity of thought in elementary aged children and the incompleteness of their separation between thought and reality.

Also, new research in neuroscience shows that the brain is far more dynamic than the body. The mind can continue to evolve, grow and adapt through out our lives, but the rest of the body is not so regenerative. Function lost in the body is often lost forever, while trauma in the brain can often times be unlearned and healed.

Is it not better to err on the side of "Do no harm?" We could rush in and try to avert disaster, but if we're wrong, the harm is irreparable. But if we wait, not only do we do no active harm, but we choose to affirm the resiliency of the human spirit in our children.

Danielle Dutchover
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is hurting children and families of transgender people! Protect Trans Kids!

Justin Robertson
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Please do not pass this bill, the government should not be replacing the decisions of health care providers and families. We have so many issues facing Texas right now and the personal choices of individuals is not one of them. Even if you disagree with it, freedom of expression is one of the best things about America and I can't think of a more devastating blow to that than the government telling you who you are allowed to be.

Paul Schwanz
Self - Video Game Designer
Leander, TX

I believe strongly in freedom of speech and conscience and would not want to remove those rights from parents. However, the way some kids are being treated with regard to gender reassignment surgery or associated hormones borders on child abuse, especially given the lack of long-term studies fully investigating the risks or demonstrating real benefits. No public money or assistance should go toward these highly politicized and poorly researched procedures, nor toward attempts to promote them, whether under the guise of 'education' or otherwise.

Philip Byrne
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I sincerely ask you to support HB 1686, which will protect children from experimental and harmful sex reassignment surgery.

Thank you,

Mike Byrne
New Braunfels, Tx

Rebecca Gring
self retired
UTOPIA, TX

Please halt the attempts for sex changing for minors.

David Sawyer
None
Weatherford, TX

Ii want to support HB1686. I have a huge problem with allowing gender transitioning of any kind for children.

Kaye Anders
Myself
San Antonio, TX

This is not a good bill! No no and no!

Andrea Perry
self - registered nurse
Austin, TX

Government does not belong in high stakes healthcare decisions made by families on the basis of their sincerely held beliefs, even where the evidence available is not as complete as we would like. If we open the door to government interference in the affairs of family health care, in the difficult and personal decisions that parents make in conjunction with the expertise of their healthcare teams in the best interest of their children, we won't recognize the Texas we'll find that we're living in. I don't know about you, but I find the thought of the government telling me how I can and can't care for my own children to be abhorrent, and I know many Texan parents who would agree. As a Texan registered nurse, I never want to be in the position of telling parents that a well considered, loving, and sincere belief about what they think is best for their child is off the table as an option just because some people disagree with their choice. Will we outlaw psychiatric medicines next? What about high risk treatments for pediatric cancers that may or may not result in clinical improvement? Maybe in a different Texas, we'll one day outlaw pastoral counseling because we find some studies which suggest that some children later come to regret experiencing it. I hope the principle at stake here is clear. This is a parental freedom issue like any other, and I shudder to think about how history will judge our state if we decide that a few angry people can strip parents of their clearly enshrined rights to raise their own children. I don't want to see that sad day in our state, and I hope you don't either. I thank the members of the committee for your consideration and hope you will act with wisdom rather than emotion.

Sara Legvold, Mrs
self- Activist
Keller, TX

It is past time our Legislature stood up for the well being and health, both mental and physical, of our children. They are being victimized in the most horrible of ways by the people closest to them who should have their well being and care at heart not a radical, mentally sick agenda that is being pimped to everyone in the name of what are fast becoming a dirty words... inclusion, diversity and others ad nauseum. I am sick and tired of a Republican controlled Legislative body thumbing their respective noses at the vast MAJORITY of Texans in this battle to protect our children from deranged psychos. Quit victimizing Texas children . You are either with the enemy forces or you are with the majority . Their is NO MIDDLE GROUND in this battle. Do your jobs!!!!

Ellen Bordelon
Retired
LITTLE ELM, TX

Vote to prohibit any and all gender transitioning and NO use if public funding for these procedures!
Thank you

Jason Bishop
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is terrible. I am completely against this.

Mark Bailes, Mr.
Self; Marketing Manager
Houston, TX

Good morning to the Committee and thank you for your time in listening to all of those who are testifying before you on House Bill 1686. While those of us who have submitted commentary–in person or electronically– have differing opinions than several of you, this forum is the democratic process in action and that is what makes our country work. I wish to extend thanks to all who have made their voices heard and participated in the process on such an important issue.

My name is Mark Bailes and I'm a resident of Representative Jolanda Jones's District in Houston, Texas. The Bill in discussion today is nothing but a feeble endeavor masquerading as legislation that will protect Texan children. In reality, the intended consequences of this Bill are designed to isolate, target, harm, and silence a class of people who, unfortunately, see this sort of rhetoric time and time again.
Written into the language of the Bill itself is that "certain children" will be spared the "permanent damage" of life-saving therapies, drugs, and surgeries, but instead the detrimental outcome will be suffering, in silence–as you would have it–from being refused these services from licensed, competent medical officials, many of whom are sitting in this room beseeching the very State who deems them qualified, permit them to do their jobs without fear of retribution.

What's more, this thinly veiled partisan Bill has become a lynchpin for the party whose official national platform stresses the importance of small government in the private lives of citizens. The decision for a youth to undergo the process of medically transitioning to the gender identity matching their true self is one of the most private decisions to make. It is the sole choice of that individual and their families to seek personal medical care and the government has absolutely no place to interrupt that decision. The hypocrisy of this Bill being championed by the party of limited government interference is as astonishing as it is alarming. Plain and simple: this is ostentatious government overreach.

I stand before you, as a gay Texan man and voter to prohibit this Bill from advancing beyond the Committee. If the goal of this legislation is to save the lives of Texas youth, I suggest this Body shifts its focus on issues directly causing children across the country to die on a near daily basis and allow your licensed medical professionals to make private, scientifically backed decisions between these children and their families. It is not your responsibility or your right to practice medicine from the halls of Congress.

Jean Davis
Self
Fort worth, TX

These medical procedures affecting the gender of a child and the use of public monies should absolutely be prohibited!! If my child cannot drive until age 16, children should not be allowed to nor encouraged to alter their sex at birth until after the age of puberty.

EVE MARGOLIS
Self
Austin, TX

Oppose this hateful bill! Any rhetoric you have about small government, personal freedoms, "pro-life", are the height of hypocrisy. The weaponization of state agencies is despicable.

Any rhetoric you spout regarding representing your constituents is absolutely false. At least two thirds of Texas support protections for LGBTQ people.

Elenora Larkin
Self
Allen, TX

I support this bill!!

Lynda Roundtree
self
Lucas, TX

Children should not be allowed to under go gender transitioning surgery or other reassignment procedures until they are over the age of majority and can legally consent. Furthermore, public funds should not be used for any of these procedures.

Lisa Capps
self, Clinical Research
Austin, TX

Use of public money / assistance is not appropriate for these procedures and treatments. There is not adequate research to determine the long term safety and efficacy of these treatments, particularly for minors.
This is essentially conducting uncontrolled research on minors when there is not data to adequately consent them or their caregivers on the risks.

Deanna Fencl
Parent
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill - children eat their boogers and tide pods - we need to protect them

Sylvia Coulson
self
Waxahachie, TX

I strongly support this bill. These children are too young to make these life altering decisions that mutilate their body and prevent the ability to have sexual relations as adults as well as other trauma.

Martha Shoultz
Board Member, Partners for Ethical Care
Dallas, TX

Please pass HB1686 to stop the cruel and disfiguring treatment of children by doctors and hospitals in the State of Texas under the guise of "gender affirming care." Not only does this form of "care" de-sex its victims, but unintended consequences such as bone thinning, blindness, lack of brain development, incontinence, sterility and many other consequences are common when puberty is artificially stopped, as well as when cross-sex hormones and surgeries are introduced. Furthermore, this drastic treatment has not been shown to be effective in alleviating gender dysphoria.

This is anything but compassionate care. The state of Florida and European nations such as Sweden, Finland and the UK have conducted a Systematic Review of Evidence for these treatments, and have determined that “gender affirming care" is experimental and ineffective, and will restrict its application to minors to limited, highly controlled research only.

Please see: Sweden: https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol; https://www1.cbn.com/.../sweden-pulls-back-from-gender. Texas should be on the forefront of providing the least invasive and safest treatment possible for children AND adults with gender confusion, rather than destroying their fertility, sexual function and future mental and physical health.

Sincerely, Martha Shoultz

Dana Cox, CEO
Metroplex Women’s Clinic
Arlington, TX

I support this bill!

Connie Marshall
Myself- Mothers
Lucas, TX

No child under 18 period.

Tara Awezec
Self
Lucas, TX

Gender issues are in the forefront of the news lately not because this issue is more widespread, but because it is discussed and encouraged on social media. Children are especially susceptible to online influences and are not able to discern when such influences are not in their best interest. It is morally wrong to allow a child who doesn't fully understand the implications to make a life-altering decision and one that has such dire consequences. If a child is "confused", it should first be determined what the root cause of the confusion is. 98% of children grow out of any gender dysphoria they experience and rushing to place a child on drugs or perform surgeries that permanently alter the child physically is cruel and akin to child abuse. Please support HB1686 prohibiting gender altering procedures and treatments to children.

Suzy Pollok
Self. Mother, grandmother.
Dallas, TX

Let children grow up before making irresponsible and irreversible changes to their bodies. These gruesome experiments on children rival those done by the Nazis. Please, please, protect the children of Texas.

Georgia Fitzhugh
self, parent, teacher,
Lancaster, TX

Regarding HB 1686. Regarding the use of trans-gendering procedures on children and the provision of State money to pay for them. I oppose transgender ideology, and I oppose the use of trans-gendering procedures on children. These procedures should be outlawed for use on children. These procedures are not health care, but are medical malpractice and unproven experimentation doing long-term harm physically and mentally on children. Mental health treatment is what is needed in these cases. Taxpayers do not want to pay for trans- gendering abuse of children with state money.

Sharon Loveall
Myself
Fort Worth, TX

This bill is so important. Let our kids be kids! They cannot possibly know what they want at such a young age - and all of this makes me think that their parents need more help than the children do! Please pass this bill. Little ones are so gullible and they just want to fit in. But these horrible surgeries and indoctrination of our precious assets will leave us with a nation of very confused, very angry adults one day. And then, it will be too to do anything about it. Pass this bill to protect our kids. Let them be what God created them to be.

Cheryl Abernathy
Self
Georgetown, TX

In the reading that I have done on the subject indicates that most children with gender dysphoria grow out of it if given the opportunity to develop normally. There is also a higher incidence of suicide in children who are subjected to the life-altering procedures. Children are certainly not capable of making these decisions and they absolutely should not be made outside of parental engagement!

Holly TATE
Self; director of Client Services
Mansfield, TX

I support this bill to protect children from these procedures and treatments. Gender reassignment / transitioning is not what is in the best interest of children. Stand up for children and families.

Margarita Arevalo
self, religious membership coordinator
Houston, TX

I'm against HB 1686 because it's opposite of what our state should be doing. We need to help our children and youth receive the healthcare they need to be healthy, happy productive adults. This includes providing the funding for health professionals, mental health professionals, and educators to help these Texans develop into their full potential.

Denise Wilson
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

Our children should be protected and cared for. Body dysphoria, depression and anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that deserve compassion. However, we should not allow our children to be pushed by radical activist groups into experimental surgeries and drugs.

Katherine Hagood
Self
Fort Worth, TX

The last couple of years there has been a strong push towards children reconsidering their gender. This is very disturbing. As a mother of 5 and grandmother of 6 and who believes God is the creator of all life - I believe a child's sex is determined in the womb. I strongly support this bill.

Michael Lindsey, Mr.
Self engineer
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote yes on this bill to protect Texas children from permanent damage by prohibiting cross-sex hormones and body altering surgeries, or recommending them, for anyone under the age of 18. Aside from the damage done to the children, this certainly should not be funded by tax dollars.

Fransara Shoultz
self/homemaker
Waco, TX

Please vote Yes on HB 1686 to stop the medical experimentation on children by doctors and hospitals in the State of Texas under the guise of "gender affirming care." Gender dysphoria is rare, at best, in the population, especially in children, and has only become popular since social media has become so prevalent. Most young children who show signs of being the opposite sex grow out of this trend by adolescence. Why would we want to mutilate their bodies and ruin their future when they have not even had the chance to reach a mature age and ultimately decide for themselves? If a child came to me and said he was a dog, I wouldn't start feeding him dog food. If he persisted into his adolescence, I'd take him to a therapist. Why are we in such a hurry to mutilate our children, our future? I believe it is a grave evil that parents, who are guardians of these children, would even consider doing this. I do know, however, that schools are trying to keep parents in the dark about what their children do and say in school, and I believe that often the schools promote this. The state is not in charge of children, the parent are!

Texas Doctors and hospitals should remember to "first, do no harm" and stay out of this kind of medical experimentation on children.

Sincerely,
Fransara Shoultz

Cathy Cooper, Dr
self, veterinarian and professor
Tyler, TX

I fully support this bill!! I believe it is truly appalling and a travesty that government officials whether some governors, mayors but esp congress & President Biden and some doctors alike are trying to push for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria surgery for minors. The brain doesn't fully finish developing until mid to late 20s. A person doesn't know who they are and many times don't know what profession they'd like to spend time pursuing even at the beginning of college, & many college seniors I've know have changed their majors their senior year. Why should they be able to make a decision before their 20s that is a form of permanency??? People are not allowed to drive until 16, vote until 18, drink or smoke until 21 and yet people want them to make a life altering decision before their 20s!!!??? Parents should also not be able to push for a surgery for a minor. That child should not have to live with repercussions from a parent's decision before that child can make a decision for him/ herself in their mid to late 20s.
I definitely do not ever want my taxes or other dollars to go towards a transition surgery. If I need a medical surgery, no one else pays for it and if I want a surgery, even if there is a medical reason for it, no one else will be paying for it, so why should I have to assist paying for others' surgeries whether my tax dollars or other money from me.

Cathy Cooper, DR
self, veterinarian and professor
Tyler, TX

I forgot 1 part. I also don't believe a medical professional, whether a doctor, surgeon, physician's assistant, etc should be able to push for or perform a surgery on a minor

Piper Madland
Self
Houston, TX

As the parent of a transgender young person, I urge you not to pass HB1686 out of committee. Medical decisions should be made by patients, their parents, and their doctors, not by the Texas legislature. According to the National Institutes of Health, 40% of transgender people have attempted suicide, with the highest proportion of those being youth. Not being allowed to block puberty and present themselves to the world in the way that a young person feels creates mental health struggles, many of which lead to suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. If the committee members care about the well-being of the children of Texas, you will not pass HB1686 out of committee. Let this bill die so our transgender youth do not.

Kristi Montgomery
Self
Pantego, TX

I support this bill.

Alex Nervo
self
Arlington, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Donna Hennigan
self
Arlington, TX

Please pass this bill right away.

Nicholas Nervo, Mr.
self, college professor
Arlington, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Dominic Nervo, Mr.
self, unemployed
Arlington, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Lisa Hess, Mrs.
self, registered nurse
North Richland Hills, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Darrell Hess, Mr.
self, none
North Richland Hills, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Maria Burdick
self
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Brandon Hess, Mr.
self, HVAC employee
North Richland Hills, TX

Please PASS this bill.

Emmanuel Garcia
Self
HOUSTON, TX

Gender Ideology is woke! No child should be indoctrinated in the classroom. If you want students to perform well on standardized tests then take action now. Most children who undergo sex changes live in horror for the rest of their lives end this epidemic; end this epidemic now!

Jeannine Carter
self
Dallas, TX

Vote for it!!!!!!!

Meg Wilson
self, retired public policy expert
Austin, TX

Why is this coming up at this time? Who, 10 years ago ever heard of gender dysphoria? This is an epidemic engendered by social media and peer pressure and should be resisted at all costs. Children (those under the age of 18) should not be allowed to make life-altering changes to their bodies: they aren't mature enough to make that decision. Maturity issues aren't debatable: that is why we have a Juvenile Justice System because, by policy, we say that children shouldn't be treated like adults. We don't let them drive as children. We don't let them marry as children. Why would we let them ruin their bodies while they are children, especially since it would most likely ruin their ability to have children! Don't let a fad, an epidemic of stupidity, a travesty of family life ruin the lives of children who most likely will grow out of their dysphoria when they become more mature. Regret is a tough lesson and shouldn't be forced on kids!

Susan Perez
Citizens for, Education Reform/Self
Lubbock, TX

Please support HB1686. We must stop experimenting on our children. After “sex reassignment surgery,” girls and boys are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.
Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it’s already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.
Thank you for your service and for protecting our children

Mary Michael Townsend, Ms.
Self / Business Development Manager
Fort Worth, TX

I greatly SUPPORT this bill. What is being done to children, who are not of the age of consent and whose bodies are changing dramatically when young, is akin to child sacrifice. To not know whether you are male or female, and to blame it on misaligned gender is a delusion. To enable this is not just cruel; it's evil. These treatments are irreversible, and the suicide rate goes up dramatically after 7 years post-transition. These gender treatments are not "affirming"; they're "destroying." They make children into victims. Even if a child wants it, we should never allow it until the child is a grown adult and can make a decision post-puberty and with the use of an adult mind.

Suzanne Hatzenbiler
Self
Fort Worth, TX

It saddens me that this bill is actually up for discussion and vote in the great state of Texas.This is not public health. This is child mutilation! Texas should be leading the way on the protection of our most vulnerable…our children! Protect the innocence of our children instead of succumbing to perverse ideology that is destroying our nation. The aftermath of this ideology will be devastating and will permanently mutilate our children. Leave our children alone. Be better Texas! Do the right thing and lead the way for common sense and humanity! And taxpayers should not be on the hook for an ideology that destroys our children's lives. It does not represent Texas values.

Enedelia Sauceda, Dr.
Self. Psychologist
Denton, TX

I am in opposition of HB 1686 for the following reasons:

1. Due to discrimination on the basis of sex and gender. This bill takes issue with the sex of the child receiving the treatment.

2. All families and children have the right to make healthcare decisions that are best for them without influence of the state.

3. As a Psychologist who has worked with transgender youth, for the last 13 years, I have seen gender-affirming care save the lives of many of my clients. Gender-affirming care is already heavily safeguarded through our professional ethics and standards of care. It is a treatment that is done frivolously. Patients undergo evaluation and providers require specialized training. A ban on gender-affirming care is dangerous. Trans youth are already at great risk for bowling, harassment, violence, and suicide. According to research provided by The Trevor Project in 2022, more than HALF of trans youth have considered suicide in the past year. If we are banning access to health care, then we will be creating a deeper mental health crisis for our youth in which suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death. If their plan is to turn to mental health professionals for remedy, then I will tell you what the overwhelming recommendation will be from our profession's governing bodies: gender. affirming. care.

Patricia Menikos
Self retired
Corsicana, TX

I oppose this Bill in every way. I do not want my tax dollars paying for elective procedures/support to modify or totally alter a child's body. Many children have doubts regarding who they really are; their purpose. As the body transitions from childhood to an adult and natural body hormones flush the system, children can feel insecure and awkward. They should be affirmed and encouraged to understand this is normal. Certainly a child whose brain is not fully developed cannot make an informed decision regarding such a drastic, permanently altering decision. Depression and suicide are already at a high point as a result of forced isolation due to the shutdown. Lets give children help with adjusting to life and moving on to becoming settled, productive citizens rather than pushing them toward more isolation and regret via the road of a progressive agenda.

Carrie Baker
True Texas Project
Lubbock, TX

As a part of True Texas Project, I support this bill to ban gender modification and transitioning. It is wrong on all levels of morality. Children especially need protected from this evil. There are much better ways to treat and counsel children who are struggling with self-doubt, insecurities, etc. Attempting to change their gender is not one of them. Please get this passed through the process quickly, as Texas children's lives depend on it! Thank you, Carrie Baker

J Pryor
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB1686 and help protect our children these procedures and treatments. There is evidence that medically transitioning a child does not reduce the rate of suicide. As a matter of fact, it has been documented that the suicide rate increases 7-10 years following an individual's transition. We also know that an individual's brain has not fully developed until around the age of 25. Children are not capable of making these decisions or allowing others to make it for them. Additionally, the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender reassignment surgeries result in permanent and harmful side effects including gynecomastia in men, chemical sterilization, osteoporosis, pulmonary micro embolism, vaginal atrophy, risk of hypertension, diabetes, permanent loss of normal sexual function and further mental health decline

Debi Scaggs, Mrs.
Self
Denton, TX

Please, vote for this bill. The transgender ideology is an evil plague over our nation. Medically and surgically altering a child's body to fix what has gone wrong with their brain is absolute idiocy! We are beginning to hear stories of children, now grown into adults or older teens, that have such regrets for mutilating their bodies. However it is too late for these kids, these hormone drugs and surgeries have done permeant damage and these kids' bodies will be forever mutilated. THE TAXPAYER BY NO MEANS should bear the cost of drugs or surgeries should this not be out lawed. Thank you

Lyne Pickens, Citizen of the USA self
Big Sandy
Big Sandy, TX

To do these types of permanent changes is an adult decision, that needs to be personally made after age 21 and not by their parents or anyone else. It should not be a decision made by anyone but the adult person themselves. A child cannot make an informed adult decision and by law, anyone under 21 needs protection under the law for their own safety from this political agenda for this experimental procedure and treatments. It doesn't matter whether kids have insurance or not. Taxpayers should never be held responsible for these personal choice decisions of elective surgeries, etc.

Faye Evans, Mrs
Private citizen
McKinney, TX

FOR

Heidi Stone
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill for the sake of children’s health, physical and mental. We have to be the grown ups in the room telling them no. We can’t let 10-15 y/o be leading this or making this decision. We know they change their mind!!!! This new chaos is driven my money and power. Use your voice to protect Texans today!

Gabriel Chaverri
Self. Engineer
McKinney, TX

Please protect the children of Texas from altering life changing mutilation of their bodies and gender confusion contagion. Noone is born in the wrong body.

Britt Rayburn
self, self employed
Lucas, TX

It is essential to protect our children from making life-altering decisions that they may later regret. As responsible adults, it is our duty to ensure that they have the best possible chance of leading happy and fulfilled lives. Therefore, it is imperative that we pass legislation to safeguard them from making decisions that can have lifelong consequences.

It is a well-known fact that the human brain does not fully develop until the mid-to-late twenties. The prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for crucial skills such as planning, prioritizing, and decision-making, is one of the last areas to mature. It is only fair that we allow our children the courtesy of having fully developed decision-making abilities before they embark on any irreversible life-altering decisions.

By prohibiting children from making such critical decisions until they have reached adulthood, we can ensure that they have the necessary maturity and understanding to make informed choices. Therefore, we must stand together and demand that our legislators put in place measures to protect our children's well-being and future happiness.

Carol Lenhard, Mrs.
Self
McKinney, TX

I SUPPORT this bill! Children are not able to understand the life altering ramifications of medications and surgeries intended to try to change their gender. It is unconscionable that we would allow such procedures to irreversibly harm them. We know that the vast majority of children with gender dysphoria will accept their biological sex by adulthood.

Lisa Wallace
Self
Fairview, TX

This bill should not be passed. Parents, along with medical professionals, should be the only ones making decisions for their child’s health and mental care. The government should not ban a child from getting the healthcare that their medical team has decided was appropriate for them. The idea that the government would not provide financial help for children who are under care for gender medical help is appalling. That would mean that only families of means would be allowed to get appropriate healthcare while less fortunate families would not. The bill is definitely government overreach. Vote no.

Katelyn McDonald
Self - Registered nurse
Frisco, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Richard Sanders, Dr
Self
Abilene, TX

As a trained psychologist I can say that a child or young adult who believes (or is told) that they are in the wrong body has a mental illness. The treatment for this is therapy not drugs or surgery. Parents and medical personnel that push this are child abusers, as are legislators who would vote against this type of bill.

Sarah Hamm
Myself
Caddo Mills, TX

It is a travesty that a bill must be produced to protect children from mutilation in AMERICA!!!! What have we become? What ignorance has infected our society that mutilating a child would be a good thing? Children cannot understand or foresee the gravity of deciding operations. It is up to Adults to protect our young. If we allow this mutilation to continue we will have failed as a society much like Rome. Let children be children and stop this insanity before you have a society full of angry, depressed adults asking where were the sane people? Doctors take an oath to do no harm. Remember that in 10 years when these poor children cannot lead a normal life because they were butchered and society failed them.

Al Denson, Mr
self
Houston, TX

Child abuse should always be outlawed!

Elena Silva
N/A
Houston, TX

Children should be protected. Others are poisoning our children.

Erin Zehr
self, communications
Austin, TX

This bill and its supporters choose to posit that parents and doctors are performing gender reassignment procedures on children, which is not true. What this bill actually does is force transgender kids through puberty by restricting access to puberty-blocking medication, delaying decisions about procedures. This bill tells transgender children that they are wrong about themselves, and that they, their parents and doctors cannot be trusted. Being transgender does not impact anyone else but the individual and that individual's liberties. I thought we valued individual liberty in Texas. VOTE NO on the mean-spirited and overstepping HB 1686.

Michael Passini, Mr
Self
Howe, TX

#letkidsbekids

Eden Genet
HB1686
Missouri city, TX

Against
No child is born in a wrong Body . We should prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Linda Behan, Exe. VP Lindale Pipeline LLC
Christian Group at Christ Chapel Bible Church
Ft Worth, TX

NO CHILD IS BORN IN THE WRONG BODY!! Psalms 139- Our Lord God is the author of life!! He numbers each day in the womb, chooses the sex of the child, not mankind!! UNBELIEVABLE THAT THIS IS TRULY BEING VOTED ON!! Can’t wait for some of these tranny’s to meet Jesus at Judgement Day and challenge Him on this!!

Tamra Seghi
Self.
Austin, TX

I support this bill

Rea Morris, Mr.
self
WAXAHACHIE, TX

I strongly support HB 1686

Ellen Zhao
Self
Austin, TX

No child was born in a wrong body. We must prohibit the sex modification.

Jay Holland
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children.

John Hille
Self
Austin, TX

I have read this Bill, and I am in favor of it. No child should be subjected to gender change purely because they believe they are the wrong sex. They could have been persuaded. They could be confused. Have them wait until they are an adult and can make an informed choice themselves.

Beverly Bryant
Self
Fort Worth, TX

For/support the bill

Laura Dunson, Self
Self
Keller, TX

I am FOR HB 1686. It is a crime against children to allow gender changes on minors.

Marsha Day
Self
Grapevine, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! We must prohibit gender modification treatment drugs and procedures of minor children!

Jim Herblin, Mr.
Self, CPA
Prosper, TX

Supporting any kind of gender modification is a direct slam to the One we all say we serve. With respect to children, it should be illegal and any and all involved should be put in jail. Transitioning is a myth as we all know what Mr. Rodgers would say, "Little girls grow up to be women and mommies and little boys grow up to be men and daddies. That is how it has always been and how it will always be." It is a mental illness that needs treatment and adults must stop coddling this mythology. Please support HB 1686.

Laney Green
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. As a non-binary individual, I understand that treatment for 'gender dysphoria' can be life saving, and therefore necessary.

Andrew Mondy
Self. Engineer
McKinney, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm.

Please pass this bill to stop the mutilation of children.

Joe L. & Loida L. King, Mr. & Mrs.
SELF
VON ORMY, TX

We fully support HB 1686. Not only are these actions an abomination to our Lord God, but it is outright sinful. Please vote YES!!!!

Richard Allen
self, software engineer
Austin, TX

Please stop these procedures from being practiced on Texas children. Also, prevent providers from referring to out of state providers.

David Cockerham
Self
ARP, TX

HB 1686 by Oliverson

I believe we should not use state funds for these procedures.

Andrew Lobsenz
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please reject HB 1686. These decisions should be left to the people who are most familiar with the individuals needs, not the government. The parents, the doctor, and the individual involved understand this personal issue far better than anyone else. They should make the decision. This bill is discriminatory and should be strongly rejected.

Kent Harris, Mr
Self/Retired
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR and support HB 1686.

Tricia Boyer
Self
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. The God of creation of both heaven and earth created man in His image, both male and female. Male and female to multiply and fill the earth. There are no imperfect children or adults. No child should be changed into something that he/she is not. Gender is culturally defined and is not the truth. No money should be spent on gender reassignment. And parental consent is needed for anything for a child under the age of eighteen years. We need to stand on truth, not waver on what culture determines.

MaryLou Swift
MaryLou Swift Fine Arts
Houston, TX

I am FOR Bill H1686

Amanda Andrews
Self
Glenn Heights, TX

For/Support the bill

Sylvia Bernal, Mrs.
Self
Mckinney, TX

I oppose Bill 1686

Ronald Kelling
Self- retired
Bee Cave, TX

Our children must be protected from such invasive medical procedures when they are young, immature and Mentally unable to make informed decisions about life changing and potentially irreversible procedures.

Courtney Thielepape
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill. The frontal lobe is not fully formed until the age of 25. Children cannot possibly meaningfully consent to the irreversible damage that is done with so-called “gender affirming care.” This practice is mutilation and inhumane and must be stopped.

Kristen Poteet
Self-teacher
Prosper, TX

FOR! No child was born in the wrong body!

Doris Daniel
Self
Midland, TX

I support FOR HB1686 to end procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment, or dysphoria and the use of public money or assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Christine Jessee
Self - Independent contractor
Northlake, TX

I am for and support this bill.

Elizabeth Kinsey
Self/ retired
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Gregory Young, Mr.
Myself
McKinney, TX

Do not allow our children to be used as propaganda. Do not allow them to be mutilated and harmed because they are unsure of themselves.

Cheri Ramirez
Self
Portland, TX

I am For 1686. I believe the mental state of a person who thinks they are in the wrong body should be addressed! We would never prescribe diet pills to an anorexic who sees their body as fat. Let’s fix the problem where it originated and not attempt to throw a permanent bandaid on it that will just manifest in a new and different way. Stop feeding confusion with more confusion. God does not make mistakes!

Patricia Shelley, Ms.
self
Katy, TX

I am in support of this bill. I want to protect ALL children under the age of 18 years old for the purposes of helping ALL minors the ability to make a life altering decision at such an early age. I also agree that the medical community will NOT gain access to public monies to support a minor that wishes to o transition and that the medical community NOT be reimbursed for any procedures or treatments. Furthermore, I would have like to see added to this bill that minor child not have the ability to legally sue their parents/caregivers because such procedures/treatments were not consented by them to when the child was a minor and in their custody. Thank you for you help in standing up for children and this bill may provide a "pause" that minors may need that could prevent them from making a life altering decision that may impact their future.

Roye Nell Love
Self
BELTON, TX

Please vote for HB 1686!
NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Thank you!

Barbara Henneman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly appose HB 1686. This is a decision that should be made by the child, their parents or guardians & their chosen health care professionals. The state government of Texas shouldn't be involved in this decisioning.

Dorinda Sims, Mrs
self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686 to ban child mutilation! What in the world could people be thinking! Mutilating a child to appease their own sick agenda is the worse thing I can think of! Stop this craziness!!

Kim Madden
Self teacher
Mckinney, TX

I vote FOR this bill. To be against this bill is child abuse

Laura Hancock
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill, no child is born in the wrong body.

Micah Morris, Rev.
Self
Temple, TX

Allowing children or their parents to move forward in such acts is gross abuse and exploitation of children. We as a state and nation should be wholeheartedly against such things.

Susan Walling, Ms
Self
McKinney, TX

Please Stand for our children!

Marion Millard
Self
Austin, TX

I am a native Texan who has lived here for over half of my life, and I am writing to voice my strong opposition to this bill. I strongly oppose the restriction of access to healthcare based in gender identity. The Texas state government needs to stop trying to interfere in conversations between a patient, their parents, and their doctors. Enough is enough.

Kim Jorns, Mrs
Self-Homemaker
Ft Worth, TX

The legislature must see the insidiousness of promoting gender transitioning, etc.,much less using public monies to cover the cost! If children are confused now, what will they be if this idea is pushed and made easier by institutions?
It's on record that the American Psychiatric Association changed its diagnosis from "gender identity disorder " to "dysphoria " (2013) under tremendous pressure by transgender activists!
Will we cave in to their tactics again? Let's keep Texas kids safe & mentally healthy!

Laura Heffelfinger, Mrs
Self
Cresson, TX

This bill is needed. I don't want one penny of my tax money being used to ruin a child's life. Children often experience gender dysphoria, but that doesn't mean they won't grow out of it. Children are also highly prone to being influenced and open to suggestions of others.
Hormone blockers given before puberty cause sterility.
Surgeries take off parts they can never retrieve. This is a terrible form of child abuse and our state should not encourage child abuse, but defend children who are victims of child abuse. Thanks, Laura Heffelfinger

Bryan Stanton
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill. Gender affirming care is saving lives. The research shows this. Let's focus on making laws based on fact and not opinion. Do not pass HB1686.

Glenn Murillo, Mr.
Self / Unemployed
porter, TX

Gender affirming care is life saving care.This puts trans peoples mental health at risk. I discovered I was a trans man at 16-17 I didn't get to transition until I was 18 because I didn't feel safe to come out to my family when I was a minor. There are those who are fortunate enough to have have that support and that should be respected.

Glenn Murillo, Mr.
Self / Unemployed
Porter, TX

I'm a proud 19 year old Trans man and I receive gender affirming care, this care has saved my life. I began when I was 18 and I've never been happier and more confident with myself.
My personal life is not very good but at least I have my treatment to look forward too, it is the only thing giving me hope during this very hard time in my life. Everyday I look forward to the progress i've made with it, I feel very content and euphoric with myself. I have several trans friends my as well age that feel the same way with receiving gender affirming care and many other trans people that rely on gender affirming care for their own happiness.
The threat of taking this away puts so many trans texans mental health and lives at risk. We are an already vulnerable population why make it more difficult? There are real issues in Texas that need to be addressed, trans people just trying receive the care they need to be happy and exist just like everyone else is not an issue.
I'm begging you to not take away my right to have my treatment it was my decision, it is a personal decision every trans person makes to transition. It is the only thing keeping me alive right now so please don't take it away please don't make it even more difficult than it already is for us.

Meg Benkel
Self - Graphic Designer
Fort Worth, TX

Transgenderism / Gender Dysphoria is a social contagion. There is no other reason for the increase we have seen. These young children are being told that if they change their gender all of their problems will be solved - not true. And they are in no way old enough to make a decision to cut off their body parts or take puberty blocking drugs (the same drug they give adults to curb criminal sexual desires). Let kids get through puberty and if at 18 they still want to cut off their body parts then that is their decision. Public funds should not be used to pay for treatment or mutilation of anyone - especially minors. There isn't ANY long-term research showing of the effects of treating/mutilating those with supposed "gender dysphoria". These medical procedures and puberty blocking drugs have only been used for the last couple of years, so how could you have any evidence or long term study of the ramifications of doing these things? We are going to have a whole generation of very messed up kids full of regret. I SUPPORT this bill.

Judith Mcallister, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am for prohibitions towards any gender modifying procedures, medical or surgical, to be prescribed or performed on minors. These should not qualify for any form of public assistance or public monies.
Thank you

Kathryn Pompa
Self, nurse anesthetist
Fort worth, TX

I support the prohibition of any public funds going towards procedures or treatments of those transitioning out of their biological sex. Gender identity ideology is harmful and leads to permanent bodily mutilation. I am against harming children through this dangerous ideology and any incentive by the state that perpetuates transitioning through funds should be entirely banned.

Kendra McDaniel
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Zero funds for gender transitioning.

Lana Austin
Christ in me!!!! The only HOPE
Aledo, TX

Please please please prohibit public funds For gender transitioning. These decisions need to be paid by the children when they're grown adults and not before then. Give them a chance to let their brain grow before you destroy and Eudaly their bodies. Are you gonna start giving children Jobson paying for it. What the heck is wrong with you people. Wake up these are children the next generation. Stand up and protect them in Jesus name stop the madness

Jaclyn Snyder
Self
Aledo, TX

I support the prohibition of public funds or public assistance to provide procedures, regarding gender transitioning, gender assignments, or gender dysphoria

Public funds should be used for the good of all of the public.These type of procedures should be kept in the private sector. Keep our public funds out of these kind of procedures.

Courtney Hodnett
My family
Cresson, TX

Praying that you will protect the bodies and minds of the children that rely on adults for that protection. This is no different than clitoradectomies in developing countries that we have been shocked by for decades. No human's body should be mutilated ever but especially that of a minor! before that childs brain has even fully developed and their hormones regulated. This is criminal

Charlene Reagan

Self and True Texas Project

SPICEWOOD, TX

FOR HB1686

I am for this legislation preventing minors from gender reassignment. Too many kids have jumped on this bandwagon as the LGBTQ community has been relentlessly campaigning that to be queer is cool. Taking hormones and cutting off reproductive organs at such a young age can have devastating unintended life-long consequences. Let's set the age at 21 and in the meantime provide these children with nonpartisan counseling to help them get through the angst and emotional struggles until they are old enough to make this monumental choice. Thank you.

Mike Myers, Mr

Self Real Estate Development Manager

Krugerville, TX

I implore you to support HB 1686, which will protect children from experimental and harmful sex reassignment medical procedures by prohibiting Texas medical professionals from engaging in these practices and holding those who violate the law accountable. Emerging research documenting serious risks and irreversible side effects associated with medications used in sex reassignment procedures has led many European nations to revise their standards of care for treating children experiencing gender dysphoria to prohibit medical transitioning. Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to “Do No Harm.” For our future generations, I again ask you to support HB1686.

Shenai Moore

self

Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 1686. I believe parents and doctors should be in charge of their kids health. The government should not be involved, especially when research shows that gender affirming care is life saving and denial of such care can be life threatening.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

Oppose this bill.

DONALD SICKAFOOSE
Self/Retired
SPRING, TX

My name is Donald Sickafoose and I am a constituent from Spring, TX.
When a child is struggling with gender dysphoria, they need compassionate care – not experimental hormones and surgery. That's why I'm asking you to support House Bill 1686, to protect minors from harmful cross-sex hormones and surgeries.

Body altering procedures—such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts—cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives.

Here are a few facts:
1. After "sex reassignment surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.
2. Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.
3. The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it's already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.
4. It is wrong to assume that everyone advocating for body-altering surgeries is "doing it for the children." In fact, the truth is, providing these pharmaceuticals and surgeries has become a very profitable industry.
Body dysphoria, depression and anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that need compassionate care. We should not allow our children to be pushed into experimental surgeries and drugs by radical activist groups and the medical industry.

Please vote YES on HB 1686.
Thank you, Donald Sickafoose

Wendy Collinsworth, Mrs.
Self, self-employed
Fort Worth, TX

I am completely opposed to this satanic agenda of mutilating children's bodies in the name of "identity." Our identity, GIVEN by GOD Himself, is sacred. I furthermore oppose the use of Texas citizens' tax-payer dollars to fund this demonic agenda—and make no mistake, it IS demonic. The procedures on a whole should be completely outlawed because children do not have the emotional capability of making these life-changing decisions as their brains are no where the level of developed maturity needed to make such a decision. The hard-earned tax payer dollars need to be stewarded in such a way that honors the work behind it in order to benefit Texas residents! These "treatments" and surgeries are, at best, elective decisions that the public has no business funding. We are watching those of you who support such bills. You will be rooted out of your positions and replaced with God-honoring, God fearing representatives who have the best interests of Texans at heart.

Ginger Casas
Self speech pathologist
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Providing gender affirming care to children is suicide prevention. It is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and multiple studies show that the regret rate for gender affirming care is less than 1%. If you are concerned for children's well being, then provide public funds for mental health care and loan forgiveness for mental health professionals so that we can attract more people in the field.

Hannah Fields
Self
Lubbock, TX

I oppose HB 1686. I believe parents and doctors should be in charge of their kids' health. Stop meddling where you don't belong.

Adrienne Kern
Friends and Family
Fort Worth, TX

Our children’s mental health and long-term happiness should come before societal norms and the bigotry against those who don’t “fit” said norms.

Janeen Castillo
Self - stay at home mom
Boerne, TX

DO SUPPORT
Healthcare is an individual right
Patients & parents & other caregivers have the absolute RIGHT to work with their doctors & make the best choices for themselves & their children w/o government interference & restrictions

Celia Railey, Ms
Self, retired
Big Spring, TX

Before choosing transition and such drastic life-altering treatments and surgeries, good counseling and treatment to avoid that when gender dysphoria hits MUST be done. I'm so glad my mom gave me that opportunity even when I was so embarrassed by it at first. I learned, got through that awkward age, blossomed, and have been a mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother for more than a half-century with NO REGRETS. DON'T ELEVATE THE RADICAL, DANGEROUS CHOICE TO TRANSITION AND REGRET AND SUFFER ! DON'T TAKE AWAY THE PRIVILEGE TO DO NO HARM AND FLOURISH!

Traci Jenkins, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Allowing permanent changes to anyone’s body before becoming a rational and mature, adult is child abuse. Personally, I think it is evil in any capacity to affirm mental illness. However, we have a got to have laws protecting children, who do not have the emotional capacity to understand the reality of what they are doing.

Jennifer Miller
Self
Weatherford, TX

I strongly support this bill! Children deserve our protection! There is much data coming to light confirming the irreversible nature of these medications and surgeries. We MUST protect the most vulnerable among us! Support this bill! Thank you.

RICKY DRAKE
Self - Home Builder
Conroe, TX

It has been my experience as a person that deals with many facets of society in Texas that gender transitioning has been harmful and destructive for the person who engaged and for the family!! This shouldn’t be! I’ve witnessed quite a few people who transitioned now trying to correct it because they see that it doesn’t fulfill but tears down and destroys.

Calista Herbert
Self/Retired
Houston, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Transgender children and their families face very challenging and difficult decisions. These decisions are best left to the families and the medical community supporting them, who spend much time, thought and energy in making the right decision. This is not for the legislature to decide.

Patti Harper, Mrs.
My texas family
Arlington, TX

I am appalled at the thought that my tax money could be used for child mutiliation! This bill must be passed!

Sylvia Campbell
self, retired
The Woodlands, TX

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,
I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 1686. This bill would deny many children in crisis the health care support that they desperately need. Do not listen to the voices that say this is all about surgery on minors. It is much more complicated than that. Usually the approach is social support and/or some medical assistance to help the child navigate through their identity issues. Denying them the care is cruel and will cause a lot of suffering. Please vote no on HB 1686.
Thank you,
Sylvia Campbell

Richard Heinsius
Self
FLOWER MOUND, TX

I support HB 1686. I am appalled that the mutilation of children under the guise of medicine and mental health is actually practiced. Clearly, some physicians have abandoned their Hippocratic Oath to do no harm when they are practicing these horrific procedures on minors and should have their medical licenses revoked. More and more cases are hitting the courts for malpractice and this is great as the negative effects of this practice must be exposed. We rely on our representatives to protect the people of this great state especially our children. Please support this bill.

Jennifer Francuski
Self/homeschool headmaster
Haslet, TX

There are no scientific data to support that children have sufficient facility to understand the weight of submitting to a transgender ideology, much less any procedure related to transitioning or reassignment. No Texan should pay taxes to any institution that affirms a false reality to any male or female; no public monies or assets should be used for any treatments regarding gender dysphoria except in treatments that confirm biological, mental, emotional, and spiritual wholeness or agreement of the birth-gender assignment. It is pandering to a psychosis to indulge aberrant realities of self; ultimately, if passed, Texans would be assisting in the fundamental destruction of children and family units. Please vote to prohibit provisions funded by public money or assistance that support birth-gender transitioning or reassignment in our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for your time and deep consideration on this topic.

Philip Usher
self
Waxahachie, TX

Please prohibit all transgender surgery on minors. Thank you.

Debra Heinsius
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB 1686. I am appalled that the mutilation of children under the guise of medicine and mental health is actually practiced. Clearly, some physicians have abandoned their Hippocratic Oath to do no harm when they are practicing these horrific procedures on minors and should have their medical licenses revoked. More and more cases are hitting the courts for malpractice and this is great as the negative effects of this practice must be exposed. Minors are in no position mentally or emotionally to make the decision to have their body parts cut off and/or manipulated. Parents who push their children to have these procedures should be referred to Child Protective Services and the professionals who practice this I expect will be sued. We rely on our representatives to protect the people of this great state especially our children. Please support this bill.

Laura Weaver
retired/self
The Woodlands, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 1686 and I hope that you will be, too. Care for transgender youth is supported by the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Endocrine Society and is viewed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as evidence-based patient care. Moreover, the American Medical Association supports insurance coverage for gender-affirming care for transgender people. By ignoring the needs of transgender teens, you are contributing to the growing number of suicides and increase in mental health disorders. Teens do not choose to be transgender. Life would be so much easier for them if they didn't feel like they were in the wrong bodies. Please do the right thing and opposed HB 1686.

Laurey Boyd, Mrs.
self
Jonestown, TX

Please vote FOR this bill to protect our children from a decision that only adults should decide for themselves.

Linda Howard
Self
Frisco, TX

My 9-year-old grandson is being raised as a girl. He didn't choose to become a girl; rather, his parents believe in a vile ideology called "Gender Fluidity." So at 4, he was encouraged to explore his female side. The parents determined he wants to be a girl and he is encouraged to adopt all things female. He is dressed in girl's clothes, has pierced ears and wears long dangling earrings. He plays on the girl's soccer team and chose a female name for himself. He will be psychologically damaged for the rest of his life. He won't know how to be a girl or boy. He will never be female no matter what they do to his male body. My prayer is that his parents will not take the next step to chemically and physically castrate him; however, if they choose to damage this minor child for life, Texas should not make it easy for them! This is why I want the great state of Texas to protect him if his parents won't. Texas needs to take a stand against this evil being forced on children around the country. There is nothing good that will come from sexualizing children and taking away their God-given design as male or female.

Amanda McRoberts
self cartographer, homemaker
Angleton, TX

It would be great if you could please stop your attacks on the freedom and liberties of Texans. Trans Texans should have the same rights as every other Texas under the constitution. Stop treating them like they are different.

Virginia Acuna
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Marty Clayton
self - retired
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson and ask that the committee approve it. Cildren must be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Nancy Clayton
self - retired
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson and ask that the committee approve it. Cildren must be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

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· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Brooke Reed
Self - homemaker
Missouri city, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Esteban Acuna
self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
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- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Judy Williams, Mrs.
Self, reading tutor
Decatur, TX

Dear Sir or Madam,

I agree with this bill. I do not believe gender procedures or treatments should be done on children under the age of 18. They can't drive until they are 16 and they can't drink until they are 21 because such actions require adult levels of maturity. Life-altering decisions certainly should require adult levels of maturity.

Further, I agree that federal tax dollars should not be used for gender modifications on children.

Thank you for supporting this important bill.

Judy Williams

Kimberly Truitt-Turner
self, virtual assistant
Aubrey, TX

I write to express my vehement opposition to HB 1686. Texas is a national joke because of hateful legislation like this. Businesses may reconsider moving here because their employees do not want to raise their families in a place where their LGBTQ+ children and adults are so blatantly discriminated against. Furthermore, trans kids who cannot access gender affirming care are 73% more likely to experience suicidality. These bills literally put the lives of Texans at risk. It is unacceptable in a democracy to allow the religious beliefs of some to dictate the rights of all. Shame on the Texas GOP for turning into the genital-obsessed-party. Get your minds out of everyone's underpants and do something for real for the kids, like ensuring every child has enough food to eat.

Bethany Rife
self, Pediatrician
Bivins, TX

Hello, my name is Dr. Bethany Rife I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to share my concerns. I have been a pediatrician in Texas for over 10 years and I am raising my own 5 children. I am speaking in support of HB1686. I would like to specifically address the issue of the lack of evidence to support transgender hormone treatment in children. The American Academy of Pediatricians has supported treating children with hormone therapy to suppress normal pubertal development as well as cross sex hormones. In reviewing their policy statement I find it to be outdated and lacking any good data to support their stance. At their last meeting, they refused to listen to their members and acknowledge resolution 27 asking for an evaluation of the new evidence on the issue. They cite an article in their statement that showed the over 60% of gender anxious patients are no longer gender dysphoric after puberty – meaning over 60% self resolve, and I've seen other studies report closer to 90%. Also, In their policy statement they state "Research on long-term risks, particularly in terms of bone metabolism62 and fertility,63 is currently limited and provides varied results." So By their own words their recommendation is to treat children for something that more often than not resolves on its own with a treatment that we are unsure of the long term consequences. If I was to treat a cold the with the same criteria it would be medical malpractice – but we are not talking about a cold – we are talking about a complicated anxiety issue that is almost always accompanied by depression, trauma, or even autism disorders. These children are suffering and confused, and they go to the doctor for help where they are given hormonal medication that is causing permanent sterility, depression, impotence – life long sexual disfunction. These are not small issues that the medical community is CAUSING with this unnecessary medical intervention to stop normal development. While also often ignoring their other mental health issues.

We have studies showing transgender teens are at higher risk for HIV, STDs, depression, anxiety, and suicide. The AAPs answer to this is better health care access for them, with no consideration for the most obvious answer. This is a disorder with a 60-90% self resolution rate, the answer is to help them in their self resolution and get them out of this high risk category. Instead, these doctors are helping these kids quickly commit to changing their gender with "social affirmation" and puberty blockers. Let me ask you a question, think back to Jr High, do you remember feeling at all awkward, or unsure of yourself? Maybe confused about who you wanted to be or what you wanted for your life? How many teenage ideas or decisions are later regretted? Yet we are asking these teenagers to commit to permanent life altering decisions.

Bethany Rife, Dr.
Self - Pediatrician
Bivins, TX

(continued) Imagine you are teen deciding to change genders, so all last year at school you lived as the opposite gender, but now you are not so sure. Maybe you argued with your parents a lot to get the hormonal treatment and you can tell your doctor really supports you. Your doctor even told you that if you don't do this you will very likely commit suicide. How do you back out now? How do you tell your friends, your parents that you want to go back to your original gender? And now you have been taking this medication for months and it's changing your body. You have no idea what will happen if you stop taking it. Does it sound like these doctors are helping this child or are they confusing them even more?
Side effects of puberty blockers:
MYTH – this is just a delay and we can let the child go through normal puberty later – NO, when we delay puberty they will NEVER go through a normal puberty process. This affects their growth.
Males – never develop a full size penis or testicles, greatly affecting their future fertility – they may be permanently sterilized.
Females – never develop a normal vagina and may never have normal sexual function, poor breast development possibly limiting their ability to breast feed, May greatly affect future fertility
Side effects of Cross sex hormones:
Permanent Sterilization
Males have reported permanent inability to orgasm. They are at high risk for hypertension, diabetes, heart disease
Females have vaginal thinning putting them at risk for vaginal tearing – some have required surgical repair, these teenage girls are put on testosterone giving them a high libido while making it dangerous for them to be sexually active (vaginal tearing). High rates of early osteoporosis, and increased risk of cancer.
We call this gender dysphoria. Another body dysphoria is anorexia nervosa. We do not treat anorexia with social affirmation – affirming they are overweight, or weight loss surgery. We treat with counseling to help them accept their body as it is and help them towards a healthy lifestyle. Why is gender dysphoria any different?
I ask you to protect our children from this dangerous medical management that is causing more harm than good. These children need to be counseled and treat their trauma, depression, and body dysphoria until they are adults and have the mental maturity to make these life changing decisions. We are discussing permanently sterilizing an entire group of people based on their feelings. Please protect our children and their future families. Thank you.
Sources:
1. https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/142/4/e20182
2. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0092623X.2022.2150346
Please read Jamie Reed's statement. She worked at a gender transition clinic at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri – you can reference an article here:
www.thefp.com/p/i-thought-i-was-saving-trans-kids - her letter to the AG has resulted in the clinic being formally investigated.

Arthur Fergurson
Self. Retired
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Arthur Fergurson, Mr
Self , Retired
Arlington, TX

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For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Margaret Tanner
Self
Bridgeport, TX

I support this bill. Rapid onset gender dysphoria and the increase in gender dysphoria in our young people is disturbing and seems to be directly related to influencers on social media and young people seeking attention and affirmation with limited coping mechanisms. Many of these young people have related mental health challenges and are on the autistic spectrum with anxiety and/or depression. According to 11 published studies, most children who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria will not have that desire as adults if they are not socially transitioned and they are allowed to go through natural puberty. Many de-transitioners are in the process of suing those who affirmed their gender dysphoria as children. Taking all this into account, your bill will protect our children and allow them to go through puberty without the irreversible consequences of gender reassignment surgeries and puberty blockers and trans-sec hormones. If as adults they wish to transition then they may make that decision on their own.

Lauren Tucker
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Kevin Tucker
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Russell Tanner
Self
Bridgeport, TX

I support this bill. The increase in gender dysphoria in our young people is disturbing and seems to be directly related to influencers on social media and young people seeking attention and affirmation with limited coping mechanisms. Many of these young people have related mental health challenges such as autism, anxiety and/or depression. According to 11 published studies, most children who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria will lose that desire after puberty if they are not transitioned with medication or surgery. Many de-transitioners are in the process of suing those who affirmed and irreversibly treated their gender dysphoria as children. Taking all this into account, your bill will protect our children and allow them to go through puberty without the irreversible consequences of gender reassignment surgeries and puberty blockers and trans-sec hormones. If as adults they wish to transition then they may make that decision on their own.

Linda Bennett
Self
Houston, TX

Gender dysphoria is real. Decisions regarding medical care and treatment should be between parent, child and physician, not some lawmaker with distorted views of a subject they know nothing about.

It is shameful that politicians like you and you colleagues feel that you know what is best for a child you will probably never see or know. You are causing great harm by wanting to deny access to medical services they need to be a happy, healthy and productive individual. The family and their medical professionals should determine a plan of treatment, not some lawmaker with an inflated ego. You can choose to be your own God; but you should not be allowed to be my God or any other individual’s God. Leave trans kids and their families alone. You have NO business being in their business

Anna Bartosh
San Angelo TEA Party
San Angelo, TX

Please support the protection our children from gender mutilation!

Cheryl Minotti
Self/educator
Sugar land, TX

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

L Arzy
Self
Houston, TX

support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Elizabeth Paulette
Retired
New Braunfels, TX

First, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the state of Texas. I am a strong supporter of HB 1686. I strongly believe that children (minors) should be protected by the law from gender transition procedures including puberty blockers and any other medical procedure that would permanently alter the bodies of young children. Our focus needs to be on gender dysphoria and it should be treated as a mental disorder. In addition, our congress needs to assure that insurance companies are allowing for treatment and will pay for therapies for these children. Also, young children need resources in school such as therapist and properly trained counselors that can guide these gender confused children. It is unethical and criminal to perform gender altering surgeries and afford puberty blockers to minors. These atrocities will be life changing and irreversible. I strongly encourage you to please vote for HB 1686.

Doug Ring, Mr
Self - Semitetired
Carrollton, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Ellen Leyrer, Retired
Self, reported
Plano, TX

Please protect children (under 18 or not mentally competent) from treatments and surgeries regarding their gender. It is harmful and dangerous physically, emotionally, and mentally. The suicide rate of those undergoing these ‘transition’ treatments is horrendous. NPR.org has a 5/5/2022 report on a survey, “Nearly half of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide, survey finds”. Also, 32% commit suicide according to pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17135115/. That website also has a list of similar articles. Other studies show that a vast majority of those under 18 who experience gender dysphoria have confirmed the correctness of their biological gender by 18. This is not a decision a parent or guardian should be allowed to force on a child. Consider the Hippocratic oath, First, do no harm. I urge you to protect these children from the harm of so-called ‘transition’

Laura Haygood, Dr.
Self, Physician
Tyler, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686 as necessary to protect minors from harms of "affirmation" therapies practiced today.
As a Texas Dermatologist for 20 years, I treat children, adolescents, and young adults, many with anxiety, depression, body dysmorphia, distressing/stigmatizing conditions, acne, hair loss, scars, self-harm, obsessive compulsive manifestations of the skin, hair and nails. 4 years ago I first saw the disturbing image of a beautiful 13-year-old girl who had been given high dose testosterone to "affirm" her concern that she might have been "born in the wrong body." As a result, she had developed painful disfiguring cystic facial acne with permanent scarring. Some colleagues seemed unmoved by the fact that this was a preventable, predictable "iatrogenic" side effect (caused by treatment.) The elephant in the room was ignored. The Do No Harm ethic we always follow seemed to be forgotten. Colleagues and I are alarmed for this and other reasons.

- "Gender-Affirming" Care for gender distress causes permanent harm to minors (sterility, sexual dysfunction, many more) Rigorous systematic reviews from European colleagues are clear. We also have a growing body of compelling self-reports by detransitioners. In Nov 2022, the Florida Medical Board even restricted minors from receiving these treatments.
- Children are completely unable to provide informed consent for this. It is unethical to place parents in the position of making this heart-wrenching decision, made worse by instilling fear of imminent suicide in them should they question or fail to acquiesce to this treatment. Not even the physicians can fully predict ramifications for the child's emotional and medical health into adulthood. Recent SB14 Senate testimony by Irene Erickson stated "sound research does NOT show that gender transition prevents suicide,' which is helpful data for parents.
- Although agreement exists among medical professionals that young people with gender distress are suffering tremendously and need help, there remains disagreement regarding the best approach to treating this novel vulnerable population. Supportive exploratory psychotherapy is crucial and seems strikingly absent at times.
- Evidence-based consensus is mounting that the "affirmation" model is based on seriously flawed evidence and activism (Endocrine Society, WPATH). While Europe pivots toward psychotherapy for minors, US organized medicine follows some outdated guidelines.
- Small groups of proponents within organized medicine in the US do not accurately reflect the views of the broader scientific and medical community on this topic. I have witnessed silencing of open academic discourse on this topic.
- For these and other reasons, it has become necessary for the Texas Legislature to step in to regulate the use of puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and surgical modification procedures for minors with GD. Heartfelt thank you. / My opinions are my own. / I will offer additional written testimony. LJHMD

Charles Riley
Myself - retired
Atlanta, TX

I support banning gender modification. I consider such operations as malpractice. Those unfortunate enough to have mental issues would be better served by counseling to get them through a difficult period of their lives. This group has a high rate of suicide as this surgery makes it nearly impossible to to correct the transition once they mature . Having these young people use restrooms of the opposite sex leads to privacy issues and sexual assault in public and school restrooms.

Pamela Jackson
self
Dallas, TX

I am in favor of this bill in order to protect Texas children and teens. I believe puberty blockers and surgery for gender dysphoria is medical malpractice. Thank you for introducing this bill to protect Texas children.

Sandra Hernandez
Self
Plano, TX

Please help protect our children from these insane people who want use them for their evil LGBT+++ agenda.
Children are naturally inquisitive and have unlimited imaginations. But they don't have the mental or emotional capacity at a young age to make life altering decisions such as changing the gender they were born with.

Marlene McNally
Pro-Life Ministry St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Waxahachie, TX

Dear Lawmakers,
Please prohibit gender transitioning or drugs to be distributed to children in the state of Texas. Natural Law and our own consciences/moral values should be a guide in knowing that God created each of us with purpose and according to his design. Please consider this condition as a mental health concern that would benefit from spiritual and mental health guidance/counseling to help youngsters discover their God -given gifts and talents and to learn a healthier lifestyle that would bring true contentment and peace in who they were created to be and to embrace their differences in order to accomplish good in this life.

Robert Mitchell
Medical Institute
Austin, TX

Please PASS HB1686 for goodness sake!

Elisabeth Brolin
Self / Retired
Carrollton, TX

Any form of treatment for gender transitioning/modification has to be stopped for children of any age, and schools have no right to interfere and encourage it and block parents from having knowledge of it. No use or assistance of public money for those procedures.

Cynthia Fore, Mrs.
Self- Accounting
Heath, TX

I believe that is should be prohibited for procedures and treatments done to change the sex of children and prohibit public money or public assistance for these procedures and treatments. I am in favor of this bill to prohibit these.

Karen Miller
Self
Granbury, TX

It is abhorrent that as a society, we are faced with the discussion of abusing our children in this way. I am absolutely against any use of public funds or assistance to provide these procedures and treatments to children.

Tom Nobis

The Republican Party of Texas and Self

Houston, TX

I am Tom Nobis and represent the Republican Party of Texas and myself. I rise in Support of HB1686.
In Texas, HB 1686 by my Representative Tom Oliverson seeks to protect children from the often-irreversible effects of these harmful procedures.
Indoctrination of children through radical sex education and efforts to interfere with the development of children has increased. This is accomplished by having healthy body parts removed from children and providing them with irreversible puberty-blocking drugs in an attempt to affirm a "gender identity" that rejects bodily reality. This is profoundly unethical.
Body altering procedures, such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts, cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives.

- After "sex reassignment surgery," girls and boys are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.
- Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.
- The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it's already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.

Our children should be protected and cared for. Body dysphoria, depression and anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that deserve compassion. However, we should not allow our children to be pushed by radical activist groups into experimental surgeries and drugs.
Minors are prohibited from purchasing paint, cigarettes, alcohol, or even getting a tattoo. Minors possess underdeveloped mental capabilities to make certain decisions on their own. We cannot allow minors to make life-altering decisions on body mutilating procedures and irreversible hormonal treatments. They need to be protected from the dangerous and permanent consequences of their confusion.
I'm glad when I was young and when we played dress up that someone didn't say oh he's wearing a dress he must be a girl.
The Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority on this issue states:

- Texas must ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, genital mutilation, bodily alteration surgery, psychological/social transitioning, and any other methods applied to or performed on children.

This Bill prohibits health insurance to provide coverage for services intended to transition. It prohibits a pphysician or health care provider from performing

- Performing surgery that sterilizes a child,
- Performing a mastectomy on a child
- Providing or prescribing drugs that are puberty supressors and others

With over 76 authors, joint authors and co-authors, this bill has strong support. Please support HB1686 and pass it out of committee to calendars.

Jeffrey Bennighof

Self, professor

Austin, TX

I am in favor of passage of HB 1686 because I believe that an unbiased review of the research on the use of these gender-related treatments and procedures shows that they do much more harm than good.

Paul Nadeau F

Self

Hill Country Village, TX

The whole idea of allowing young people to make this kind of a decision is an abomination. This bill is essential for the protection of children and I encourage it's passing.

Makenzie Castongue
Self, Structural Engineer
Austin, TX

Stop pretending that anti-trans and anti-gender expansive youth legislation is to protect children. Trans heath care IS health care. Why would the state of Texas step in to override parents, physicians, psychiatrists, endocrinologists, who have developed these health care guidelines? Until the legislation can provide proper context and data for the claims that are being made to support this bill, then we must reject this form of ignorance and any bill proposed as a result.

David Robinson
Self - Financial Services
Austin, TX

in favor of passage of HB1686

Jennie Gilchrist
Dallas Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

HP1686 SUPPORT and protect children in Texas and set the example for our nation.

Blake McDaniel
self
Cedar Park, TX

Stop the use of puberty blockers and surgery in a morally bankrupt and devoid of common sense attempt to change the sex of children supposedly with gender dysphoria. 90% of gender dysphoria resolves itself by age 21 if nothing is done.

sheree rose
self
Plano, TX

We should not be allowing this surgery on any child under the age of 21. They are not prepared to make these types of decisions, their parents are often misinformed. These children will have lifelong issues to deal with. They shouldn't be made until the individual is really prepared for the results which is probably at least 25. Other countries are even as we speak not allowing it. We have to protect our children.

Roy Boddy
Self. Real Estate
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life altering “gender transition “ medical procedures! I urge your support of this bill!
Roy Boddy

Linda Steele, Mrs.
Self
Granbury, TX

I hope you vote for HB1686 to stop the use of puberty blockers and surgery in a wrong attempt to change the sex of children supposedly with gender dysphoria. 90% of gender dysphoria resolves itself by age 21 if nothing is done.

Layna Jaresh
self
Pilot Point, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill.

Randall Beaty
Self attorney
Conroe, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Christina Drewry
Texas Freedom Coalition, self
Flint, TX

I support this bill. Changing a minor's sex before their prefrontal lobe has fully developed contributes to mental health issues in Texas. If a child isn't mature enough for alcohol, smoking cigarettes, driving, getting married, signing a contract and joining the army until they are of legal age, they should not be coerced into changing their gender prior to legal age. We don't allow a 12 year old to get a tattoo, a permanent mark on the outside of their body before 18. Why should we permanently altar their sex and cause irreparable harm before they reach legal age? Public funds should never be used to facilitate these life altering changes. The health industry should not be allowed to promote gender modification or perform these potentially deadly changes on minors. Protect Texas Kids!

Brian Fitzgerald
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

No public money should be used for any gender treatment or transitioning. It is my firm belief from all the research and past cases that there is no public benefit form these procedures taking place, there for no public funds should be used. All to often in this day and age if there is a perceived problem some people think that the government should take care of it. If the overall public good is at the center of the issue then the government could handle it, (ie roads, bridges, dams, public works items). If the problem at hand only effects one person singly then the government should not spend public funds on it (ie anything related to health or mental health of one person). We must stop using public funds for abortion and gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Any medical treatment for one person should no use public funds. Please vote no on HB 1686.

Peter Ellis
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Daniel Brunson
Self
Brock, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

For this reason, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Marcie Hysinger
Self, Managing Member
Houston, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Freedom to access medical care is important and this is a slippery slope.
Will politicians next come after viagra? Will politicians decide that if you look too young or too old you cannot run for office?
Let doctors and psychiatrists handle these medical issues, and let politicians handle the budget, infrastructure, public safety, etc.
Please do not pass this bill.

Nancy Meyers
Self
Midland, TX

Please vote YES. I support this Bill. I am a registered nurse and feel strongly that these procedures do much harm and are ethically wrong.

Viki Norman, RN

Self

Irving, TX

Children are not able to consent to life altering pharmaceuticals and surgeries. These hormone blockers were never meant for healthy children and are being prescribed off-label. The damage to their healthy bodies is permanent. Other countries are backing away from WPATH recommended guidelines as the huge increase in children seeking blockers/hormones/surgeries has risen 1000s fold due to poor mental, emotional health and the media. The AMA, TMA, APA and Endocrine society are financially compromised organizations and are receiving compensation from pharmaceutical and political organizations. They are harming children by not encouraging other modes of help for the gender confused children.

Stacy Penney, Precinct Chair Tarrant County

Self

MANSFIELD, TX

Pass this! No parent should able to modify a child's gender. A child is NOT mature enough to make this decision either.

Aileen MCMURRER

self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB1686.
So many calls for parental rights regarding vaccinations, school books, and which school their children can attend, but no parental rights on health care?
Vote against HB1686.

Dianna Biscan, Ms

Self

Plano, TX

I absolutely and positively support this bill to Save Our Kids from mutilation. Please save them from a life time of being medicalized; drugs and treatment for their whole life.
Would you do this to your child?

John Montes
Red Wave Texas
MCKINNEY, TX

My Comments are in favor of HB 1686.

Dear Texas Legislators,

Our kids are not experiments. When a child is struggling, they need compassionate care – not experimental hormones and surgery.

Body altering procedures, such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts, cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives. We don't allow minors to get tattoos, purchase cigarettes, or even vote in elections – we recognize they aren't ready to make permanent or potentially life-altering decisions.

Our young boys and girls should be cared for and protected. Body dysphoria, depression, anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that deserve compassion. However, we should not allow our children to be pushed into experimental surgeries and drugs by radical activist groups.

After "sex reassignment surgery," boys and girls are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.

Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.

The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it's already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm.

It is wrong to assume everyone advocating for body-altering surgeries is "doing it for the children." In fact, the truth is, providing pharmaceuticals and surgery for children suffering from gender dysphoria has become a very profitable industry, to the detriment of children in our society.

Our laws should protect children, not profit off their pain. Let's put our kids first, not the profit of the medical industry and the "woke" agenda of Left wing radical activist groups.

David Kemp, Mr.
self
Plano, TX

I support this bill to bring common sense back to our Country. Who in their right mind would do chemical castration and mutilation on their kids? There are fools out there that will; we as the adults in the room must save them.
So mark me down as 100% for HB 1686. God save the children!

Andrea Meador
Self
McKinney, TX

I'm in favor of passage of HB1686!

Philip Exner, Mt
Self
Houston, TX

Schools have NO business treating children with dysphoria with drugs, surgery. Or counseling, nor with "Grooming" them toward acceptance of that or other LGBTQ+ proclivities. I support the bill

Peter Hennessey
Self
San Antinio, TX

I support this bill.

Maria Person
self, Director
Austin, TX

This bill will harm transgender youth during a sensitive time in their lives. Too many are already lost to suicide, do not reject their identity by passing this bill.

bruce leibert, Dr.
self
harlingen, TX

Administering hormonal therapies to or performing gender altering surgeries on children is abuse, plain and simple. The physicians who perform such abuse should be prosecuted and licenses revoked. The parents who push for these possibly dangerous and life-altering medications or surgeries should be charged with child abuse. I have been a family physician for 38 years, having delivered hundreds of babies and cared for children of every nation, tribe, and tongue. Support HB 1686 and protect our beautiful future: children, who are "wonderfully made".

Thomas Shumaker
Self Retired
Georgetown, TX

Please hear and pass out of committee this bill. It should accompany Senator Campbell's SB14. Protecting our children and grandchildren should be our topmost priority. Using public money or assistance to provide procedures such as treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria is unconscionable and not worthy of the state of Texas condoning or supporting. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Angela Price, Mrs
Self/homemaker
Aledo, TX

It is morally wrong to surgically alter a child’s body in the name of “gender dysphoria”. Please listen to personal testimonies of those that regret their surgeries. These surgeries should be categorized as abuse. It should be illegal for doctors to perform them on children under 18. Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Onderdonk
Self / Concerned citizen
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be and should be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing "gender-transition" procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter a child’s hormonal balance, and often remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria. As a result, performing experimental "transition" procedures on physically healthy children is immoral and often results in tragic regret when a child who was subjected to these procedures later desires to de-transition.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Denise Whitney
Self/retail planner
Houston, TX

I ask the committee to vote AGAINST HB1686, and leave the healthcare decisions of any children up to their parents and their medical professionals. We need to protect the right to healthcare for all individuals.

Thomas K. (Tom) Spurgeon
Self, attorney
San Antonio, TX

I support Dr. Oliverson's common sense legislation to prohibit medical procedures intended to physiologically alter gender characteristics of children (presumably under 18 years of age). We are constantly reminded in various ways that the teenage brain is still under significant development and many times is not able to make rationale decisions or understand the lifelong consequences of their decisions. We are also reminded of the growing number of people who elected to undergo transitioning procedures at a young age and who later regreted that decision and attempted to reverse those life-altering consequences. If someone chooses - as an adult - to undergo transitioning procedures, that's a different story.

Linda McCullough
Self
Lago Vista, TX

The state wants parental control over the children until it doesn’t. If you don’t want some government official looking into your medical files and deciding that you can’t have the treatment you need to save your life and if you don’t want some government official deciding that he/she knows what’s better for your child’s health then this is not the bill for you to approve. Gender affirming care is a lifesaver for some minor children and governments need to mind their own business.

David Parker
Self
Manvel, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception. For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Michael Miller, Mr
Self
Granbury, TX

I find it is incomprehensible that our society encourages our youth to seek changing their natural gender with hormones and surgery. Undergoing this treatment will hinder their normal physical growth patterns and
inhibit the ability to function sexually. Our young people deserve to be surrounded with love and not with misguided and agenda driven council during the times of youth and immaturity.

Ray Cotton, Mr.
Self, campus minister
Garland, TX

Support for prohibitions of gender treatments on children.

Johnna Hale
Self
Canton, TX

By allowing parents to do medical or surgical procedures on children to alter their gender. Is abuse pure a simple. The parents are not happy with the gender of their child is all this boils down to. If a person can not decide what toy to play with, then they can not decide what gender they want to be. You can’t vote before the age of 18, you can’t serve in the arm services until you are 18. A person needs to make their own medical decisions that effects the rest of their life. But not before the age that they are considered a legal adult. I personally don’t believe in gender reassignment. You are what you are. There is no medical or surgical procedure that can change what you are. You will always still be a male or female inside. If you allow this next parents will be wants to change the looks of their children. Are you going to allow them to change the color of their child’s skin. If they don’t like the color of their eyes or the shape of their nose. Will you allow them to change that. Where does it stop. If you allow parents to change the gender of their child, it won’t stop there. People are no longer satisfied with what they have. They are always wanting to out do the Jones’s.
There are to many moral and ethical reasons to stop parents from doing this. And there is also the biblical side. God made a male and female for a reason. Birds, animals insects all have a male and female dna for reproduction. Please consider that parents are literally butchering their children for their own pro purposes. Not for the child’s

wes brumit
Myself
LONGVIEW, TX

I'm writing in favor of this important legislation. Children under the age of 18 should not be allowed to have gender altering surgery or be given puberty blocking drugs for the purpose of "transitioning" from the childs biological sex.

George Vachris
Vachris Campaign
Humble, TX

Comments to H.B. No. 1686 of:
George Brian Vachris, P.E.
7118 Timber Edge Lane
Humble, TX 77346-3379
I urge the adoption and a YES vote for this bill by the members of the House Committee on Public Health. Dr. Oliverson should be commended for authoring this bill.
Members should note the following facts.
1.) Sex is determined at conception by the chromosomal distribution in the zygote (new embryonic human) formed from the male and female gametes (sperm and egg). The bill correctly describes XX and XY sex chromosomes as the normal distribution, while making exceptions for true genetic abnormalities.
2.) The current fad that is running rampant in social media promotes the falsehood that sex can be changed at will by individual decision of a person, regardless of the falsehood of this claim due to the embedment of the conception chromosomes in every cell of the body. Language is supposed to mean something and there are legal dictionaries that define the meaning of words and phrases. For example, the 1990 Edition of Black's Law Dictionary only recognizes two sexes, male and female. The fad has confused sexual behavior and activity with sexual being and state of being. The fad is less than 100 years old but has increased in popularity since the drug epidemic that began in the 1960's. The bill, however, does nothing to encourage or prohibit any particular type of sexual activity, rather the bill seeks to preserve the sexual state of being of an individual during their minority when they are legally incapable of informed consent.
3.) The bill prohibits sterilization of those who are incapable of giving informed consent. It should be noted by the committee that the forced sterilization of people was considered a Crime Against Humanity by the International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg) Judgement of 1 October 1946. This was recorded on pages 495 & 496 of volume 22 of the Proceedings of the International Military Tribunal as available on-line through the Yale Law School Avalon Project. I would hope and pray that the Committee would act to prohibit the re-creation of Nazi Crimes Against Humanity in the State of Texas.
PLEASE VOTE YES for H.B. 1686.

April Dietrich
Parent
Fort Worth, TX

Keep your grubby little hands off my money and gender transitioning is in immoral in the eyes of God.

bryon sehlke
self
san antonio, TX

I am providing my support for HB 1686.

mikaela frissell
self, social worker
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the oppressive and harmful policies proposed in this bill. Please allow families and doctors to make decisions about appropriate medical care based on what is best and healthiest for their individual families and children. If this were a law, social workers and medical providers would be legally prohibited from providing the best evidence based care for their children. Children will suffer needless psychological damage. Families with trans children should not have to live under attack from their own government.

Nathanael Sprinkle
self
Richmond, TX

God has created each person special and as He intended, whether male or female. Children are gifts from God, and their parents and care-givers are to "train up children in the way they should go". So, the state should support that by making laws to protect children from the extremely harmful effects of mentally-damaging and physically-altering medicines and procedures that attempt to modify gender (which, scientifically, is impossible to do). State tax money should most definitely not be used for such medicines and procedures on anyone - especially underaged minors. Therefore, I plead with the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

James Zapata
self
Austin, TX

This bill is an insane over reach into the privacy of kids and families. I am a life long Texan who would be forced to leave the state to get my children appropriate medical care if they identfied as transgender. Why do some many of you in the government want to spend your time making life harder and more painful for vulnerable kids? Don't you have anything more important to do? My kids have nearly frozen twice in two years during power outages, yet you think this is a better use of your time than fixing the grid.

Monti Woodley
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it is unnecessary and will cause severe harm to Texans as a whole. Both and trans and cis youth utilize hormone treatments. While this bill has intentions to harms trans youth specifically, it will be harming all demographics of children. On top of that, the most effective treatment for aiding gender dysphoria is not conversion therapy or any other treatment that rejects an individual’s transgender identity. The most effective and scientifically supported treatment is transitioning and receiving gender affirming care. Rates of suicide are extremely high within the trans youth population and by removing gender affirming healthcare (again the most effective treatment for gender dysphoria) these numbers will only increase. Trans kids will kill themselves if this law is passed. There is no exaggeration in that. As a byproduct, the government in place right now will have American blood on their hands. If this does not bother you, that Texas youth will die as a result of this, then you are being complicit in the genocide of trans people. History will remember you as fascists and they will be exactly right.

Take a moment to talk to real life trans people in your life. They are not some mysterious, unfathomable entity. They are your everyday Texans, just like you and me. They want peace, life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. They want human connection and love and acceptance.

If you’re concerned about Texas youth, I would suggest redirecting your energies to making Texas schools safer for students, who should never have to fear gun violence in their place of education. I would focus on making a Texas where children of color don’t have to fear that their law enforcement will commit violence against them. I would focus my energy on insuring that no child in the state of Texas faces the tragic reality of homelessness or poverty in their lifetime.

With so much hurt in our world right now, I plead with you to not add to the adversity and violence of our Texas youth. I invite you to be a part of creating a better Texas for every single Texan in this state. Trans youth deserve the human right of becoming trans adults and living long, beautiful, and fulfilling lives. Do not strip Texans of their right to live and to live freely by passing HB1686.

Randall Singleton, MD
Self
San Antonio, TX

Harmful long term using puberty blocking drugs ; too young to make life changing decision without counciling

Miranda Hynes
Self
Austin, TX

By passing this bill, the Texas Legislator would be directly responsible for the pain and suffering of thousands of children. The medical community is absolutely clear and unified in their affirmation of both the existence of transgender people and children, and that the best way to “treat” the trans community is by allowing them access to gender-affirming healthcare when it is sought. You are not banning labia-plasty, hormone treatments, and other plastic surgeries for cisgendered people, when the technology being used for both trans and cis people is the exact same. This is clearly a direct attack on the existence of trans people. Furthermore, the incidences of people under 18 actually receiving gender-affirming healthcare is extremely low. This is not about public health or safety, this is about your own disdain and hatred for trans people, a group of people that chances are you have never had real personal interactions with. If you have ever met a trans kid, like I have, you know that there is absolutely no “confusion” about who they are, and you would also know that being able to access gender-affirming care is absolutely a positive. It is incredible to watch someone become who they truly are, to watch them grow so much more comfortable in the world, and so much happier. The incidence of suicide among trans kids is way higher than of cis kids, and it is because of the real pain that untreated gender dysphoria causes. This is not anecdotal, it is a reality affirmed by the scientific community. Look inside your hearts, and please, try and find some empathy for a group of people who is not harming you, and who already goes through unimaginable hardships. If you can’t do that, then you don’t care about children, and you don’t care about your constituency. You are only serving your own political posturing. It is absolutely disgusting and I am disgusted by every single person who is sponsoring this bill. The trans community is absolutely kind, and beautiful, and strong, and have been through enough. LEAVE THEM ALONE AND FIX OUR TERRIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE INSTEAD. That’s what would get real, long term votes, and that’s what would make Texans care about their state government. No one wants this.

Betsy Cheung, Mrs
Self
Sugar land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

These children think they want to change their gender based only on their feelings. They can feel like a monkey one day and a dinosaur the next.
It is irresponsible for “professionals” to provide so call “trans care” when they are using psychological manipulation to affirm their feelings.

Ted Mitchell
self
Votaw, TX

I strongly urge you to support this Bill, it protects young children from making decisions they cannot undo later in life.

Sabrina Acuna, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Guillermo Acuna, Mr
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

John M. Long, M D, MS, MA Bioethics
Self, Retired Pediatrician, A.A.P.
College Station, TX

As a father, grandfather, and pediatrician with over 30 years of practice in the Texas Medical Center area in Houston, I support HB 1686 in being an advocate for children and young teens. My MS in Physiology, was acquired through study under endocrine neurophysiologist and Nobel Laureate, Dr. Roger Guillemin, at Baylor College of Medicine, and I recently completed the MA in Bioethics through Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL.

The age of majority, eighteen years, is a bare minimum age to legally permit gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or treatment of puberty-blocking agents/surgical alterations for the children and early teens of Texas. Gender altering treatments are contrary to normal physiology, oppose proper medical practice when normal tissue is destroyed or normal puberty subverted, and such treatments are against the four major principles of medical bioethics. The four principles are: beneficence, nonmaleficence, autonomy, and justice. Beneficence is to do that which is good, and nonmaleficence is the admonition to not inflict harm.

Autonomy, the principle of self-rule, the ability of a person to make their own decisions, is not sufficiently developed or mature enough to permit minor children to make or have made for them, such life-altering and irreversible decisions in attempts to change their biologic sex.

Justice is subverted when children or young teens are permitted or urged to make radical decisions that have lifelong and irreversible consequences.

It is my medical and professional opinion that the majority of "gender dysphoria" present today is the result of contemporary cultural values which are projected onto our youth through social media, peer pressure, and media at large.

Respectfully,

John M. Long, M.D., FAAP, MS, MA Bioethics

Leslie Bannister
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please put and End to the chemical & physical mutilation of children using gender reassignment drugs and surgeries. It is a fact that their brains are not fully developed at these young ages and therefore are not able to make these types of permanent life decisions. As a mom 4 boys I can attest to the inability of children to make these types of decisions on behalf of there body as adolescents.
Using Government money to fund these things breaks all of my religious freedom rights in that these reassignments surgeries and tools are morally wrong and my belief system does not want to fund or encourage them.
Also in a time when the government is running out of money and inflation is rampant we should not be supporting this type of controversial policy as tax payers.

Jack Lesch, Dr.
Self, Family Physician
Dallas, TX

For passage of this bill. Scientific data accumulating more and more that procedures and treatments are harmful to adolescents seeking gender reassignment. Furthermore, most will stay with their biological sex if allowed time to mature naturally.

Tracy Shannon
MassResistance TX and Self
Kingwood, TX

I support HB 1686.

No child is born in the wrong body. Medical and surgical procedures aimed at resolving gender dysphoria or gender incongruency are not medically necessary or evidence-based. The procedures were onboarded in the USA based on the Dutch Studies without systematic review to weed out biased studies. A recent article in The Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy details the bias that exists in the studies and why the research should not be relied upon due to it not meeting the standard for "evidence-based care" which requires a systematic review. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0092623X.2022.2150346

In countries and states that have conducted a systematic review of the studies the same conclusion was reached: gender-affirming care research is not reliable. This has not stopped the proponents of pediatric gender-affirming care from claiming these procedures are life-saving and evidence-based. An article in the Journal of Sex and Marital Health published last year argued that the consent process for transition of youth is so problematic that it can no longer be considered "informed". https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0092623X.2022.2136117

Supporters of youth transitions point to the risks of taking Aspirin. Even prolonged aspirin use increases the absolute risk of severe bleeding by just 0.47% (Zheng & Roddick, Citation2019). In contrast, 100% of children will be rendered sterile if puberty is blocked at Tanner Stage 2 and followed with cross-sex hormones, as currently suggested by the Endocrine Society (Hembree et al., Citation2017). While the risks of exogenous sex hormones have been well-documented and led to a black box warning from the FDA (Jeffrey, Citation2003; Togun, Sankar, & Karaca-Mandic, Citation2022), there is now mounting evidence of the detrimental effects of puberty blockers on a range of physiological parameters (Nokoff et al., Citation2021) including bone density (Biggs, Citation2021; Klink, Caris, Heijboer, van Trotsenburg, & Rotteveel, Citation2015; Nokoff, Ma, Moreau, & Rothman, Citation2022).

The studies supporting pediatric gender transition shed subjects that might not have benefited from the procedures. In the 1990s, evidence was starting to demonstrate that gender reassignment undertaken in adulthood failed to resolve trans people’s mental health problems…. The Dutch clinicians hoped that the “less positive results among adults”…would be remedied with early adolescent gender transition. In other words, all the horrors inflicted on children are because, having discovered that adults with gender dysphoria didn’t get better with “sex change” hormones and surgery, scientists ignored the obvious, which is that gender dysphoria has nothing to do with the body and everything to do with the mind. Instead, they decided that mutilating younger children might be the answer. And based on their cherry-picked, biased, limited evidence, they sparked a First World trend.

German Amador Jr
PAVE (a non-partisan action group)
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with the highest suicide rate among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature. Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Steve Hardin, Pastor
LakePointe Church
Dallas, TX

In Favor of Passage.

EDWARD CATES
Self
Austin, TX

I would appreciate the support and passage of HB 1686.

Paul Feeser
Self
Dallas, TX

It is impossible to " transition " to the opposite sex.
The notion of "transgender" is absurd.
This is manifest reality.
The inhibition , alteration, mutilation, indoctrination, grooming and recruitment of children are entirely atrocious. When you get people to believe absurdity,
you can get them to do atrocity. These are the methods of the LGBT, whose global War on Children is being waged here at home in Texas , and across the world. And these atrocities are done to vast sums in profit for the " transgender" industrial complex. As legislators, it is in your power to put a stop to these atrocities, and if you don't use all the powers of your elected office to stop it, you are complicit in the atrocity of child abuse.

Stephanie Scherr
4306 Yoakum Ste 385 Houston TX 77006
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Margaret Lee
self/pharmacist
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Louis Minotti
Self/Engineer
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

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For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Rhonda Denman
Self
Kemp, TX

I am respectfully requesting this Bill be approved and moved forward. There are many arguments for and against medical transitioning of children but developmentally, mentally and psychologically, how equipped are children/adolescents to make this life altering, irrevocable decision? Would we allow children to make similar life altering, irrevocable decisions such as driving an automobile, engaging in the use of mood altering substances which could end in the loss of lives, or getting married in very young years? Then why would we allow children to receive transition surgeries of puberty blocking drugs, to rip their breasts out or change their genitals? Why are so many medical professionals and institutions pushing for gender transitioning surgeries and treatments? MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!!!!! Studies show that parents are feeling pushed or rushed by medical professionals to engage in treatments! Studies and interviews show that kids are totally different people mentally and psychologically as younger adults than at 12, 13, 14! Studies show major regret in younger adults who received treatment. Interviews of adults who transitioned indicate that they were pushed or encouraged by parents to be a different sex than what they were born! Children who transition will be treated for the rest of their lives with drugs to sustain the treatment. What about the long term affects of medications? There are no long term medical studies to show the long term affects of irreversible harm! What about studies to show the suicide rate or suicidal ideations or depression later in life of those who do transition treatments in childhood?

Sheryl Abrahams
Self- Parent and Community Volunteer
Houston, TX

As the parent of two children, I reject the premise that legislators are in a better position than parents or health care providers to make important health care decisions for their children. Gender-affirming care, including the use off puberty blockers, should be available to children and adults whose families have, in consultation with their health care providers, decided that such course of treatment is in their best interest. Please leave medical decisions where they belong- in the hands of parents, patients and their trusted health care professionals.

Monique Usher, Mrs.
Self
Garland, TX

Morally unacceptable.

Kebra Albrecht
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686 to protect children from life altering medications and experimental surgeries done in the name of gender affirming care. Ask yourself a few questions as you consider this bill.

1. Who financially profits from the surge in gender affirming medications (that are required for life)?
2. What are the side effects of these medications on children/teens? What happens when a teen decides to stop taking the medication?
3. Has any lobbing group provided you with statistics on complications from gender transitioning surgeries?
4. What type of person would cut off the healthy breasts of a young women? Is there a difference between removing healthy breasts and removing the clitoris of a female child (FGM)?
5. Have you googled any Detransition stories?

I have an attached some articles for your review. I hope will take time to read them. I considered the protection of children the most important thing that the legislature will take up this session.

? https://segm.org/Sweden_ends_use_of_Dutch_protocol
?
_126085438_tavistock_centre-1.jpg
NHS to close Tavistock child gender identity clinic
bbc.com

https://www.verywellhealth.com/gender-confirmation-surgery-gcs-3157235

Kelley Rumps
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support

Lucy Caire
PAVE
Houston, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Beth Moore
self
Bulverde, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson. Children and youth must be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to evaluate the serious, lifelong results of these procedures. For that matter, adults haven't even been able to fully comprehend the day-to-day implications of gender transitioning procedures.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance. When a person can no longer experience normal hormone-dependent emotions of the sex they were born NOR those of the sex they think they are—I don't know what kind of hell that must be. Not to mention the mutilation of removing healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are experimental and unproven. What IS documented is the high suicide rate of trans people—regardless of wether they are children or adults. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Sherry McKean
Self-- Self Employed
Amarillo, TX

The use of public money for children that cannot defend themselves is in of itself a grave danger to our country and the great state of Texas. We have always been leaders, I plead that you will prohibit those who wish to prey on our children and save them from these predators.... You can't imagine your constituents and the vast majority of people in Texas would ever be in favor of this horrendous "fade" that is irreversible. May God give you wisdom and great strength in the days to come.
Sherry McKean
Amarillo, Tx.

Jodie Brown
Self/Retail
San Antonio, TX

As a Texas resident and straight heterosexual male, I wholeheartedly oppose this legislation. It has been drafted with the sole purpose of discriminating against a very small but very vulnerable percentage of our state. As a child I wanted to play with G.I.Joe and Transformers. Point being, I knew what gender I was in my head. And I believe these kids do too. This law prohibits only minors who identify as trans from accessing existing drugs proven to be safe even if their personal doctor believes they would be appropriate. That is not the government's business. This is government overreach

Ori Ogebe Sheriff, MD
SELF
Cypress, TX

Good day legislators and Chair, my name is Dr. Sarah Ogebe-Sheriff. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.
I am board certified in adult, child and adolescent psychiatry; I have 13 years' experience treating children and adolescents in Texas with various mental health conditions including but not limited to ADHD, Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, Autism, Intellectual disabilities and Gender Dysphoria.
I am here on behalf of myself to support the bill S.B. 250 due to scientific and ethical concerns.

Starting with the scientific, gender dysphoria [GD], previously known as gender identity disorder, has been described in medical literature since the mid-19th century and recognized by the diagnostic manual for psychiatric disorders known as the DSM since 1980. Its prevalence in children is estimated to be < 1%. [10] However, in the last ten years, there has been a dramatic increase in this condition. As a result, it has not been well studied as research studies have not been able to catch up to determine the cause or the best treatment. One study estimates a new prevalence rate of 10% in Pittsburgh. [1] Another recent US study found that the percentage of generation Z [born 1997 to 2002] who identify as transgender has increased by 900% over the rate of generation X [born 1965–1980], who say they are transgender. [2]

This high rate of gender dysphoria has been linked to social contagion via social media influence in youth and co-occurring mental health problems, such as autism, depression, anxiety, personality disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder. [13,14,15] Also, though previously observed primarily in pre-pubertal children, most of whom resolved without counseling by adolescence, we are seeing higher rates of gender dysphoria in adolescents with no history of GD in their childhood. [6]
The few studies that show minimal improvement in depression, anxiety, and suicidal behavior after medical or surgical gender transition, have been shown to have methodological flaws, are low-quality studies or have only followed the patients from six months to a year. Many of these positive studies were performed by biased researchers motivated for the results to favor their personal and political views. [9,12]
The longer-term studies that our European colleagues have done in Sweden showed increased suicide attempts and completed suicides. This was a 30-year longitudinal study, [which means they followed these patients for 30 years.] They concluded "… surgery and hormonal therapy…are not sufficient to remedy the high rates of mental illness and mortality found among transsexual persons… Our findings suggest that sex reassignment, although alleviating gender dysphoria, may not suffice as treatment for transsexualism…" [2]
"A U.S. Medicare National Coverage Analysis (NCA) Decision Memo (2016), which reviewed this Dhejne study, stated: "we cannot exclude therapeutic interventions [i.e., transgender surgery] as a cause of the observed

Bridget Brame
self
Georgetown, TX

My family and friends are in FAVOR of this Bill passing. As you may know, emerging research documenting serious risks and irreversible side effects associated with medications used in sex reassignment procedures has led many European nations to revise their standards of care for treating children experiencing gender dysphoria to prohibit medical transitioning. Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to "Do No Harm." We are praying for you to do what is right in God's eyes.

Ori Ogebe Sheriff, MD
SELF, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST
Cypress, TX

This is a continuation of my first comment.
“A U.S. Medicare National Coverage Analysis (NCA) Decision Memo (2016), which reviewed this Dhejne study, stated: “we cannot exclude therapeutic interventions [i.e., transgender surgery] as a cause of the observed excess [mental illness] and mortality” (p. 62, emphasis added). [12]

We need to learn from the countries; the UK, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand, Finland and France who formerly supported GACT in minors and have studied it longer. They are now prioritizing mental health evaluations and psychological support and rejecting or restricting, gender affirming transition.

Ethical Concerns:

Consent: due to developmental immaturity, minors cannot consent to medical treatment until the age of 16 in Texas. Even then, parental guidance is still needed until the age of majority for those who are not intellectually and cognitively disabled.[4] There is a high rate of comorbidities, as mentioned earlier, in patients with gender dysphoria, and this affects their ability to understand the long-term side effects of hormonal treatment to give informed consent. Centuries of human experience and existing laws limit the drinking age, sexual consent age, etc. A child not legally competent to drink alcohol should not be able to reassign their gender.

Developmentally, according to Erik Erikson’s theory of development, between the ages of 12-18, youth are in the identity versus role confusion stage when they are questioning who they are, feel uncomfortable in their bodies, are easily influenced by their peers and the culture, they are experimenting with different roles. [5] The onset of social media has magnified their ability to pick up symptoms of not only gender dysphoria but also self-harming behaviors, tic disorders, and substance use, to mention a few. At the end of this stage, if successful, they will be able to accept themselves and others even when there are ideological differences, and they will also have a sense of their roles in society. For those struggling with their sexual roles, gender-affirming therapy does not help them resolve this stage of life successfully. As a result, a growing number of young adults are detransitioning. [8]
The answer is not to affirm the negative feelings but to guide them gently towards self-acceptance and to explore other areas of underlying or associated psychological distress that may be contributing to the gender dysphoria.

Karen Ho, Dr.
Self, CFP
Houston, TX

Please stop the harmful gender transitioning of children. It is causing irreparable harm to the children and our society.

Sam Jarvia
Self
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Ori Ogebe Sheriff
SELF, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST
Cypress, TX

This a continuation of my 2nd comment.
Parental concerns:
Permissive parenting is a form of parenting that sets little or no limits for the child. It is proven by research that this method of parenting does not teach them practical coping skills, such as emotion regulation, to be able to be responsible members of society. Affirming a child's desire to transition is an example of that. For example, If your child asks you for fire, would you give it to them as a parent? This is linked to the age-long ethical principle "do not harm. Since about 80-95% [11] of persons with gender dysphoria will desist and accept their biological sex by adulthood, and we cannot predict those who will persist, it is unethical to give them an experimental and dangerous treatment for what could be a temporary problem. My medical colleagues will provide details about these medications' harmful and permanent side effects.

In my experience, many parents who consent to the cross-gender transition do so because they have been counseled that it is the only way to keep their child alive. This is a form of manipulation and emotional blackmail.
We see this often in kids who threaten or attempt suicide when their parents discipline them by taking away their phones. Such children need hospitalization when necessary and therapy, including a behavior plan and not a quick return of their phones to keep them from feeling suicidal. Parents need to be educated about the scientific evidence, and full risks of these radical treatments.

The type of psychotherapy recommended for GD by psychiatric experts in the UK [NHS] and USA [including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry AACAP] is supportive, ethical and explorative. [6,7]

Thank you again for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.
References:
1. Kidd K.M., Sequeira G.M., Douglas C. et al, Prevalence of gender diverse youth in an urban school district, Pediatrics, 2021, vol 147, issue 6
2. Dhejne 2011; Sept. 2022 Institute for Research and Evaluation, Transgender research: five things every parent and policy maker should know.
3. Jones 2021; Sept. 2022 Institute for Research and Evaluation, Transgender research: five things every parent and policy maker should know.
4. https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Member_Resources/Ethics/Foundation/AACAP_Code_of_Ethical_Principles.aspx
5. https://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html
6. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [AACAP]Practice Parameter on Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Sexual Orientation, Gender Nonconformity, and Gender Discordance in Children and Adolescents
7. The NHS Ends the "Gender-Affirmative Care Model" for Youth in England. https://segm.org/England-ends-gender-affirming-care.
8. Detransition Among Transgender and Gender-Diverse People—An Increasing and Increasingly Complex Phenomenon Michael S Irwig The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Volume 107, Issue 10, October 2022, Pages e4261–e4262.

Ori Ogebe Sheriff, MD
SELF, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIST
Cypress, TX

This is a continuation of my 3rd comment.
References:
1. Kidd K.M., Sequeira G.M., Douglas C. et al, Prevalence of gender diverse youth in an urban school district, Pediatrics, 2021, vol 147, issue 6
2. Dhejne 2011; Sept. 2022 Institute for Research and Evaluation, Transgender research: five things every parent and policy maker should know.
3. Jones 2021; Sept. 2022 Institute for Research and Evaluation, Transgender research: five things every parent and policy maker should know.
4. https://www.aacap.org/aacap/Member_Resources/Ethics/Foundation/AACAP_Code_of_Ethical_Principles.aspx
5. https://www.simplypsychology.org/Erik-Erikson.html
6. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [AACAP]Practice Parameter on Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Sexual Orientation, Gender Nonconformity, and Gender Discordance in Children and Adolescents
7. The NHS Ends the "Gender-Affirmative Care Model" for Youth in England. https://segm.org/England-ends-gender-affirming-care.
8. Detransition Among Transgender and Gender-Diverse People—An Increasing and Increasingly Complex Phenomenon Michael S Irwig The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism, Volume 107, Issue 10, October 2022, Pages e4261–e4262.
9. The Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine, 2022
10. Shechner T. Gender identity disorder: a literature review from a developmental perspective. Isr J Psychiatry Relat Sci 2010;47:132-138.
11. Cohen-Kettenis PT, Delemarre-van de Waal HA, Gooren LJ. The treatment of adolescent transsexuals: changing insights. J Sexual Med 2008;5:1892–1897.
12. Sept. 2022 Institute for Research and Evaluation, Transgender research: five things every parent and policy maker should know. Page 3.
13. Parent reports of adolescents and young adults perceived to show signs of a rapid onset of gender dysphoria by Lisa Littman,Published: March 19, 2019.https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0214157
14. https://www.transgendertrend.com/autism-gender-identity-introduction/
15. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34665380/
Littman L. Individuals Treated for Gender Dysphoria with Medical and/or Surgical Transition Who Subsequently Detransitioned: A Survey of 100 Detransitioners. Arch Sex Behav. 2021 Nov;50(8):3353-3369. doi: 10.1007/s10508-021-02163-w. Epub 2021 Oct 19. PMID: 34665380; PMCID: PMC8604821.

Teresa Humphreys
PAVE
SUGAR LAND, TX

Bill number: HB 1686

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, we should not be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislatur

Quynh-Huong Nguyen
Woori Juntos
Houston, TX

TESTIFYING AGAINST BILL HOUSE BILL 1686
TESTIMONY OF QUYNH-HUONG NGUYEN
March 27, 2023
To: Rep. Stephanie Klick, Rep. Liz Campos, Rep. Nicole Collier, Rep. Jacey Jetton, Rep. Ann Johnson, Rep. Jolanda Jones, Rep. Venton Jones, Rep. Tom Oliverson, Rep. Four Price, Rep. Reggie Smith, Rep. Tony Tinderholt

My name is Quynh-Huong Nguyen, I am the Senior Communications Associate for Woori Juntos and current doctoral student.

I'm here to testify AGAINST House Bill (HB) 1686. HB1686 is a harmful and misguided attempt to restrict the healthcare options available to children experiencing gender dysphoria. Recent research has shown that transgender children, who receive gender-affirming medical treatment, have better mental health outcomes compared to those who do not. A 2020 study, published in the journal Pediatrics, found that transgender children who received puberty blockers, hormone therapy, or both had lower rates of depression and anxiety than those who did not receive these treatments. These findings underscore the importance of providing gender-affirming medical care to children who need it.

HB 1686 would effectively deny this essential medical care to transgender children, putting their health and well-being at risk. This is a clear violation of their basic rights to healthcare and equal treatment under the law. It also ignores the fact that medical treatment for gender dysphoria is widely recognized as safe and effective by medical experts and professional organizations. Furthermore, this bill is discriminatory and stigmatizes transgender individuals, sending a message that their healthcare needs are not valid. It also infringes on the rights of parents to make informed decisions regarding their children's healthcare needs.

HB 1686 is a harmful and misguided attempt to restrict the healthcare options available to children experiencing gender dysphoria. Recent research has shown that gender-affirming medical treatment is essential for the well-being of transgender children, and this bill would deny them this vital care.

I urge you to REJECT House Bill 884 and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, have access to the medical care and support they need. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Mary Aderibigbe
Self
Sugarland, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
:Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grows out of their dispnorria. Thanks

Glenna Hodge, Esq.
Self
Spicewood, TX

If 4 year olds are being taught that they can choose their own gender, and a former school teacher turned whistleblower testified in 2017 that this was happening at AISD, then we have to assume it's happening at other schools in Texas. Parents have been working hard on exposing the school corruption. A licensed psychologist, a trans man, testified before Senate Finance in 2017 that had the bathroom bill passed, his patients would not have been able to follow doctor's orders to socially transition by dressing as the opposite sex, and using opposite sex facilities. And now the TMA and TPA tell us Testimony SB 14 Senate State Affairs last week) that their standard of care for treating children with gender dysphoria, is gender affirming care only. So schools are introducing the confusion; a confused child sees a psychologist who orders the child to "socially transition," and because of the standard of care, school employees and classmates MUST go along with the lie. Imagine forcing a child to dress up in public - where it's safe for them to do so. Now try to imagine that child ever finding its way out of the cult. Some have done it. But this is definitely state sponsored child abuse from start to finish. It's hard to image how evil this is. But there is evidence to support my claims. Thank you for bringing this bill.

Monica Dean
Myself
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 - God made us perfect in His image - children are not capable of making life changing decisions under 18 especially those that will completely alter their life. Nor should our tax dollars be spent on these procedures or treatments.

Abigail Mixon
self, middle school tutor
Austin, TX

This bill is an overreach of government power. Medical decisions about a child should be between the family and a doctor. The government has no place in that. Additionally, blocking Texas kids and teens from what medical providers have deemed necessary medical care will result in higher numbers of them dying. The government should not block Texas youth from the care that medical professionals and institutions have determined is necessary and appropriate, and that their families have agreed to as being best for the youth. Intolerance and blocking transgender youth from care and freedom to express themselves is more harmful than the medications that their doctors and families sometimes deem appropriate. Additionally, children, teens, and even infants born with intersex conditions receive these same medical treatments. It makes no sense to interfere with others receiving this medical care.

Brandon Burden, Pastor
North Texas Conservatives
Melissa, TX

I fully support HB 1686. No child is born in the wrong body. We must stop this medicalization of our children and remind the healthcare community that they must do no harm. Let the kids grow!

Jacqueline Manchester
self / retired homemaker
Van Alstyne, TX

I believe this bill needs to be a law in Texas to protect children from being mutilated. We are born with our proper genes and organs (except for some terrible birth defects) and they cannot be changed by surgical procedures that maim and harm children. This is child abuse and doctors who do it should be charged with a crime against humanity. Please pass this bill to protect our children. No public money should be used to harm children.

Sarah Stockton
Self (parent, educator)
Austin, TX

Esteemed members of the committee,

I am writing to you as a mother, a Christian, a teacher, and a proud new Texan. A year ago today, my family moved to Texas seeking community and economic freedom. While we love it here, it is unfortunate that the state's leadership doesn't seem to care much about preserving freedom for families, parents, children, doctors, or teachers. HB 1686 is an example of this governmental overreach and disregard for liberty.

Even drafting and discussing HB 1686 and its companion bills is a waste of resources, given the small size of the transgender population, the rarity of gender-affirming surgeries on minors, and the extremely small regret rate for these procedures. If the sponsors of this bill were serious about focusing on family values, they may consider better uses of the state's resources than criminalizing trans youth and their parents--funding public education, public transit, the minimum wage, maternity/paternity benefits, or tax breaks for families are some examples.

I suspect that logic nor empathy will appeal to the authors of this bill, since it appears to have been written from a place of hatred, cynicism, and transphobia. The exceptions written into the bill only emphasize the hypocrisy of the whole endeavor: if bills like this are about adhering to biology, then why, under the text of the bill, will parents still be able to force sex reassignment surgeries on intersex children? These exceptions show that this bill is not about children's ability to consent, but about the State imposing its will on the bodies of children in a way that may well not align with the wills of these children, their parents, or their doctors.

We moved to Texas for the prosperity promised by a smaller government. This is not what we signed up for. I urge you to vote no on this bill, and keep families' pediatric medical decisions private.

Jill Reed
Self
Missouri City, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Sofia Sepulveda
Self, community advocate
San Antonio, TX

I am a 46 year old transgender woman in Texas and I oppose this bill.

Since I was 4 I knew my gender, despite the beating of my parents and my siblings who wanted me to not be who I truly am.

Not only did I have the trauma of brains and Denison but when puberty hit, I had to confront the horrors of a body who was changing opposite of what I knew to be true, many time I went to bed wishing to not wake up the next morning or to wake up to what you think to be normal.

At 46, I can say that this is normal, trans people have existed since humanity began and we even see it in nature. I wish we had the knowledge we have today when I was little and the access to the treatments that kids now have access to.

Healthcare in particular is difficult to access, especially in a state that is #1 in most people uninsured and most kids uninsured, why do you want to take healthcare away rather than expanding it.

You say that you care about children when in fact gun violence is the number one killer of children in America and rather than regulating them, you pass regulation you created a free for all state, this is bullying plain and simple.

Children need to feel loved and welcomed , wasn't Jesus that said " let children come to me and don't stop them as theirs is the kingdom of heaven"?

Be didn't put stipulations them who are you to make them?

We ask you again, vote no on this bill, for medical decisions should be only between patient and doctor, not the government and my providers

Carrie Kroll, Vice President Advocacy, Public Policy and Political Strategy
Texas Hospital Association
Austin, TX

The Texas Hospital Association, representing the vast majority of the more than 600 hospitals and hospital systems in Texas, respectfully submits for your consideration the following written testimony on House Bill 1686 by Rep. Tom Oliverson. We have discussed with Rep. Oliverson and members of his staff an issue related to continuity of care and outline that issue below.

THA respects the right of the Texas Legislature to establish policy that limits the right of parents to consent to the treatment of their children especially where the safety and wellbeing of the child is concerned. In this case, limiting and/or outlawing a specific type of treatment could have unintended consequences for children who are undergoing such medical treatment legally in another state but are forced to seek acute medical care in a hospital setting while in Texas.

We live in a mobile society and Texas is a popular state. Austin alone boasts 30 million domestic visitors annually. Texas hospitals are open and available to all 30 million of those visitors should they have an emergent and/or acute illness while they are in town. When a person enters a hospital for any length of time it is the standard practice of medicine to continue their normal daily medication regimen during their hospitalization. This preserves the patient's overall health and helps prevent a patient from experiencing other issues as a result of missing key medication while hospitalized. Examples include a patient with diabetes who needs to continue receiving insulin or a patient with high blood pressure who needs to continue receiving hypertension medication.

This same concept translates to children undergoing gender-affirming care. If a child, legally transitioning in their home state, visits Texas and needs to be hospitalized, the child's Texas medical provider may need to, in coordination with the child's treating physician in their home state, continue administering their medications. Abruptly discontinuing puberty suppression/blocking medications for a child undergoing gender transition could actually do harm to the child. It is our hope that this legislation, in its final form, will include language allowing physicians in a Texas hospital to continue providing a patient's prescription medication regimen in cases where discontinuing such medication would be harmful. This language will ensure that a physician and hospital in Texas can seamlessly continue care that legally started in another state without risking a violation of law.

We thank you for considering the potential unintended consequences of a prohibition on the prescribing of gender-affirming medication as it applies to an out-of-state child receiving emergent and/or acute care in a Texas hospital setting. It is of the utmost importance that we protect the health of children and not cause harm by not being able to continue their medication regimen while hospitalized. Contact: Steve Wohleb, General Counsel,swohleb@tha.org

Tomas Medina
Self, Business Systems Analyst
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Medical and psychological professionals agree that trans youth need gender affirming care in order to thrive. To proactively deprive trans children of this care is tantamount to child abuse. Trans youth are disproportionally at risk of suicide and bills such as this one, which are not based on science or medicine, will only increase that risk. My faith tells me that all of God's children deserve our love and deserve to be given the opportunity to live their best life. This proposed bill does the opposite.

Summer Crow
Self / Mom of 3 / Public School Substitute Teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I am in support of HB1686. As parents, it's heartbreaking to see our kids struggle, be unhappy or be confused or insecure in who they are and all we want in those moments is to "fix it"; to help them find peace and happiness. It's so easy to latch on to any prospect of long-term confidence and security. However, altering a body to be perceived as another gender, while the child is still a child and working out their identity, is harmful to a child long term and denies them the ability to grow up and mature and work through the hard times and then, as an adult, after SUFFERING has produced ENDURANCE and endurance has produced CHARACTER … our hope, as adults, is that they then have the HOPE needed to have faith that God made them to be exactly as He needs them for this world, for others and for his glory.

Michael Fore
Self
Heath, TX

Please pass HB1686 and stop sexual experimentation upon and exploitation of children and young people. Studies have shown that 90% of gender dysphoria resolves itself by the age of 21.
These are permanent decisions that have decades long consequences.
How in the world could tax payer funds go towards something as bizarre as permanently abusing their sexuality at a time when they are vulnerable to such influences?
Please stand up for our children and pass this bill.
Thank you so much for your time.

Patricia Oladute, Mrs
RCCG
Sugar Land, TX

Children cannot make these kind of life altering decisions and no one should be allowed to make the decision for them. These decisions are for adult individuals to make for themselves. They should also be able to pay for themselves

Patrick Wamhoff
Star Patriots
Frisco, TX

Commenting in support of this bill and banning the mutilation of children in Texas.

Duane Hufstedler
Self college adjunct instructor
Abilene, TX

I support this bill

Cathy Hertenberger
Self
Abilene, TX

I support HB 1686 by Oliverson

Lib Grimmett, Ms.
Self
Wills Point, TX

These immoral procedures are not normal & should be banned immediately!

Larry Phillips
self- retired
Whitney, TX

There are two sexes,
male or female.
Do not permit medical or educational professionals/staff to promote/provide life-altering treatments related to gender topics for youth, until their mind has matured at 26 years of age.

Denise Marsh
Self
Abilene, TX

I totally support HB 1686! Thank you for putting it forward.
Denise Marsh

Melissa Wilsony
Self
Boerne, TX

I support HB 1686.

Michelle Ferrer
self
Plano, TX

I believe gender transitioning for any person under the legal adult age should be prohibited. When the person is of legal age, he or she can make decisions about gender. Until then, no procedure should be allowed. Thank you.

Justin Meyer
Self, Pastoral Counselor
El Paso, TX

I urge the passage of this bill. Children experiencing gender dysphoria are not in a position to make a sound decision on gender reassignment. Often, their confusion is due to peer pressure, social media, and the typical struggles associated with building theiridentity in their formative years. Gender reassignment will cause more harm than good in their late teens, early twenties and well into their adulthood should they proceed with such. Please pass this bill.

Michelle Travis
Self
Frisco, TX

Please, no child is born in the wrong body. Children may suffer from identity crisis, possibly being neglected by those who should be lovingly guiding them in life. The creator of all, almighty God, does not make mistakes.

Mark Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my support for HB 1686. I strongly support HB 1686 because it will prohibit pediatric gender modification procedures including hormones, puberty blockers, and surgeries.

Thank you.

Fern Mossman
Self
PROSPER, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

Cheryl Inman
GCRW
Sherman, TX

Please protect the children and support this bill. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow. You are the voice of the innocent children. PLEASE!!!!

Berle Ice
Self
Abilene, TX

I am in full support of HB 1686. Minors should not be allowed to have those kinds of life altering procedures.

Jena Russell
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to register my support for HB 1686. I strongly support HB 1686 because it will prohibit pediatric gender modification procedures including hormones, puberty blockers, and surgeries.

Thank you.

Patricia Cummings
Self
Lorena, TX

I support HB 1686. No child under 18 should be having these procedures done. I pray that your eyes and ears will be opened to the harm these procedures are doing to the children.

Angela Claypool
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686.

Chris Claypool
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686 and would like the legislature to pass it.

Denise Hufstedler
Self retired teacher
Abilene, TX

I support this bill.

Todd Royal
Myself
McKinney, TX

Please support this bill. Thank you.

Maggie Mixon, Mrs.
N/A
Arlington, TX

I do not want BIG Government interfering with medical decisions! Medical decisions and treatment should be made by medical professionals and families NOT THE TEXAS LEGISLATORS or GOVERNMENT.
This is clearly government overreach.

Michelle Austin
Self
Lindale, TX

I support prohibiting medical procedures performed on CHILDREN for all gender mutations on these children's growing bodies. Nor should taxpayer money be used in ANY of these sexual transitions of minor children. Parents need to let the kids grow and physically and mentally. At 18, if the young adult wants to proceed, then so be it and on their personal health care plan, never the taxpayers bill ever. Thank you.

Maureen Cox
North Texas Conservatives
Dallas, TX

Please support HB 1686. Thank you!

Wade Bradford
Self, restaurant owner
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

David St Martin, Mr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Minors lack the ability to make life altering medical decisions and should be protected until age of consent when they can make their own decisions. No child is born in the wrong body, and biology fact makes clear their gender. We must prohibit the medicalization of minor children who may be subjected to influences (social media) that they are not mature enough to fully understand decision and consequences, so we must remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let children grow until they can achieve the age of consent. Gender dysphoria is still considered a mental disorder since it has the potential to inhibit wellbeing and daily functioning. Should those with mental disorders be making decisions or letting others that do not have to live with result influence them to make physical changes to their natural biology? Dysphoria is often transitional, and it is normal for many to have a brief confusion around their bodies around puberty. Time can heal or cure most without intervention. A variety of studies suggest that as many as 80% of dysphoric children could ultimately experience “desistance”—or coming to terms with their biological gender without resorting to transition. Those transition can regret the change and feel cheated that they were not protected by adults. Cited study - Steensma TD, Biemond R, de Boer F, Cohen-Kettenis PT. Desisting and persisting gender dysphoria after childhood: A qualitative follow-up study. Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry. 2011;16(4):499-516. doi:10.1177/1359104510378303.
For sure public money should not be used for personal decisions to change ones given biology.

Linda Kellogg, Mrs.
Self
Richwood, TX

I strongly support this bill and any others that protect children and use tax dollars to mutilate and alter the God Given nature of our kids.

Melinda Prestom
County Citizens Defending Freedom
Frisco, TX

I support HB 1686. No child’s gender should be altered in anyway until they become an adult and can make their own decisions

Leslie Wampler
Self/ Retired
Roxton, TX

I support HB 1686 by Oliverson.

Denise Ray
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686. Do not allow the medicalization of children with regard to gender dysphoria or reassignment. There is evidence that medically transitioning a child does not reduce the rate of suicide. As a matter of fact, it has been documented that the suicide rate increases 7-10 years following an individual's transition. We also know that an individual's brain has not fully developed until around the age of 25. Children are not capable of making these decisions or allowing others to make it for them. Additionally, the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender reassignment surgeries result in permanent and harmful side effects including gynecomastia in men, chemical sterilization, osteoporosis, pulmonary micro embolism, vaginal atrophy, risk of hypertension, diabetes, permanent loss of normal sexual function and further mental health decline. I support the prohibition of using public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments. Protect our children's bodies and minds.

Amy Gatlin
Self/ RN
Allen, TX

Are you a medical doctor? Is this your area of expertise? Have you seen the patients you would deny these interventions to? Are you a part of their care team? If not, you have not, you can't begin to decide if any patient should receive gender affirming care.

Any doctor that follows ethics would not speculate on a patient they have never seen. You are a politician and should leave medical decisions to providers and patients.

Every single professional medical association in the United States agrees that gender affirming care is acceptable health care. Please listen to the experts and stop placing your opinions and feelings above expert advice.
Trans people aren't a threat. They aren't trying to make your kids trans. Books aren't either. Teachers aren't either. Kids' cell phones pose a much greater threat with unmonitored internet.
Use your position for good. Use your voice to make Texas a state that welcomes all and embraces each person.

Cindy Fountain, Ms
TXUUJM, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry
Cleburne, TX

I strongly oppose this bill! First and foremost it violates our Texas Constitution Bill of Rights Article 1 Section 3a: EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW. "Equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged because of sex, race, color, creed, or national origin. This amendment is self-operative." This applies to every person who is a resident of Texas - every person! Transgender people deserve the very same rights and treatment as every heterosexual, homosexual, or asexual person deserves. Legislators do not get to use their personal belief systems to discriminate against others by passing laws to do so. This Constitution applies to all of us, and this bill does not pass muster. Please follow your own legislative duty of abiding by the Constitution that you swore to uphold by opposing this bill, or simply lay it to rest. Thank you!

William Kollar
Self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

Laurie Duke
self, parent
Fort Worth, TX

I am writing in opposition of HB 1686. I will never forget the joy and the anxiety that came with finding out I was pregnant with what would be our first child. Names, birthplans, and trusted doctors educated and advised us on options and what risks were involved to my advanced age/medical history. We were given choices. We were given the right to choose what procedures we wanted and what we did not. From the day our son was born we have had the right to choose whether or not he would be circumcised. Whether or not we would correct his club foot and educated on our options. We have made decisions on behalf of our children for vaccines, flu shots, medicines for sickness and how we should treat anxiety and feelings of depression. HB 1686 is categorically discriminatory and a violation of parental rights. Medical decisions are not made in a vacuum. There are standards of practice to safeguard treatments/interventions. HB 1686 is a death sentence for trans gender children. You know it. We know it. The medical profession knows it. HB 1686 must NOT pass.

Becky Green, Mrs
Self
Abilene, TX

I support the ban for gender transitioning for minors. Please vote thusly.

Brett Stetzko
Self
Howe, TX

I fully support a ban on any type of gender transition for anyone under the age of 25. I would go further in an outright ban for any age if this is possible.

Kaitlynn Lavallee
Self, Education Coordinator
Ausin, TX

I strongly oppose HB1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our community and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. Bills like these go against medical standards and May deny children of life-saving, gender affirming medical care. Furthermore, this bill will punish doctors for fulfilling their oath to provide the best-practice medical care. Gender affirming healthcare has been been widely accepted and approved by major medical organizations.

Hang Le
self
Round Rock, TX

I am in support of HB 1686. As the grandmother of two young ladies and the mother of two grown daughters, I know what it is like for children to go through adolescence and mental/physical/hormonal l changes. I do not support the radical use of medical treatment to change one's gender through social, medical, or any other means. These treatments often have permanent, lifelong, irreversible effects, and to allow minors to make such impactful decisions would be irresponsible and unconscionable.

Elise Cross
Self
Houston, TX

I ask for your support of HB 1686. Minors are not mature enough to consider the life long and life altering effects of important medical decisions, especially those that are are potentially irreversible.

Reed Bilz, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As the mother of a trans son, I urge you to vote against this discriminatory bill that is capable of doing serious, irreparable harm to vulnerable children of Texas.

Nancy Lee
self, Instructional Designer
Lewisville, TX

Children up to the age of at least 18 are not capable of understanding what gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria are and should be protected from any treatment or procedure that interferes with their growth to adulthood. This bill will prohibit procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide such treatments.

Charles Wampler
Self/Retired
Roxton, TX

I support HB 1686 by Oliverson.

Julie Rutherford
Self
Round Rock, TX

Honorable House Members
Texas House Public Health Committee
RE: HB 1686 -Support

My name is Julie Rutherford and I am a Texas Voter in House District 52. I am writing to you today in support of HB 1686 and its companion bills. These bills are critically needed in the state of Texas in order to protect the next generation of Texans from predatory malpractice and permanent long term health damage. This damage includes loss of fertility, physical mutilation, and transition, regret leading to lawsuits that will be sure to follow if these practices are allowed to continue. In the 87th legislative session under proposed HB1399, the House Public Health Committee was already provided hours of testimony laying out the need for this legislation. Dr. Alan Hopewell's testimony was especially compelling in his role as a Neuropsychologist. It has been shown in study after study that 88-90 percent of all gender questioning children resolve their gender confusion by the time they become adults when left alone to mature while being supported through proper psychological counseling. These practices are currently being banned in the UK and Sweden where they have been proven to be less than helpful. I just read an article yesterday from a Canadian doctor who founded a gender clinic in the early 2000's. She is now stating how wrong she was to prescribe puberty blockers to minors. She is now seeing the harms from such practices and regrets her decisions. https://dailycaller.com/2023/03/11/pioneer-in-child-gender-dysphoria-treatment-says-trans-medical-industry-is-harming-kids/

Over the past 4 years I have been researching the transgender movement and have discovered that its roots are not consistent with positive mental or physical health. This movement is political and does not care about the long term health of those it indoctrinates into its belief system. I have compiled an entire spreadsheet of resources showing the harms, both physically and mentally to the kids who are pulled under by the false promise that all their problems will be magically solved if they just "change their gender". The vast majority of these kids have comorbidities including ADHD, Autism, OCD, Bipolar Disorder and other mental health conditions. My daughter, and thousands like her were manipulated by the trans culture that is pervading our society at the moment. This is not just about a few trans kids that need help, this is about a SOCIAL CONTAGION that is sweeping our society. These kids need appropriate counseling and time to develop normal adult bodies. They need doctors and counselors with the character to uphold the oath the swore to "First do no Harm".

I urge you to support this bill and support the protection of vulnerable, manipulated children who need the adults to make the hard decisions where they cannot.
Sincerely,
Julie Rutherford
Voter, Texas House District 52

Jeffrey Ray
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am writing to support HB 1686. I do not support the medicalization of minors with regard to altering their gender identities through gender transitioning or reassignment. I do not support the use of public funds or assistance in order to provide these services to minors.

Rebekkah Wilson
Self, Wife, Mother, Family Physician
Waco, TX

I support HB1686, to ban gender transition for minors.

Margarete Wong
Self
Sugar Land, TX

support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

The deadline to submit a comment is the end of Monday’s committee hearing, so register your support as soon as you can!

Thank you for taking a stand for truth and for our children!

Howard Wong
Self, accountant
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

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· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Deb Spencer
Self
Boyd, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686. We must stop our children from being indoctrinated by liberal adults and mutilated by doctors. Please keep our children safe.

Allison Craig, Dr.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I'm commenting to officially register my opposition to HB1686 and am asking the committee members to vote NO on this bill. Every major medical association in the United States supports gender affirming care, and we have more important things to do in the Texas legislature than get in the way of parents and doctors. Vote NO on HB1686.

Rebekah Adams
Self
MCKINNEY, TX

As a parent and a public school employee, I do not believe that children (anyone under the age of 18) should be allowed to get surgery or hormonal treatments/puberty blockers that will interfere with their bodies natural development. Scientific studies show that these treatments do not improve the mental state of children, AND that most (80 percent or more) of individuals grow out of gender dysphoria. No public money or assistance should be allowed.

Brian Burgess, Pastor
self
Waxahachie, TX

"He that offends one of these little ones, it would have been better that a millstone were tied around his neck and he were cast into the deepest sea." Please, for the sake of the children, and for the sake of Texas, support HB1686.

Ian McPherson
We the People
Carrollton, TX

I am for this bill.

Kathryn Eader
Self/Professor
Austin, TX

I'm in full support of this bill and hope you pass it. Our children need these protections, they are too young to understand the long term ramifications of transitioning.

David Cantrell
Self
Murchison, TX

Please support this bill protecting children from dangerous and damaging gender procedures and treatments. Thank you for protecting our children’s future.

Dorothy Smith, Mrs
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

We must protect our children from those who would brainwash them into thinking that they need to be someone else and making them believe these treatments will make them happy they are too immature to make this permanent like changing decision

Donna McAleer
Precinct 61 Chair — Montgomery County
The Woodlands, TX

Please support HB 1686 preventing permanent and irreversible mutilation of children, that can’t even drive, smoke, drink alcohol, vote, or even be allowed alone into an R-rated movie. Thank you for your support.

Ellen Tanner
self/ artist
Bastrop, TX

I would like to register my strong opposition to HB 1686. This bill and others like it are acutely troubling for those of us who know and love a child caught in the crosshairs of this appallingly ignorant attack. Transgender youth should not be used as pawns in these wrongheaded attempts to legislate morality rooted in a conservative evangelical point of view. Many Texans are neither christian nor conservative and it is therefore ludicrous that everyone in the state should be required to adhere to that particular group's moral code.

Sheila Williams
Self
Hull, TX

I respectfully request you support HB 1686

Charles Williams
Self
Hull, TX

I fully support HB 1686.

Hung Le
self
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686. I do not agree with allowing minors to undergo gender modification treatment for any reason. I do not agree with the use of public money or assistance for these treatments. Please pass HB 1686.

Mary Wofford
Self
Daisetta, TX

Please support HB 1686

Marian Diop
self, operations manager
PROSPER, TX

As a parent, I fully support this bill.

mike o'donnell
Self
San Antonio, TX

Strongly support passage of HB 1686 and ardently urge the honorable committee members to vote accordingly. Thank you.

Setia Lewis
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I feel all people should be entitled to care, and should be able to make judgments on their own bodies. In the cases of minors those conversations should be had between the individual, the parents, and their medical team. The state should NOT be involved in care decisions.

I request that this legislation is opposed.

Jonathan Lance
Self
Frisco, TX

I strongly support HB1686 bill.

Janet Russo-Wallick
Self/librarian
Jersey Village, TX

I am submitting testimony in support of house bill 1686 to restrict the medical transition care of children under the age of 18 in the state of Texas. I am a transgender woman I transitioned seven years ago at the age of 39. However, I was initially diagnosed with gender identity disorder or more commonly known today as gender dysphoria at the age of 16 in 1993. My parents made the decision to not allow me to transition at that time, and as a result I lived another 23 years as a man. Now, several years after my transition, I am still content as a transgender woman, but I am against transitioning for minors.

We are told that transition regret is rare, but in truth, the studies are very poor. More importantly, we don't have information on the current demographic of children that we are talking about transitioning right now. We are told that children can make informed decisions about things like their fertility and their sexual health. Do we really believe that an 11-year-old can know that they will truly feel OK being infertile for the rest of their life.. do we really believe that an 11 year old understands that it is a possibility that they may never develop sexual function. And do we really believe that an 11 year old can understand what it means to live your life, being perceived, or attempting to be perceived as a member of the opposite sex for the rest of their life.

Most transgender adults will tell you that they wish they had been able to transition as children. I am sure that wish is genuine. However, it's a wish made with hindsight. The truth is, there is no test that will tell us which children are going to be transgender. What we know is that studies have shown that most children will grow out of their gender dysphoria, if they are allowed to develop naturally. We know that the majority of children that are put on a pathway of transition become transgender. And some try to frame that to indicate that we are doing a good job of choosing the children that are transgender. My belief is that we are just choosing which children we make transgender.

I am often accused of wanting to deny children an opportunity that was denied me. And yes, at 16 I was upset at my parents for not allowing me to transition. Now at the age of 46 I want to give children the same opportunity I had, to grow up and make an informed decision of my own. Part of the reason why I can be so confident about my decision is the fact that I actually had the opportunity to live my life as a man and now as a transgender woman. I can make the informed choice as to which feels better for me. If I never had the opportunity to grow up to be a man, I would never know if this was truly the better choice.

Edmund Lee
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support this bill because I believe children should be protected from making decisions that cannot be reversed. Without long-term data on the benefits from such procedures, this is human experimentation. Enthusiasm and feelings cannot be the basis for medical treatment.

Joy williams
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Gloria McDonald
Self - professional photographer
Bartonville, TX

I support this bill. We must protect Texas minor children from this sexual mutilation. They must be allowed to physically and mentally mature before any sex change steps are available to them. No minor child is capable is understanding the life long ramifications of attempting to change their sex. Over 90% of the time, once they reach sexual maturity they recognize the sex they were born as is what they truly are and want to be. Outside influences are pushing these young kids to question their sex in epidemic proportions. These procedures are ruining young lives forever. Please pass this bill out of committee and send to Calenders and on to a floor vote quickly.

Nannette Samuelson
Self
Granbury, TX

Please protect our innocent children from being permanently harmed by procedures and treatments to alter their biological birth sex. This is child abuse. We must rebuke this abuse of our Children. Please vote yes to pass HB 1686 to PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!

Murray Smith
Self, retired
Rusk, TX

I support this bill to stop the child abuse being conducted on and against children with gender dysphoria.

Stop the madness or you will be complicit in it!

Pamela Williamson-Wyllie, Madame
self
converse, TX

What is everyone afraid of when thinking about gender affirming care? Is cutting funds for the small percentage of transitioning minors going to impact the budget so much that this is why we have nationwide calculated a strategic attack on the trans community? Is this the interest of a small group of individuals that have never met, loved, or cared for a trans person? Instances such as intersex individuals have become the typical candidate for any type of surgeries and we see so often that the transitions that these minors are going through happen before puberty and the blockers they take are not dangerous and have been proven to be revrsible. We allow teens to take birth control and that has caused more harm to young people than any other type of hormone blockers that the trans community is taking. I know we want what's best for our kids and we are afraid that they might be making choices that will affect them permanently. We can all agree that we want to keep our most vulnerable safe at all costs. I want to bring up an example of an autistic child's will and stubborness. We are seeing children that are saying to us they are not cisgender and these same kids you can't even convince to try a different type of pean ut butter, but we won't believe that they know themselves the best of anyone? We arent forcing kids to change genders, we aren't holding their bodies hostage until they relent, we are caring for the version of their selves that they see and if we can't see it too, it's life threatening. Please use the reaources we have to focus on real protections and solutions for our kids.

Amy Custer-Ramsey
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This is extreme Government overreach. If this bill passes you are writing a death sentence for so many happy Texas kids.
Legislators should not be interfering in personal medical treatment.
Reputable medical professionals are the only ones equipped to make decisions such as these.
Please for AGAINST this bill. This is not helping anyone, but will hurt so many Texans.

Chelsea Fore
Self
Heath, TX

Pass the bill

Toni Fabry
Self/ RN and past Chairman of Frisco Tea Party
Tyler, TX

I support HB1686 which relates to prohibitions on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments to children. Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. Not to mention the monies made in treating those who develop horrible complications after having had such radical procedures

Thank You!

Sharron Albertson
Texas Life Chain
Plano, TX

Please support HB 1686 that will prohibit procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide such treatments. Those who provide healthcare must be reminded that they are to do no harm. Your support for the bill will save children from a life of regret when they realize what they have done to their bodies before they were mature enough to make this life-changing decision.

James McLean, Mr.
Retired
Lavon, TX

I strongly support this bill.
I spent my entire career in the global health care industry.
Gender transition was initiated in the Scandinavioa countries decades ago. It rapidly fell out of favor because of the extremely high number of post-transition suicides due to patient regret. Gender dysphoria is most often a mental disorder that reverses itself withing five years.
Performing gender transition on the young is beyond insane. It is child abuse of th ehighest order.

Tera Burns
Self - Commercial Real Estate
Frisco, TX

Please stop the horrific practice of gender modification (mutilation) of minors. This is a life-altering decision they can never take back and adults need to protect them from making this decision too early.

Thank you,

Maggie Wright
Self/ housewife
Burleson, TX

We need to ban gender modification on minor children! I don't want any public money going to this act of child abuse!
The Republican Party is in the majority so listen to the voters!
Thank you,
Maggie Wright

Nancy Falster, Mrs
Self/ Farmer
Winnsboro, TX

Children go through many phases, back when I was a kid, 63 years ago, they were called 'growing pains'.
Please protect children until they are young adults, at least, so they are able to process the risks and damages being foisted on them.
God does not make mistakes.
Follow the money, reject scarring kids for life.
Help them adjust and deal with the root cause of their discomfort.
BE THE ADULT.
God have mercy on the children being used as pawns in the state of Texas. God deal ever so severely with the adults abusing little children in this and every manner.

Eric Juarez
self
HIGHLANDS, TX

I support this bill!

Thomas Fabry
Grassroots America We The People
Tyler, TX

I strongly and unequivocally support all provisions proposed in HB 1686. Texas must stand for the protection of innocent children and against the evil merchants who practice mutilation and desecration of innocent children. Texas will not stand for the heinous actions who commit these acts and will hold accountable anyone who has the power to stop these practices but fails to act in children's defense.

Velvet Coberley
Self
Winnsboro, TX

Please pass this bill! It is so grievous that we need a bill to protect our children but we do. Please take a stand and do what is rightfully for our children!

Mary Ann Jackson, Mrs.
Self-Retired
Cypress, TX

I support Dr. Oliverson's HB 1686. I have been studying this issue and want our state to save our children. Children are too young to have serious irreversible procedures done on their bodies. These procedures are inhumane.

Jerry McKown, Mr.
Self- retired
Denton, TX

I favor passage of this bill.

Pamela Broce
self; real estate
Lewisville, TX

I agree with the research that these treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria have irreversible side effects and have serious risks. Therefore I would like to see prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Susan Kershaw
Self
Frisco, TX

I support HB 1686

Rhonda Anderson
Self
Longview, TX

I fully support, we must lead in saving our kids .

Judy Schockling
pave
Sugar Land, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.

Donna Hallonquist
Lone Star Republican Women
PITTSBURG, TX

WE MUST PUT A STOP TO THIS

Delaina Bishop
SELF/Parent
Austin, TX

I highly OPPOSE this bill. For a major political party to keep screaming "Parental rights" and "Parents know best"; that party sure seems to not actually believe that. Stop attacking our LGBTQ+ Texans. You are embarrassing Native and non native Texans. And creating dangerous and deadly situations for the LGBTQ+ community and their families and friends who love and support them! Hating and hurting these people is not what Jesus would do.

Danny/Marilyn Harris
self
Sanger, TX

Thank you for supporting HB1686. Mutilating children only benefits the pockets of the physicans and facilities who perform these barbaric procedures or prescribe this medication that destroys children's bodies for life. Texans do not want our innocent children exposed to this evil. It must stop now. Thanks again! Danny & Marilyn Harris

Carol Ortiz, Ms.
Self/retired
Montgomery, TX

Please oppose HB 1686 regarding treatment for gender transition. HB 1686 would ban access to life-saving healthcare for transgender youth and allows legal action against parents and providers, including the loss of physician’s license.

David Halvorson, Pastor
Self
Newark, TX

Support

Darren Nevares
Self
San Marcos, TX

Anti-trans healthcare legislation is an infringement on the fundamental human rights of transgender people. Such legislation seeks to prevent access to life-saving and life-affirming healthcare for transgender individuals, including hormone replacement therapy, therapy, and gender-affirming surgeries. These medical procedures are essential for the well-being and safety of transgender people, and any attempt to restrict their access is a clear violation of their right to health and their right to self-determination. This also infringes on the rights of the parents that fight everyday to make sure their children can have the best life possible.

Transgender individuals often face significant challenges in accessing healthcare, and anti-trans healthcare legislation only exacerbates these challenges. By restricting access to gender-affirming medical care, these laws increase the risk of mental health issues, depression, and suicide among transgender individuals. Such legislation perpetuates the stigmatization and marginalization of transgender people and sends a message that their lives and well-being are not valued or respected. It is essential to recognize and affirm the rights of transgender people to access necessary healthcare without discrimination, and to ensure that they are able to live their lives with dignity and respect.

Anthony Ford
Self
Arlington, TX

For the future of Texas and our country please support HB 1686. Help protect our children

Ellen Lott
Self
Missouri City, TX

This life changing surgery and hormone therapy should not be allowed on anyone under 18. Children are not mature enough to make these kind of decisions. They are mutilating and I am against it, especially when my tax dollars are being used.

Brenda Moss, Precinct Chair #1049
Savannah Sentinels
Savannah, TX

Please support/vote in favor of this bill.

Katherine Leach
Self/Domestic Engineer
McKinney, TX

I am in support of HB 1686 and urge you to ensure the success of this Bill and its eventual forwarding to Governor Abbott's desk to be signed into law to protect the livelihoods of children throughout the State of Texas. NO CHILD/MINOR should be subjected to this heinous physical manipulation and/or mutilation. NO CHILD/MINOR is capable of providing their informed consent as these medical treatments and/or procedures have not received adequate long-term testing/studies and are considered experimental. This goes against both the Hippocratic Oath and the Nuremburg Code. A government and their seated representatives will be judged according to the ways they treat their most vulnerable population. Please be champions for the children of Texas by supporting HB 1686. The future of Texas depends on you. Thank you.

Patricia Duncan, Mrs.
Self
Denton, TX

Any city, state or country that does not protect it’s children is doomed to fail. Failure will come by the leaders and people of authority not recognizing their responsibility is to the people that elect them and put their trust in them. Self serving interests will destroy any governmental body. This bill will focus on giving children their future and restore parental rights. A government cannot nurture a family, parents can.

Kahlilah Hammond
self
Bryan, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Heather Harris
Self
Pearland, TX

Please don’t allow biased adults make permanent changes to minor’s bodies!

Alice Barnett

Temple Emanu-El, Dallas

Dallas, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to present these comments in opposition to HB 1686.

We are Co-Chairs for Advocacy at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, a large vibrant Reform Jewish Congregation with over 2,500 families drawn from many zip codes in North Texas. We emphasize the ethical ideals of social justice to make the world a better place.

On behalf of our Congregation, we respectfully urge the Committee to vote against HB 1686.
This bill would ban certain medical treatments for minors who have gender dysphoria. We believe that the state should not insert itself between the parent, child, and doctor in determining which medical treatment would be in the child's best interest. Numerous studies have shown that children with gender dysphoria are often driven to the depths of despair and even suicide. The American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, Texas Pediatric Society, and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry all have stated that gender-affirming medical care to transgender youth should be based on the unique needs of their young patients and if such care necessitates the use of hormone blockers or other treatments, those decisions should be left to the doctors treating the child, the child's parents and the child without interference from the state.
Not all children with gender dysphoria need to be treated with puberty blockers or other hormonal treatments, but for those that do, it can be lifesaving. The Bible teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God and should thus be respected. The phrase "all human beings" includes everyone, not just cis-gendered people. A law that bans potentially lifesaving treatment is incompatible with our values of respecting each human individual as God created. Further, saving a life (in Hebrew, pikuach nefesh) is a core Jewish value. The rabbis of the Talmud tell us, "Whoever saves one life, it is as if that person saved the whole world." Treating transgender children with medications that they need saves lives.
The Texas Legislature should not interpose itself in the critical medical decisions of physicians treating children with gender dysphoria. The fact that there may be some differences among physicians on whether such gender-affirming treatments are warranted should be a red flag to our Legislators not to meddle in these difficult medical decisions. Doctors are under a duty to practice medicine based on their patient's best interest. The appropriate standard of care is based on the individual circumstances of each patient. An indiscriminate ban on gender-affirming care may be life-threatening to a child.
The bill also punishes doctors who violate this law by revoking their medical licenses and subjecting them to other legal peril. It also prohibits any public funds be expended for health coverage of these procedures. We likewise oppose these provisions of the bill.
Respectfully submitted,
Alice Barnett & Mike Sims on behalf of Temple Emanu-El

Glenn Duncan

Self

Denton, TX

Any city, state or country that does not protect it's children is doomed to fail. Failure will come by the leaders and people of authority not recognizing their responsibility is to the people that elect them and put their trust in them. Self serving interests will destroy any governmental body. This bill will focus on giving children their future and restore parental rights. A government cannot nurture a family, parents can.

Aether Dixon
Self
Austin, TX

Hi my name’s Aether, I live in Austin but all of my transition happened in Oklahoma.

I was 12 when I first learned about what being trans was. At first my feelings were towards a rejection of gender roles. I identified as gender-fuild and had very real gender dysphoria and body dysmorphia. I went off a wave from feeling like I had to be over feminine to compensate for the rest of my "ungirly" interest to a community that loved and accepted me for who I was. I came out to a family who was abusive and unaccepting in many ways.

Within hours of telling them and asking them not to share with anyone I was outted by my biological mother and sister.
My life became protecting the identity I had formed.

Less than a year of being trans, after back lash from my fuild identity- my ideals shifted to only being a man.
Which at the time was not a wrong for me, and many trans people can say they went though a similar process to find what was "right".

All my "non-traditional" hobbies and interests all fell in line with me being a boy. My feelings deep down aligned with me being a man.

I lived as this for a few years, having my family "accept" me but show backlash to anything that's not socially acceptable to do as a man.

At 16 I saw an affirming only gender therapist who also identified as trans. Nothing about my gender identity was ever questioned.

I started cross sex hormones 2 months after turning 17. My only informed consent was my doctor asking if I new the effects of testosterone. I was not shown how to inject and given the drug the same day. I took my first shot of T in a parking lot subcutaneous with a needle 2-3 times the size it should have been , having my parent there belittling me because I was scared of the needle.

I took testosterone for over two years and grew up and Iived as a man for almost half my life.

Despite stopping picking my T up nearly a year ago I was still sent the script for countless months after I stopped communicating and going to appointments with my doctor.

I detransisoned as a process, never fully letting myself process it as such.

I am the same person who fought for years to be taken seriously as a man. I am the same person who fought for years to be put on hormones and begged from 13 to be on hormone blockers.

I did not know what the full effects of steroids were going to be on my body. I don't think the doctor who prescribed it, or my parent who let me be on it did. My therapist only followed what I told them.

I needed exploratory therapy, what is marked as "conversion therapy." To explore my childhood sexual trauma and all the other traumas that in a very real way made was in the wrong body. I only began unpacking why I felt trans after realizing it was a validation I grew to need from everyone else, and less for myself as I transitioned and grew up.

I am for this bill under the prefix we have therapeutic support for these kids and the adults they become.

Lois McDougall
Self (Retired)
Little Elm, TX

I am opposed to procedures and treatments to children under the age of 18 and the use of public money or public assistance thereto. Children should be protected from procedures that can destroy young lives and are often irreversible and costly. When children arrive at adulthood, they can make an informed decision for themselves.

Cindy Laird, Mrs.
Self
Tyler, TX

This bill protects children from the worst kind of child abuse!

Leah Barton
Self
Houston, TX

Texas children, parents, and doctors should have access to medical care as recommended by the American Medical Association and American Academy of Pediatrics. This bill would deny families and doctors access to medical care, leading to poor health outcomes and an increase in already-high suicide rates of transgender youth.

This bill would cause families and doctors to leave the state, cause families, businesses and doctors to hesitate to move to the state, and weaken and distract healthcare institutions through fear of loss of funding and being required to operate contrary to medical best practice.

There are plenty of ways the legislature could work to improve Texans' lives. Denying lifesaving medical care and attacking transgender youth, families, their doctors, and healthcare institutions does the opposite. Texas should stand for freedom - not persecution. I strongly oppose HB 1686.

Jeramy Nowlin
self
McKinney, TX

I DO NOT support any procedure or treatment regarding changing/ altering gender of any child (person under the age of 18) regardless of who pays for it. Furthermore, these procedures should never be paid for with public money regardless of the age of the person. To do this to a child should be a crime with required prison time. Thank you for your time.

Gary Kyle
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Esther Brumit
Self
Denison, TX

I support this bill to protect our children.

Joseph Murphy
myself
Fredericksburg, TX

Chair Klick and all committee members, I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you.

My name is Joseph Murphy. I live in Fredericksburg, Texas. I am a retired public-school teacher.

I am testifying in support of HB 1686. First of all, those who are out there "selling" the idea to youngsters or adults that they can change their gender are committing fraud. It is impossible to change your gender. One can change their apparel. One can take drugs. One can have surgeries. One can go to counseling. None of this actually changes their gender. Why is anybody allowed to "sell" the idea that you can? There are people making a great deal of money by perpetrating this fraud. They are "selling" a lifetime of drugs, surgeries, and counselling. If an adult wants to believe this fantasy, that is their business, I have no comment. But the intentional misguidance of easily influenced youth is indeed criminal. The damage that is being done is cruel and inhumane.

There are some who will tell you that they have had all this done and are happy with the results. Maybe, but I fear that growing old will not be kind to them. I have seen some who have lived through these procedures, only to be cursed for the rest of their lives with bodies that will never function normally. This kind of risk is far too great to be allowed.

I also know that some will tell you that these human experiments will prevent suicide. While that could be true, unfortunately there are those that go through this process and commit suicide anyway because their real problems were not addressed. It didn't work out like they were told. Frankly, if they are of a mind to commit suicide then that is a different problem that needs to be dealt with in a different way.

We do not recommend that children be allowed to smoke and drink. That is done to hopefully protect them from the damage that these items can cause as they get older. We do not recommend that children be allowed to drive a car. That is done because they lack the maturity to handle an automobile that can easily become deadly.

It is ludicrous to allow these procedures to go forward based on the indoctrinated imagination of a child. Young people do need to be listened to, but to help them confront their personal challenges and deal with them. They should learn to turn to those who love them, a parent, an older sibling, a close relative, not a person with cultural agendas or profit motives.

Those that are promoting gender modification treatment are not acting in the best interest of the children of Texas. Put a stop to it by passing HB 1686. Thank you.

Vickie Dillow
myself
Waxahachie, TX

I encourage all members of the Public Health Committee to vote YES to this bill. It is a strong, necessary bill to protect the young among us who rely on the adults to protect them. Our children don't have a clue about life, let alone be able to make lifelong, irreversible decisions with numerous serious consequences. This is an evil, wicked thing to do to a child and not only do we need to prohibit this action but anyone caught performing any procedure or treatment should face life imprisonment, without parole. We need to send a firm, clear message communicating this is inexcusable and in Texas it will absolutely not be permitted. We must be recognized as a state where the health and safety of our children are protected. This bill is a definite step toward that goal and with companion bill SB14 passed out of committee, the House Public Health committee can make a clear statement of agreement.

Margie Benton, Ms.
Self Retired
El Paso, TX

Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

Debbie Lindstrom
self - business owner
McKinney, TX

I support the HB 1686.

Children's brains have not been fully formed -- not until early 20s. They should not be making such life altering decisions, as a minor. Nor should any adult encourage such a decision. No child is born in the wrong body.

I am asking you to please support HB 1686. We must prohibit this type of medicalization of minor children and prevent any healthcare establishment pushing these surgeries from performing them on minors.

Respectfully,
Debbie Lindstrom

Mary Mabry
Self
Spring, TX

Please oppose this bill which intrudes in the patient-doctor relationship and invades privacy. It distracts from the actual business of governing our state and wanders into families’ private medical decisions. Gender transitioning is not the state’s business. Our economy, our immigration crisis, our education system, our uninsured….please stay focused on non-culture war governance. This bill is wrong and a waste of legislative time.

Jean Bergenthal
Self
Frisco, TX

I strongly oppose any public money or public assistance for such treatments for gender transitioning, assignment, etc. enough is enough! God assigned our identity at birth!

Gary Alford
Self
Denton, TX

I support this bill

Jennifer Stanley, Esq.
Self - Attorney, Employee Benefits Law
Frisco, TX

Dr. Oliverson. You have my support.

John Rutkowski
Self
Haskell, TX

I am vehemently opposed to this allowing anyone under the age of 18 to have a sex change! What is wrong with this society?

Kelli Killion
Self - public high school teacher
Plano, TX

Gender affirming healthcare has saved the lives of children I know personally. These anti-trans bills will kill young Texans. By telling their doctors and parents that you, legislators, know better than multiple medical professional bodies and their parents goes against the “parents rights” you so desperately want restored—that were never taken away in the first place.

Please make decisions based on FACTS and DATA, rather than your FEELINGS and religious beliefs. Vote No.

Here is a link to all major medical associations that back gender affirming care in the US. Politicians aren’t medical experts. They shouldn’t stand in the way of a person getting medical care.
https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/

Richard Geoffroy, Resident
Self
Austin, TX

In favor of passing

Martha Pearson
self
FORNEY, TX

I strongly urge you to fully support this bill. Children should NEVER be put in a position of making or allowing permanent changes to their bodies, nor should adults ever be allowed to abuse children in that way! We're already seeing the sad consequences of allowing or encouraging confusion and changes regarding a minor's biological sex. Depression, suicidal ideation and suicide are increasing exponentially among both minors and adults who have been affected by these procedures as well as the accompanying philosophies. Please act to protect our children against such damaging actions!

Alice Kimes, Mrs
Children
Spring, TX

I support this bill

Heather Gall
North Texas Conservatives
Frisco, TX

I support this bill. Please vote in favor of this.

Daniel Resley, Me.
Republican Party, CCDF, Mom’s For Liberty
Corpus Christi, TX

I noticed a few “Republicans” haven’t signed onto this bill yet. Including my own District 32! I can’t possibly imagine who in their right mind wouldn’t sign on in support of this bill.

Otu Udoudo
Self
Missouri City, TX

I1) I support this bill to prohibit ALL procedures and treatments related to chemical castration, administration of hormones, surgery for the purpose of gender transitioning, gender reassignment or dysphoria to a Minor

Julie Anschutz
Self
allen, TX

Please support this bill as I do.
Protect our children who are not able to protect themselves.
Sincerely
Julie Anschutz

Hannah Berg
self; dental hygienist
Frisco, TX

Protect children from traumatic and irreversible medical treatments of gender transitioning! These children deserve every chance to grow and mature to adulthood, not to reinforce "something is wrong with them"; we can do better to give them the mental health support needed until they reach an appropriate age of decision making.

Mike Olcott, Dr
Self Biochemist
Aledo, TX

I support this bill. Any procedure that attempts to alter the gender of a child is nothing more than child abuse and should never be allowed to happen in Texas!

Beth Abel
True Texas Project
Austin, TX

I oppose the Gender Modification of Minor children - As a 40 year professional clinical therapist with children, youth and their families, and as a parent and grandparent, HB1686 is needed desperately to protect children and their families from the over reach of the medical/healthcare industry. When a minor is undergoing emotional and psychological confusion, at the very minimum, the family needs time to problem solve . Healthcare and mental health care professionals should respect this problem solving and decision making process with ethical principles that honor the family decision making. Legislation that does not allow gender modification to minors gives that protection from the healthcare/pharma industry that is too quick to take over the family's place. Public money should not be use for these gender modifying procedures even when the minor has no family to assist in the medical decision making.

Karen Gollaher, Dr.
Self
Missouri City, TX

I support this bill as children are not able to fully understand the long term impact of choices with gender transition. Children”s brain are developing and not capable of these decisions until much older. They are easily influenced by others who may try to sway their thinking’s. We block children getting access to nicotine, accessing vape, and accessing alcohol. Why would we allow them to access hormones or have surgery that result in long term physical change? Other countries are banning these procedures fo minors. Why would Texas even consider it? Please pass this law and protect children from lobbyists who seek to harm them. For these reasons, I beg you to vote fo this bill.

Tracy Boggs, Mr
Self
Poolville, TX

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Andrew Eller
Republican Party of Texas, State Republican Executive Committee SD24, Self
Temple, TX

I am in favor of this bill. We must stop gender mutilation of our children. Please vote YES in this bill.

Frank Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

Procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria should not be paid with public money or assistance. I support this bill.

Jane Bronstad
Self
Sherman, TX

FOR

Lee Lester, Mr.
Republican Party of Harrison County
Longview, TX

We must pass this bill without weakening it.

Ryan Walker
Self
Austin, TX

This bill would deny live-saving medical treatment to vulnerable Texans. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1686.

Ben Brown
Self
Fairview, TX

HB1686- I am "For" HB1686 to protect Texas children from these life-changing, unnecessary medical procedures. After children become adults, they can then determine if these medical procedures are necessary.

Beverly Roberts
Republican Party of Texas
Houston, TX

The assault on children is unconscionable! Destroying a child's body and fertility to alleviate emotional or mental distress is the ultimate child abuse. I implore you to support this common sense bill to protect children from dangerous medical malpractice.

Ming Roberson
Grassroots America We The People
Flint, TX

I think the Liberals should be ashamed of themselves. What are you going to say to these children when they grow up and come to see you, because they realize that you destroyed their life. Children do not have the ability to make these monumental decisions at a young age. What you are doing to our children is horrendous.

Audrey McCann
Self - branding specialist
Austin, TX

I am in seminary to be a minister and planning my life for motherhood one day soon. I say this to emphasize my concern for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual safety of children. The idea of denying a child health and safety for who they truly are is unacceptable. A child has no choice on who they are — this is God's decision and a human has no right to disagree. Trans children are sacred blessings, just like any other children, and they deserve access to safe, age-appropriate healthcare that all major public pediatric health organizations have approved as safe and necessary. These procedures are proven to save lives and greatly diminish the level of suicidal thoughts that these kids experience. Securing access to this healthcare is securing the ability for these children to make it to adulthood. The future of Texas belongs to the children — not just to SOME children. It is our duty as the adults with voting power to protect them, not intentionally harm them in every way possible. I pray for these children and their families, and I pray for our legislators' hearts to open up to loving and protecting trans youth. Please vote NO on this bill and give our Texan children access to a healthy and vibrant future.

JAYANT VEDANAYGAM
INDIVIDUAL
STAFFORD, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Frank Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

We have a loving obligation and a responsibility to children to guarantee them with the opportunity and right to grow to an adult before anyone passes judgement on who they are. I support this bill. Affirmative Care Harms Children and Teens. There are many studies that prove this and many countries that recognize this as the truth.

https://www.theparadoxinstitute.com/print/pamphlets/myths-of-gender-affirming-care

Studies have shown that adolescents with gender dysphoria have at least one type of psychiatric comorbidity. “Gender Affirming Care” ignores many of these contributing factors to gender dysphoria, such as:

Anxiety disorders
Mood disorders
Depression
Eating disorders
Autism spectrum disorders
Dissociative identity disorders
Substance abuse
Childhood trauma

Affirmative Care Harms Children and Teens
Comprehensive studies show “affirmative care” is not safe and effective despite being seen by proponents as a cure to gender dysphoria.

Many homosexual or gender nonconforming teens may confuse their anxiety disorders, eating disorders, autism spectrum disorders, or childhood trauma with gender incongruity and dysphoria.

James B Ransdell
self
Seguin, TX

Please pass this bill! Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse.

Kathy Burden, Chaplain
NTX Conservatives
Frisco, TX

I am completely against using tax payers money for child gender modification

PATRICIA BARRETT
self Speech Language Pathologist retired
HOUSTON, TX

I spent my life working with children and adults with real disabilities, including many years working with young people with autism. I know that those with high functioniing autism, which is greatly on the rise, are more vulnerable to the messages being given even our youngest children that lead them to falsely think their bodies are not what they should be. As they look for acceptance, both peers and adults egg them on, congratulatiing them as they enter a pathway that will change their bodies forever. This must stop! Sadly, the process means big money to the system that provides this "care".

Pamela Hatch
Self/Retired
Frisco, TX

I wholly support this bill. I agree that gender modification treatments SHOULD NOT be allowed to a person younger than 18 years of age. Thank you for wrestling with this thorny issue and bringing this bill forth to protect our children.

Cathy Greenall
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please consider passing this bill to protect children. Adults can make their decision but children need to be protect from mutilating their bodies until they are adults.

Wanda Ulrey
self
Victoria, TX

Vote Yes for HB 1686 and support this bill. No child is born in the wrong body! No more child abuse to Texas children!

Brenda Brooks
Family
Inez, TX

Please support this bill to ban child gender modification. Please protect our children and allow them to grow in the bodies. God gave them.

Tamara Graff
Self
Victoria, TX

I do no support the public money for provision of procedures and provision for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.

Kate Embrey
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Please pass this bill to prohibit the provision of certain procedures and treatments done to children for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public moeny or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.
This is child abuse in one of its worst forms. Children need to be children and don't need to be subjected to such decisions of life altering decisions or be forced to receive such procedures or treatments.

Angie Alonzo, Ms
Myself
Victoria, TX

No child is born in the wrong body, let the children grow and protect them!!

Janis Holt
State Republican Executive Committee Senate District 3
Silsbee, TX

I fully support this bill because we must stand up and protect children from this mutilation. Additionally, I do not want our tax money going to provide these procedures and/or treatments. Please support this bill. Thank you.

Sandra Ruiz, Ms.
Self
Victoria, TX

I strongly agree that this bill should be passed

Patricia Teinert, Ms.
Self
Victoria, TX

Please support this bill. We must protect children!!

Phyllis Mason
Myself
Frisco, TX

Please stop the mutilation of our children

Tamara Thigpen
Denton county conservatives coslition
Highland Village, TX

FOR!!!

Kathleen Hayes
Self
Houston, TX

I completely support HB1686 . It is my personal opinion that no public funds should be used in the procedures and treatment of gender transitioning for minors.

Heather LaGuire, Mrs.
Home
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. It is never wrong to protect children from deception and money-hungry industries. It is never wrong to outlaw pure evil. Please look into the evidence of ruined lives resulting from these types of surgeries. Please be strong and courageous and remember you WILL stand before God someday and answer for your actions.

Laura Giles
Self
Lucas, TX

I am FOR this bill. God does not make mistakes. Children are too young and are know to have undeveloped brains and should not be permitted to be making body mutilation. These changes are forever and so many regret the changes after.

Zachary Stockton
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HR 1686. This bill takes important medical decisions away from children, their parents, and their doctors. Instead, it places those decisions in the hands of non-medical politicians and the state. This is a purely political act that will harm children and families.

Marilyn Herring
No organization
Victoria, TX

I support HB 1686 to prohibit gender transition of children and the use of public money to support these procedures !!!

Gene Smithwick
self
Weatherford, TX

I vote for HB 1686

Martha Page, Mrs.
School teacher
New Braunfels, TX

Children can not consent to permanent changes

Charles Wampler
Self, Engineer
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686 by Oliverson.

kristen foster
self
round rock, TX

gender modification for minors should be illegal because they are not mentally or emotionally ready to able to make the decisions that could impact them negatively for the rest of their life.

Daphne Brown
Self
El Paso, TX

Protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries.

Shelly Brown
N/A
Victoria, TX

FOR the Bill

Fran Rhodes, President
True Texas Project
Ft Worth, TX

I am President of True Texas Project, representing 20 active grassroots groups in approximately 35 different counties in Texas. Stopping the mutilation of children for the purpose of gender transition is our top legislative priority and was also a top priority last session. We find it appalling and amazing that we have to have this conversation in a legislative hearing because it is so heinous and we believe it is child abuse. When adults want to mutilate themselves, that's on them, but when adults do it to children, that's on the public. Child abuse cannot be sanctioned, and this practice of permanently altering small healthy bodies with either surgery or chemicals is most definitely child abuse. There are no long term studies on the subject, and people who practice gender transitioning for children are making money off of it. This Committee must pass the bill and then pass it in the House and Senate to stop this ridiculous notion that girls can become boys and boys can become girls just because someone says so. We would not cut out the eyes of a child who decided he would feel better as a blind person, so how can we justify cutting off body parts for a child who thinks he's the opposite gender. Gender is a biological fact, not a state of mind.

Cynthia Seamans
Self / retired
Victoria, TX

A child cannot possibly understand the threats and ramifications these procedures and treatments can cause and/or trigger in their lifespan and health. And no one can make these decisions for them.

Lauren Flake
Self admin assistant
Victoria, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow

Sandra Ann Clark
Self Housewife
Victoria, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! We must prohibit the medicalization of children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let the children grow.

Cassandra Hulsey
Self, School Psychologist
Round Rock, TX

There is already a standard of care for children/individuals experiencing gender dysphoria that is research-based and approved by all medical professional organizations. This standard of care includes extensive requirements for the child to receive counseling with a mental health professional as well as several other steps to ensure the child is making the appropriate choice for themselves. Because this process is so exhaustive and takes time, it is actually very rare for a child under 18 to arrive at the point of actual gender reassignment. This bill is morality policing and fear-mongering. Data does not support the need for this ban on life-saving care. There is absolutely no need for government interference in the lives and bodies of any individual in this country. Medical care is between an individual, parent of minor children, and their doctor--not the government.

Heather Misener
My self
Tivoli, TX

I am strongly against gender reassignment or any of the like with any public money. Thank you

Jade Manning, Mrs
Self
Victoria, TX

Stop gender surgeries!!

Kathy Welch, Retired
Self
North Zulch, TX

We the people are not and should not enter in any form of gender reassignment nor government funds be used for children of any kind . I pray God be with you in this decision

Deborah Newman, Dr.
Self
DALLAS, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children under 18 should not make decisions to alter their bodies for a lifetime. They need to become adults before they can make this decision, otherwise it is their parent's or other adults who are making the decision for them. We need to protect children from a surgery like this as we do for drinking, driving etc. Adult male brains are not fully developed until age 25. This biology is important. Please pass this bill to protect children.

Kim Taylor
Self. Realtor
Roanoke, TX

In favor. Stop this!

Nathan Roberts
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this Bill. Anything short of passing this bill is criminal.

Robert Thompson
Self
Victoria, TX

I believe that there is a God and he is our creator. I believe that if He can create such a complex being, the human body, and cause is to function. To cause our bodies to operate with its many systems and processes, He did not make a mistake and put the wrong gender into the wrong body. We are born male and female, by Gods design. Our creator placed us, male and female in the body that was designed for us. Mortal man in all his wisdom cannot compare to the wisdom and knowledge of God our Creator. Knowing that I disagree that any person should have the right to determine the gender of another to be different than how they were born. I support this bill that would stop such actions from taking place.

Christopher McConn
Self-consulting
Houston, TX

I support this bill. No child is born in the wrong body.

William Gattis, Mr.
Self and Recover America
Houston, TX

I support this bill to prohibit the "mutilation of children for profit" industry and irresponsible parents from destroying the lives of childen via any means of "transitioning". It is un-Godly. Please pass this bill out of Committee. Thank you.

Mary Gagnon
self
Corpus Christi, TX

I strongly urge you to pass HB 1686. Surgical and/or chemical treatment of children for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria is child abuse. The definition of dysphoria is defined as a "state of dissatisfaction, anxiety, restlessness, or fidgeting" (Dictionary.com). The hugely invasive surgical and/or chemical treatment of children with what's termed "gender dysphoria" may result in permanent infertility and other physical, cognitive, and emotional problems. The vast majority of children outgrow their gender dysphoria. Often the children that are diagnosed with gender dysphoria are on the autism spectrum. Some are influenced by social media and peers or have experienced childhood physical, sexual, or emotional abuse and neglect. The surgical and chemical treatments bring an incredible amount of money to the doctors and pharmaceutical companies involved. This lucrative business puts money before children. Please pass HB 1686 to help protect children from the horrors of surgical and/or chemical treatments that are encouraged often without the knowledge of their parents.

Eric Kunish
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Austin, TX

I am against this bill because it limits health choices of the person, family, and provider. It also is imposed by the state.

Yolanda Cuellar, Mrs
Self
Victoria, TX

No child is born and n the wrong body

Michelle Pearson, Mrs.
self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill, HB1686 by Rep tom Oliverson to prohibit procedures for gender transitioning and the use of public money for these procedures. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow. It is not fair for these children to undergo these dangerous procedures when they are minors and can not fully understand and foresee the ramifications and long-lasting impacts this has on the rest of their life.

Lorri Haden, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

Stop the hate. Stop the shameful persecution of trans people and their families and medical professionals. Stop the overreach, bigotry and attempted distraction from the real problems facing this state, like the looming climate crisis. Vote NO on HB1686.

Nusly Powaser, Mrs.
Self
Victoria, TX

While adults may be able to make decisions about gender identity, preteen and teenage individuals do not have the maturity, experience or knowledge to make such life-changing decisions. Therefore, these changes should be reserved to adults, and thus the procedures and funding for such procedures should not be available to those who have not yet reached adulthood.

Suzanne Gilbert
self
Lantana, TX

This bill is common sense and humane. A civilized society must protect all children from what is a politicized and radically cruel procedure with irreversible and dire consequences. Most certainly tax payers should not be forced into complicity via funding this blatantly barbarous child abuse.

Randi Horne
self, retired
Weatherford, TX

Children should be protected from irreversible actions taken before they can comprehend the results. In particular, gender transitioning and reassignment often results in sterilization. Forced sterilization of children with psychological problems is barbaric, is violent child abuse, and should be made illegal.

Sarah Macks
Self
Normangee, TX

I do not vote for this to take place. They have there own rights as humans and cannot speak for themselves in an educated mature way to make a lucid decision.

Elizabeth Biar
Self
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. I support HB 1686. Protect our children!

Nancy Hulsey
self - donor manager for non-profit
Dallas, TX

I am firmly in favor of this bill's passage. I do not think anyone - the minor himself, parent, medical professionals or the state - should authorize the use of or use puberty blockers or surgery to treat a minor who presents himself/herself for gender dysphoria. This person is a minor and attempts to change his or her gender should not be attended until he/she has reached a legal age of consent.

Jamie Stoilis
Self
Victoria, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children. Please remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow

Ally Raskin
self
Dallas, TX

No child should ever be modified, surgically or chemically... period. This is child abuse, plain and simple. A child has no idea what they are going to want as an adult.

Albert Carnes
Self, retired
Fairview, TX

A yes vote for HB 1686 should be a "no-brainer." It is unfortunate and ungodly that such a bill is even needed, but needed it is. Please vote YES and send this bill to the House floor with the strongest possible recommendation that it be passed. Thank you, Al Carnes

Monica Thompson
Self, preschool teacher
Victoria, TX

We need to stop this gender changing in children. They are not old enough to make these decisions for themselves

John Wertz, Mr.
Self
Spring, TX

FOR HB 1686

Donald Whyman, Mr
Self
Victoria, TX

We know that God does NOT allow a child to be born into the wrong body. I strongly oppose any bill that recognize such absurdities and pray that our lawmakers use common sense and disallowed any actions in favor of child abuse or body mutilation. Thousands of other Victoria Texans, feel the same.
Please honor the will of your constituents and don't be swayed by the woke mob. We are counting on you.
Thank you !

Richie Grant
Arklatex Assessment
Texarkana, TX

As a 30 year veteran in the mental health field, n educator and the sister of a gay man. I want to give my whole hearted endorsement of this bill. These are mutilation procedures meant to make hospitals big money. Kids do NOT know what they want to be or do. Some want to be cats or unicorns. They are easily manipulated by adults because of their desire for approval.

Drugs and surgical procedures have massive and often irreversible consequences .

Early so called interventions often lead to total body issues. Biological hormones are needed before development of even some mental can be complete at age 26. The prefrontal cortex which aids in decision making is not complete.

No matter the emotional pleas. Of people begging for their child..yes CHILD this practice is barbaric at best.

Matthew Long
Self
Weatherford, TX

As a father of 7, I find myself shocked that we would need legislation like this in order to protect our children. Alas, this is the world we find ourselves in. I am in full support of HB 1686 in order to protect the health and future of our children.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Long

Noelle McSherry
Self / Graduate student
HOUSTON, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Gender dysphoria is real. Decisions regarding medical care and treatment should be between parent, child and physician. Lawmakers are not physicians and should not be deciding courses of medical care. If this bill passes, you will be requiring doctors to break their Hippocratic oath. Furthermore, there is already a lack of medical care in many areas of Texas. If doctors fear that their licenses will be stripped from them, they will move their practices out of the state. A lack of doctors harms everyone, not just trans children.

This bill causes great harm by wanting to deny access to medical services people need to be a happy, healthy and productive. It takes away the rights of parents to make the best decisions for their children. This bill neither protects children nor supports parental rights, two items I thought many of the representatives on this committee were committed to.

Stop this ugly bill here.

Valerie Johnson
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Houston Pitts
TEXIT
Lindale, TX

Protecting and guiding children in the difficult development ages is a paramount part of being a parent. Children will struggle with identity issues all through this time, but permitting a child to permanently modify their bodies during this uncertain time is at the least criminal negligence. I am all for adults having the personal freedoms of their bodies and the consequences that accompany such choices; but there is a reason why a minor can not legally be held responsible for the terms of a contract they signed, regardless of how they were feeling when they signed said contract.

Amy Duffley, Mrs
Self
Victoria, TX

No child should have the right to make a decision to medically change their body in any way to a different gender…not by their own approval or the permission of a parent or guardian. The extreme and potential repercussions to their physical and mental health are in the balance. Their emotions are unstable at young ages and even as adults …to make decisions of this extreme.

Andrew McConn
Self
Houston, TX

I am for HB 1686. Children must be allowed to develop before taking drastic medical interventions in the name of unrigorous “identity” science.

Henry Dietz
self / retired
Austin, TX

I am Henry Dietz, lifelong Texan, retired. I am against HB 1686.

Our family has a transgender child. The realization that one is transgender is not quick, not easy to get to. It comes to involve the entire family. It requires many hours of thinking and talking. Lots of tears. Telling the family you're trans takes a whole lot of courage. Even more courage to tell the rest of the world. And then live there.

My family is not like the one i grew up in, but it is OUR family; we love and support each other. And we get to go on a journey with more happiness than we ever imagined.

HB 1686 blocks the journey for families and attacks the limited help they can find. It does not keep a child from "becoming" transgender. It does not change the unhappiness and alienation the child feels. It tells them they are broken, unworthy. And it drives away help for the child and the family.

There is no "Parental Choice" in HB 1686. All it does is punish kids that already have an incredibly hard road to finding happiness. Please kill this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Morgan Mohr
KD Oilfield Services
Fulshear, TX

I wish to voice my Christian belief that this is not moral or proper to use public involvement whatsoever

larry andrews
self - Pastor
Blanco, TX

support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

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· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Phillip Granderson
Self
Dallas, TX

I agree with this bill. Gender dysphoria has always been a mental disorder. I don’t think mutilating someone is going to help that disorder, but in time only make it worse.
I’ve read where hospitals make a lot of money on these procedures. They should be held to account.

Carla Birk
self
Tomball, TX

I am writing in support of HB 1686. Children with gender dysphoria should receive mental health evaluation and treatment. They should not be subject to permanent, body altering medications or procedures. This practice has not been studied for long term effects.

Emerging research documenting serious risks and irreversible side effects associated with medications used in sex reassignment procedures has led many European nations to revise their standards of care for treating children experiencing gender dysphoria to prohibit medical transitioning.

Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to “Do No Harm.”

Terry McDonald
Self - Retired
Hewitt, TX

Please support this bill to ban the barbaric practice of stealing the innocence of our children. Minor children do not have the capacity to make life-altering decisions and must not be allowed to. That any medical doctor, who has taken an oath to "do no harm", would perform such procedures is unconscionable!

Stephen Hopper
Wise County Conservatives
Decatur, TX

My name is Andy Hopper and I represent Wise County Conservatives. I ask the Public Health Committee to pass HB1686 out of committee as it is crucial that we protect Texas children from the horrors of chemical and surgical castration that is currently completely legal in Texas. Kids can't even get tattoos--they should not be able to permanently change their gender or inhibit the natural development of puberty, with lifelong and permanent consequences.

Thank you.

Pamela Perimon
Self/retired
Hallsville, TX

Please support this bill. #1 - this is not children’s thinking, it’s adults who have twisted minds to inflict this on children. #2 - it’s child abuse. #3 - I DO NOT CONDONE THESE ACTS & DO NOT WANT MY TAXES USED FOR IT.

Holly Ferguson
First Congregational UCC, Youth and Children’s Director
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this bill as it would cut off lifesaving, medically necessary healthcare to youth.

Laura Proske
Myself
The Woodlands, TX

Kids cannot take decisions regarding their health and body that last for their entire life because they are not mature enough. Their brains are still developing.They can dress they way they want, but they cannot be allowed to take drugs to block their natural body development, and cannot cut any healthy body part, nor any parent should be allowed to do that to any kid. That is call abuse.

James Young
Self
Weatherford, TX

God said Suffer not the little children to come to me. These liberal monsters need to burn in Hell!

Alexis Wilder
Self, cybersecurity consultant
San Antonio, TX

I'm for this bill being passed into law.

Sharon Jorolan, Ms.
Self, retired
The Colony, TX

I think it's criminal to change the biological nature of children. The fact we have to pass laws to protect them from these dangerous gender treatments and surgeries tells me where this country is at. I support HB 1686. Please protect our children. Thank you.

Roger Purdy
Self
Tyler, TX

I support HR 1686

Jan Realini, MD, MPH
Self, retired physician
San Antonio, TX

As a physician with experience in academic family medicine, public health, and youth-serving nonprofit leadership, I strongly oppose HB 1686, and I beseech members of the Committee to vote NO on it.
This bill is harmful to trans youth and contrary to the best practices in medicine and the recommendations of expert medical organizations who have the most experience and scientific knowledge of gender dysphoria and transgender care. Gender affirming care is essential to the health and well-being of transgender youth. Preventing this care will mean more suicides. Prohibiting hormonal therapy in teenage minors means trans youth will be forced to develop the secondary sex characteristics of their sex assigned at birth. This will mean more psychological distress, depression, and suicide.
It is inappropriate for politicians to interfere with medical care. This legislation is coming from a political need to persecute this already extremely vulnerable population.
Republicans, you say that you are the party for parents. But you are not allowing the parents of trans youth to make these medical decisions.
In addition, this legislation interferes with religious freedom. The religious convictions of some people in Texas must not be imposed on all people of Texas. This is contrary to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
This legislation is not pro-life; it is pro-suffering and pro-death.

Karen Starnes
Self/Mom/Teacher/Nurse/Domestic Engineer
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support this bill as mutilating a child's genitals is horrific and barbaric. We must stop the abuse. I'm completely heartbroken for the children already sterilized and permanently altered by these procedures and medications in our own state. I have a cousin that is underage and is starting down this path. Her father is heartbroken and feels he can't do anything to stop it as her mother supports the insanity. She is a beautiful young lady who needs counseling and many more years to sort out these feelings before making permanent decisions that she will regret later. Please make this stop.

Mark Shirley
Self
CYpress, TX

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- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Julie Shirley
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

David Anderson
Self
Dallas, TX

Stop hurting our children. This is child abuse.

Jennifer Mobbs
Self
Tyler, TX

I urge you to support HB 1686, We MUST protect our children, give them time to grow up. Our Tax payer dollars should NOT EVER fund any of these gender transition procedures from drugs (which are unproven and most likely to harm children for life) to surgery. Please Protect our Children. Thank You.

Maggie Savage, Mrs
self
Austin, TX

Thank you for your work on the committee. I'm asking you to vote NO to HB 1686.
I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. This bill will put the lives of transgender youth at risk.
Texas families know what's best for them. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors.

Janet Brown
self
Belton, TX

I am FOR HB 1686 to protect children from any type of gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria program, and the use of public tax money or public assistance to provide this. Please protect our Texas children.

Muriel Owens, Dr.
Self / Retired chiropractor
Alvin, TX

Gender modification should be a crime! No child can possibly give consent at any age younger than 18. I consider this child abuse. Please vote YES on this bill.

Dena Irwin
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Cindy Asmussen
Southern Baptists of Texas Convention
Austin, TX

The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention represents over 2,700 Texas Churches. We support HB 1686 and thank you for this bill and urge the Legislature to pass it. Our culture is convincing an alarming number of children into the belief they are trapped in the wrong body and gender is socially constructed or self-determined.

Our Texas Convention and resolutions have spoken to this specific issue for more than a decade and believe that gender is God-given, not socially constructed or self-determined; that gender distinctions are rooted in creation and manifested in biological differences, that transcend social customs and cultural stereotypes; and being created as a man or woman is an essential aspect of our identity (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4; Mark 10:6).

Human beings are uniquely created in the image of God distinctively as male and female, with substantive differences including at the objective, scientific level of genetics, anatomy, physiology, psychology, and reproduction. One's sex is not "assigned at birth"; it is objective and observable - even in the womb. So the ideology of fluid sexuality undermines the scientific and basic understanding of human anatomy and it damages lives.

There is a disturbing propagation of transgenderism through public education curriculum and surveys, peer groups (Peer contagion), social media and internet use, entertainment, many in the medical and mental health community, activist organizations, even our own government and schools which condone students choosing which bathroom or locker room they would use and which sports teams they would play on, or keeping important information away from their parents. We know children are easily and highly influenced by what they are told and how they are instructed.

Parents are very concerned about this "rapid-onset gender dysphoria," and our churches hear from families who describe themselves as being in crisis over their children confused about their identity and that everywhere they turn they are being told that they can replace biological reality, scientific fact, reason, and God-ordained purpose with what they feel - that life is all about fluidity and a perceived "gender identity." It is an agenda that tells them there is no absolute truth.

God doesn't make mistakes. Psalm 139:13-16 says that each one of us are created uniquely with great detail by our Creator-fearfully and wonderfully made in His image each having a unique purpose. No two people have the same fingerprints, same eyes or same tongues, along with other distinct differences. God made us unique and we must affirm this and a child's God-given biological sex as a meaningful part of their lives. Part of teaching children as they grow is to not try and be like someone else, but to be the person God created them to be from the beginning with a specific destiny and purpose for their lives.

Stefanie Garner
Self, self-employed
Sherman, TX

I am registering my support FOR this bill. Thank you.

Ryan Dage
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Janna Kunefke
Self, RN
Winnie, TX

Please support this bill.

Benjamin Dage
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Don Mobbs
Self
Tyler, TX

It is time to stop this nonsense and Protect our children. I am asking for every single member to support this very important Bill. Children should not be given these drugs or surgery and most certainly NOT ON THE TAX PAYERS DOLLARS. Children must be allow to grow and mature normally. Please support this bill, this is very critical. Thank you for your support of HB 1686.

Leslie Ulrich, Mrs.
Self- homeschool mom
Weatherford, TX

Please protect the children of Texas by prohibiting these procedures. Other states have led the way. Let’s join them! Children are too young to make these decisions. It’s heart breaking to hear of those who have regretted transitioning after ruining their bodies. Thank you for voting on this.

Becky Green
Self and Republican Party of Texas
Lake Jackson, TX

Please support and pass HB1686. We must protect children from these irreversible procedures. Too many regret these decisions later in life when it is too late.

Sherry Barnes
Self
Whitehouse, TX

I'm in favor of the bill. Permanent solutions in a formative stage is out of timing and producing long range problems that should never happen.

Jeralee Smith, Ms
self Retired TX Physical Therapist and Retired CA Educator
Bonham, TX

The transgender ideology ignores everything science has discovered about child development and doctors who do these procedures break their Hypocratic Oath to “Do No Harm.” Texas CASA and other trainings for professionals (counselors, school employees, etc) follow the biased gender transition affirming protocols of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The American College of Pediatricians (acpeds.org) broke away from the AAP for this and other ethical concerns and has the scientific basis to fight this. GETTING AAP INFLUENCE OUT OF TEXAS WILL HELP STOP GENDER MUTILATION!

William Hussey
Self
Sherman, TX

SUPPORT THIS BILL

David Maxey
Retired
Victoria, TX

I am against gender transitioning for children and minors. Vote NO

Yolanda Gooch
Denton county
Little Elm, TX

Let’s stop the ‘real’ Child Abuse!!!

Jamie Marroquin
Self
San Antonio, TX

This should pass

Shannon Ayres
Self
Frisco, TX

There is no dispute that the brain of a child is not fully developed and is unable to determine long term consequences of their actions. While there are many reasons to vote yes on this bill, the aforementioned should be enough to end the unnecessary mutilation of children. The vast majority of children struggling with “gender dysphoria” outgrow it if left alone. Administering life altering drugs and cutting off healthy body parts of a child is abuse and there should be irreversible consequences for any doctor who subjects a child to this. It is the antithesis of a physicians oath to DO NO HARM. Vote YES on HB 1686

Scott Stebbins, Marion County Republican Chairman
Marion County Republican Party
Jefferson, TX

Please vote for this bill

Sheri Stegent
Self
Houston, TX

FOR

Cherilyn Crum
Myself
Tyler, TX

PLEASE PLEASE, we will suffer great regret in the future if we don't protect our children now from these horrible procedures that can not be reversed. PLEASE, don't let history remember you for supporting these life changing sec changes
Thank you.

Rosemary Teel
Self
College Station, TX

We are born male or female. Only people over 30 should have the right to mutilate themselves and at their own expense.

Children should not be submitted to mutilation!

Jan Nicole Canchola
Self
Victoria, TX

For the bill

Janet Mariani
Self
Dallas, TX

NO MUTILATION OF CHILDREN.

Loyd Stegent
Self
Houston, TX

For

FRED NORMAN
self,retired
Flint, TX

I fully support this bill

Michael Smith
Cherokee County Republican Voting Precinct 15
Jacksonville, TX

I support House Bill 1686. Vote YES on this bill. If the Texas Legislature cannot pass this bill into Law, Texas is no better than California.

Steven Breathitt
self
Krum, TX

Please support this bill and stop the mutilation of our children.

Marsha Terry
Johnnies Art
Avinger, TX

This decision for sex altering drugs should not be made for children. I vote to prohibit the use of them.

Scott Gallagher
Self
Gun barrel city, TX

Parents should be in control of kids , not schools , JESUS believers need to stand boldly against this on ground & prayer, many prayers for those standing in offices , don't give in , & thank you kindly, a overall agenda to kill all HEAVENLY FATHERS people, not against flesh we fight but against powers & principalities, in JESUS NAME, I say pass to protect the kids ,

Ram Mehta
Self
Little Elm, TX

I support this I want my kids to go to school to study academics not this agenda

Steve Maxwell
Lake Pointe Church
Dallas, TX

I am in favor of the passage of this bill.

Courtney Thomas, Mrs
Self-Administration
Victoria, TX

I do not agree with children having procedures and or treatments for gender reassignment, transitioning or gender dysphasia. I do not agree with public money being used to produce these procedures or treatments.

Jan Glazner
self
Houston, TX

According to the National Institute of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with those numbers highest among transgender youth. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature. Gender-affirming care covers a host of possible treatments (including counseling), not just surgery. Please vote against this bill.

Denise Vandermark
Self
San Antonio, TX

Support

Debra Hensley
Conservatives of Parker County
Cresson, TX

My family and my self are in support of the bill to help protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization.

Theresa McGregor
Self
Aubrey, TX

I agree that we not change a child’s body. That any effort to make it a normal medical procedure be overturned. They are too young to be making this life changing decision.

Lydia Covey
Self, Administrative Assistant
Orange, TX

I support this bill. It is abusive to allow kids who are not old enough to vote, drive, or consume liquor to have a permanent, life-altering gender reassignment.

At an age when they are impressionable, immature, and often emotional, children must be protected from such drastic and permanent decisions.

I respectfully, ask this committee to let this bill come to the floor. Please protect our children!

Rhesa Cook
retired
Austin, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT HB1686. WE DON'T NEED TO TEACH BAD THINGS TO CHILDREN.

Seantelle Pettyjohn, Mrs
Self - community liaison
Denison, TX

Let the children be who God created then to be. I do not agree with gender, transitioning or gender, reassignment, and using public money to provide these procedures and treatments.

Marie Curtis
Self
Howe, TX

For

Rhesa Cook
retired
Austin, TX

PLEASE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL. VOTE YES ON THIS. VOTE FOR THIS.

Jerry Tbowers, Ms.
NA
Hadkell, TX

I am writing to support this bill as I believe we need to protect the children from unnecessary invasion of their bodies whether surgically or chemically. Children under the Age of 18 (and even beyond) do not need this type if misinformation nor are they capable of making these decisions. I urge you to pass this bill. I feed po it’s a shame that we have to even feel the need, but we do. Thank you for you time.
Jerry W Bowers

Christy Mesec, Mrs
Self
Dallas, TX

I find it criminal that we are mutilating innocent children. We have to be the voices for them and they are very vulnerable . This “agenda” of destroying our youth has got to stop ! You either stand with God and protect our children or against Him and continue to mutilate and destroy them… …thank you …

Tyra Steil
Self
Chico, TX

I strongly support this bill to help protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation, and permanent sterilization. No one, especially children, should undergo treatments, especially permanent ones when their brains are not fully developed. There is a better way to help these children than to do something they can not undo later without living with the horrific consequences of their actions that they can not fully understand. We must stand together to protect our children's lives and their futures.

Deborah Bailey
Self
Bronte, TX

Children should not be subjected to gender transitions.

Linda Manuel
Self— retired educator
Spring, TX

These decisions should not be made for underage people. This decision should be made by the mature adult.

Maria Hammerlein
Self
Kerrville, TX

Allowing children to move forward with the finality of the removal of their sex organs must stop. Children are not able to make such a decision with life altering consequences for themselves at this age. Please protect all the children of Texas from this procedure. The use of taxpayer dollars for such procedures will not be tolerated. Please vote for passage of H B 1686.

Rickey Herring
Self-reported railroad Conductor
Victoria, TX

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. .
ITS Unbelievable thay we would even have to vote on stuff a depraved subject in our nation . God is not pleased with this kind of craziness.

Lois Cazinha
Self
Victoria, TX

DO NOT PASS THIS !!! I am TEXAS TAX PAYER nad I want this bill dropped !!! Our children are important and they are who they the day they were concieved

Virginia Jones
Self (retired)
Sherman, TX

Vote FOR
Sex change is not required as God does not make mistakes. DO NOT HARM CHILDREN!

Erin Holsonback
self
Austin, TX

I have serious concerns about HB1686. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. Every major U.S. medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has empirically sound, approved, and established standards for gender-affirming care for transgender and gender nonconforming youth and adults. Bills like these deny children life-saving, gender-affirming care, and put families and professionals who appropriately support these children at risk. This, in turn, hurts the very same children I believe you are sincerely trying to help. The entire system is at risk with bills like these - the child, the family, and the professional support network. Vote NO on HB1686.

Mary Thomas
Self
Victoria, TX

I am in support of banning gender surgery for minor children. Children our our states and nations greatest treasure. It is the responsibility of adults to protect them until they reach adulthood. No child is born in the wrong body. Don’t let parents make such an altering decision for any child.

Kate Wilson
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1686 because it is predatory and abusive to allow minors to get gender transition surgery. The law does not allow minors to enter contracts, have sexual relations with adults, buy alcohol or cigarettes, or vote. This is because minors don’t have the mental development to make serious, life-altering decisions and they need protection from adults that would seek to take advantage of them. So why would we allow them to get a permanent surgery that mutilates their bodies and requires lifetime maintenance and hormone pills that interfere with the natural chemistry of their still-developing minds and bodies? We cannot be sure that it is truly their desire and something that they will want for the rest of their lives. I have read and heard many anecdotal stories of people that felt uncomfortable in their bodies while children, even wanting to be the opposite gender, who as adults are happy and content with their biological sex. WPATH, the organization that wrote the standards of care for trans kids, has close ties and input from members of a fetish website called the Eunuch Archive, which contains thousands of fantasy stories about raping children and surgically transitioning them as a fetish. In addition, WPATH’s president Marci Bowers, has admitted that male to female trans kids will probably never experience normal sexual functions or feelings for the rest of their lives. When a male child begins a transition before puberty, his penis does not develop enough to create a “neovagina”, so sometimes stomach lining must be taken to make up the difference. He also must stick a wand into the open wound to prevent it from closing up for several years after the surgery. There are many potential complications to the cosmetic surgery of gender transition, especially for minors. We are treating human beings as experimental guinea pigs in the name of a social agenda. I believe that society will someday look back on gender transition surgery for minors in the same way that we view lobotomies today - barbaric, harmful, pseudo-scientific, and creating permanent, unnecessary damage.

Eden Gravis

self, software developer

Austin, TX

I just want to say that a lot of the fear around "treatment" for trans kids comes from misunderstanding how this works. Only teens can actually get HRT and only when they're about 16 or 17 if they REALLY need it. Anything else is just therapy and affirmation to help them power through life. There are puberty blockers as well - but these dont change anything. They put puberty on hold till the kids are old enough to decide on HRT (although saying this really grates at me because really it's about ADULTS deciding theyre old enough
...the kids already know.). And NO CHILD is getting surgery. Now I don't need to bring the studies to you on how this is actually safe and helpful for kids who are trans, you've already heard the data. So let me tell you something else. I know a lot of you folks are afraid that this is some new trend to be trans. Trust me, it's not. Kids DO know who they are and believe it or not, the puberty proponents of this bill see as "natural" IS THE FORCED TRANSITION for most trans people. So, you wouldn't know it if you saw me walking down the street with my beard and muscles, but I'm a transgender man (i.e. I was assigned female at birth but now I'm just a regular guy). And you know what? I knew something was up at like 6 years old. Maybe even earlier. And you know what else? I was born in the 80s, before the internet. I grew up in an Evangelical homeschool family with homophobic, monogamous religious parents, and I had pretty little access to the outside world till I started college. If keeping kids away from information and transition was going to work, it should have worked on me! I didn't even know there was a word for what I was till like 26. All I wanted to do was die all the time. Even when I did figure it out and start my transition, I had already lost decades of my life to being useless and depressed, coping with my mutating body. I mean I want the cisgender men (who the doctor said were boys from birth) here to hear me out. How would you feel if you woke up in junior high and you had somehow started a period and you got older and realized your voice wasn't dropping and you were growing breasts. Wouldn't you feel pretty emasculated? What about if you were almost 7 and told your mom you were going to be the best big brother to your new sibling ever and she told you you were nuts and to stop and then stuck you in a dress. You probably would develop some issues from that! I sure did. But going on HRT finally changed my life. I finally went through the RIGHT puberty. And you know what? I take exactly the same stuff any other guy who didnt end up woth normal testosterone levels takes - i take an autoinjector of testosterone. The same kind guys with hypogonadism take. Anyway, I did know. I knew at 6. I just didn't have the words. And other kids know too. Puberty is a forced transition.

Fe Bencosme

self

Houston, TX

It is unconscionable that procedures including but not limited to castration and hysterectomy are performed on people who can no more decide from day to day what they want to do for a career than render their healthy bodies utterly useless. It is said that anyone who brings harm to a child is better off tying an anvil around his neck. In other words, there is no holding harmless the taxpayer who is made a material participant to the travesties listed in this bill euphemistically known in the field as care. I strive to live my life in a way that is free from the heavy burden of malefaction. If others, and parents in particular, wish to be incumbered by such a load then so be it. But I do not need nor do I desire their assistance I do not consent.

Vanessa Gonzalez

self - small business owner

Austin, TX

Hello my name is Vanessa Gonzalez from Austin, TX (78722). I strongly oppose HB1686. I strongly oppose the restriction to health care access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and my family. They deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Ashton Oravetz III

Self Retired

Tyler, TX

I fully support the bill. It is time we protected are underage children from those who are willing to do unalterable change to them.

John Nicks
SELF -
Magnolia, TX

This is a good bill that needs to be made into law

Laura Tevis
ADF Ambassadors
Beaumont, TX

It takes some kind of evil to force adult decisions on children. Let these kids grow up and make their own choices. How arrogant are these people who foists their sick agenda on the innocence of children.

Laurie Eder
Self
Victoria, TX

I support this bill to ban gender modification of children. No child is born in the wrong body. We must stop the mutilation of children. Please vote NO.

Courtney Miller
Self
Garland, TX

Leave Children alone! They are never born in the wrong body. Let them develop the way God intended.

Kathleen Brown, Ms
Self, Board certified Music Therapist
Temple, TX

I support this bill, but am sorry we are trying to legislate morals in this state. Our forefathers predicted we would lose this country when we lose our morals.

Erma Ocanas
Individual
Victoria, TX

..

Mia Muhney
Self
Springtown, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Brenda Vaughn, Ms.
Self
BRIDGEPORT, TX

Please pass this bill! Gender transformation in any form in children is nothing less than child abuse, and pure insanity! (In my opinion.)

Elizabeth Quinn
Myself
Whitehouse, TX

Please make sure that these medical procedures are not performed on children, and certainly not using tax dollars. This is an evil push to do further harm to society, and especially children.

Monica Hamilton
Self
Boyd, TX

Please support HB 1686. The dismembering of a child’s body without disease is child abuse, wether it is a finger, an eye, a testicle, penis, breast, uterus, etc.Since some parents are harming their children, I urge you to pass this legislation to stop any procedures to try to change a child’s gender. Nothing can change a person’s gender. That was determined by God. Please protect our children from this horrific crime.

Dana Harris
Self; Member Engagement Director and former CWA of TX State Director
Carthage, TX

I support HB 1686 by Rep. Oliverson because children need to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramification when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception. These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts. A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use or puberty blocker, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria. For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Dale Huls
Self
De Kalb, TX

Please consider the common sense in preventing the artificial switching of a child’s natural biological gender to an opposite gender through surgical or chemical procedures. While much is made concerning the mental issues and consequences facing a child with gender dysphoria, it is not well studied or discussed regarding the long term consequences of these procedures on children after they reach adulthood. A young child cannot possibly understand the ramifications of such a violation of their natural bodies. Even older teenagers who are in flux regarding their sexuality (as well as a host of potential other issues) should not commit to procedures that will irreversibly damage their bodies.

Janet Fletcher
Self
Sherman, TX

Protect our children from this evil. Unbelievable we have to even have this bill. Children can’t choose their gender.

Tom Kim
Self family business associates & friends
Tomball, TX

Stop gender surgery & child abuse

Hunter Bonner
Marion County Republican Assembly
Lone Star, TX

I stand here today to offer comments that I am FOR HB1686. I believe that the overwhelming majority of these cases are best served by seeking out professional counseling, and not an operating room table. HB1686 should be voted FOR by all the members, to stop this barbaric practice from happening in Texas.

Anastasia Bowley
Self
Austin, TX

As a parent, an educator, and a follower of Christ, I believe this bill is unjust. Were we concerned with the health and well-being of Texan children based on scientific information, we'd be talking about rates of head-injuries in IUL sanctioned sports like football. The vast majority of people--upwards of 94%--are comfortable with their assigned gender. For those who are born intersex or who experience gender dysphoria, delaying treatment until after puberty can have devastating emotional effects that frequently result in self harm and suicide. This bill would punish parents and caregivers who want nothing more than that their children grow and thrive, and medical experts whose research and moral compass would have them do the right thing.

By singling out a small and already marginalized group of our brothers and sisters, this bill is tantamount to public bullying and terrorism. Our state is marked by beliefs in freedom, liberty, and kindness. This bill is the opposite: un-Christian, amoral, unscientific, and over-reaching.

Additionally, barring public funds from food assistance for families is unnecessary cruelty. If people are starving, feed them. If people are suffering, help them.

Thank you.

Anastasia Bowley

Cyrena Nolan
Taxpayer
Dallas, TX

Please support 1686 . Gender modification of minors is child abuse . These children need help not mutilation.

Kathryn Cashion
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Children should NOT be dangerously experimented on. This is child abuse and in NO regards should public money be used towards ANY transition. Time will show this as horrific and unlawful in the eyes of God.

Elaine Hays
Self, retired
Runaway Bay, TX

I support the passage of HB 1686 for the following reasons:

1) It is deceptive and untruthful to tell individuals they can change their sex. An entire industry of medication and invasive surgeries has been built on the deception that hormones and surgery can change your sex. They cannot. An individual CAN alter the appearance of their body to reflect a gender different than that defined by their sex organs and chromosomes, but those treatments DO NOT change one's sex. When a woman has a hysterectomy, she does not become a man. When a woman has a double mastectomy due to a cancer diagnosis, she does not become a man.

2) Under the guise of "affirming care", we are encouraging a confused adolescent to trade a healthy body to one subject to increased health risks throughout their lifetime. We do not consider it affirming care to instruct an individual dealing with depression on how to take their own lives. We do not consider it affirming care to instruct an individual dealing with anorexia to exercise compulsively, purge via vomiting and laxatives, and/or binge eat? For trans individuals, the quest to create the body that matches their perceptions is a life devoted to drugs and doctors. This is NOT compassionate nor affirming care.

3) Nearly all children who take puberty blockers end up on cross-sex hormones that carry side effects including sterility, increased risk of cardiovascular disease, increased risk of breast and uterus cancers and other harmful psychoactive effects of high-dose hormones such as mood swings and even psychosis. In addition, the American Heart Association reported "people receiving hormone therapy during gender transition had an elevated risk for cardiovascular events such as strokes, blood clots and heart attacks."

4) Hospitals and doctors promoting reassignment surgery for children are pursuing profitability disguised as compassion. Email communications inside Vanderbilt Hospital revealed their primary incentive for getting into gender transition was admittedly in large part because it is very financially profitable.

5) More than 75% of GD children change their mind about transitioning by the time they become adults, but the surgeries and impact on puberty and bone development are irreversible.

6) It is impossible for a child to give "informed consent" to the future consequences of their actions of gender reassignment surgeries. Do we think that adolescents who are prone to act on impulse, often act before they think, fail to pause and consider the consequences of their actions, engage in dangerous or risky behavior, misread or misinterpret social cues can understand the long-term implications of this radical treatment to the human body?

Due to the issues detailed above, I respectfully request your support of this bill to end the assault on the future generation of Texans.

Sincerely,
Elaine Hays

Krista Yeary
Self
Bullard, TX

Please support house bill 1686 to protect our children. God bless you.

Rebecca Brune, Md
Self
Houston, TX

Children's bodies should be protected from the above gender-related surgeries until the children become legal adults and are then able to make informed decisions.

David Covey
SREC
Orange, TX, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Children (under 18) do not have the capacity to make major life decisions. Therefore, children, or parents on their behalf, should certainly not be in a position to have surgery that sterilizes for life for the purpose of gender reassignment. No public funds should go to health care provider for these procedures. I support this bill.

Catherine Matuella
Self, retired, found link on Texoma Patriots website.
Sherman, TX

Please ban the use of public funding for this abuse of children. Taxpayer funds are over abused as it is. Children are not Frankenstein experiments. I am so pleased to see my new local state rep is against such issues since my previous state rep (Michalea Cavanaugh) of Nebraska does.

Denise Di Paolo
Self - flight attendant
Irving, TX

Children should not alter their bodies in this way at such a young age.

Constantine Clark
self
Victoria, TX

I question the integrity of a state/country that would go so far to support an emotionally based issue such as gender dysphoria that the state would take my hard earned tax dollars to support it. If a parent wants to so badly support the very irrational mind of a child that wants to change their body parts, the money needs to come out of their own pockets instead of the taxpayers. I do not want this bill to pass.

Becky Hawkins
Self
Rockwall, TX

This is a horrendous act against a minor that can be life changing in a negative way.

Taylor Trevino
self (organizer)
Austin, TX

As a gay Texan and an ally to the trans community, I strongly urge our legislators to oppose this bill. All children deserve health, happiness, respect, dignity, validation, and the right to self-actualization. Trans children experience things most of us cannot imagine, and gender-affirming care improves their lives and prevents suicide. This care is proven safe and is considered best practice by the medical community. Let these decisions be made between between the child, their parents, and their doctor, NOT by legislators.

Janet Gadd
Private citizen
The Colony, TX

We simply must stop mutilating our children. Once they are old enough and able to stand on their own two feet, they can do whatever they want. Public money should NEVER be used for selective surgeries.

Mary Watkins
Self Vice President of Search
Little Elm, TX

Please let our kids be kids and keep gender modification for adults

Samantha Smith
Retired
Van, TX

I support HB 1686. Please represent me accordingly.
Thank you.

James McMenamy, Dr.
Self
Dallas, TX

That there is need for this law is absurd. However, we have prosecutors who are concentrating on turning loose criminals to steal, kill and destroy rather than be brought to Justice -so we make indescribable atrocities like neutering small boys to become eunuchs because they like to play dolls. I am FOR making that illegal. A parent or grandparent should be able to sue to enforce if the prosecution does not happen.

Sabrina Ball
Self
Fort Worth, TX

HB 1686 (Oliverson) is a dangerous and potentially deadly attempt deny medical care to transgender youth and blatantly overrides the parental choice and medical expertise of providers to determine what care is best for their child.

By banning all medically necessary health care for the treatment of gender dysphoria, HB 1686 (Oliverson) risks the loss of life, robs transgender youth of hope and sends a clear message that the Texas Legislature believes that transgender young people are not welcome in the state of Texas.

In addition to the devastating consequences on the health of transgender youth in Texas, HB 1686 (Oliverson) would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. These treatments are supported by every major medical association in the country, including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Psychological Association and Texas Pediatric Society.

Even the public debate on discriminatory bills like HB 1686 will cause harm to transgender youth. According to a recent poll conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of The Trevor Project, 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth — and two-thirds of all LGBTQ youth (66%) — say recent debates about state laws restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health.

Best-practice standards of care and hospital guidelines are carefully crafted in the best interest of each patient. HB 1686 (Oliverson) puts vulnerable Texans in jeopardy.

Darin Cote
Texas UU Justice Ministry
Weatherford, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of health care access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our community and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right things and stand against this legislation.

Marianna Porter
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I'm FOR THIS BILL. Please remember that the main purpose of the medicine is to DO NO HARM. Especially so when it comes to underage humans who legally cannot concent to the treatment or procedure. Children with gender disforia need a LOT OF COUNCELING and psychological help, but untidepressants, puberty blockers and other medications that cause some very harmful, long-lasting and sometimes irreversible changes in their bodies shouldn't be prescribed. Those kids need us, adults and medical professionals, to be their voice of reason even when those kids for whatever reason believe that they are born in a wrong body. NOBODY is born in a wrong body!!! Lately in our country it became an epidemic, partially due to pier pressure, partially due to social media pressure. I know from the personal experience with my child how scary it is to see your child suffer from a mental condition, sometimes being misdiagnosed, or easily labeled by medical proffesionals and drugged. I know that PARENTS in this situation also need a lot of support, instead of being ridiculed for their believes and isolated. I believe that no good parent would take this fight lightly, or would be bullied even by so-called medical professionals into drugging their kids. But because I know that this fight is not for a weak parents I would ask all of you to show some support to those strong and brave parents and give them some LEGAL support to help them protect their children. It is not an easy thing to do, but I believe it is a right thing to do

Terry Howlett
Self
Tyler, TX

Please, for the sake of the lives and future of children, vote FOR this bill !!!

Martha Elliott
Self
Tyler, TX

Protection of the innocent should be at the top of the list for any state, country or organization that desires God’s blessings. Please support HB 1686.

Steve Brown, Mr.
Self/Sales
Carrollton, TX

I am definitely in support of this bill. No question about it. Protect our future generations at all costs.

Steve Spies
self
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Cara Bearden
Self, teacher
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Transgender children have a right to the same medical care as all children!

Bonnie Seelig
Self Retired
Spicewood, TX

I support HB 1686

I believe that the truth serves everyone. There are 2 sexes: male and female.

As a retired teacher and librarian at public high schools, middle school and elementary schools, all children (myself and my child included) have been confused and depressed during various periods in their lives. Problems, disappointment, challenges, and conflicts are all part of life. Life was not supposed to be easy. If you expect that, life’s experiences will be even more challenging.

What we all need is courage to face problems and look for solutions within ourselves with the help from family and faith. The mutilation of young bodies through gender transitioning surgeries should not be an option. As an adult, the choice to undergo such surgeries and to pay for those surgeries (without tax payer dollars) is their decision to make as an adult.

Jennifer Stob, Dr.
family
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB1686. I oppose the restriction of healthcare access to any people, minors and adults, based on gender identity. An individual should freely make decisions in consultation with their doctors and/or their family on the care of their body. I urge all members of the legislature to respect human rights and oppose this bill, too.

Hilliard Brittain
Self
Garland, TX

I passionately support HB 1686. Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Children are being sterilized and lose the ability for normal sexual functioning.

Obscene profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other providers, and the pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies.

Let’s love children through their formative years and let them make their own decisions when they are mature enough to do so for themselves.

“Shelby” Susan Chamberlain
Self
Marshall, TX

I am against any public money being spent on harming a child . And this act of puberty blocker and gender modification is harming children . You have these sick adults that have been brainwashed in our schools and within our mental institutions (counselors) that are putting our young children on these drugs to keep their behavior in line while all along they just need a parent that could discipline them . I have a non verbal autistic 6 year old grand son , he likes bight colors and soft materials- but now my woke daughter thinks (because her counselor tells her) it’s okay to dress my grandson in dresses and now they are looking for a doctor to start puberty blockers - My daughter (35yrs old) has gone through many stages , she has given away twins for adoption, she has had had two regular abortions and one late term abortion which was a little girl . Then two years later gave birth to my grandson . Who was normal till his third year set of booster shots - that’s when he became autistic and nonverbal . - my daughter has gone through stages of being a tomboy - to wife and girly girl, to lesbian,, to a bisexual, to a pansexual, to be a mother, and then a wife, and now she’s a Satanist and a communist. All these life changes happen while she’s been enrolled in college. I do feel as her mother that she is not mentally Stable and it’s all because she’s been indoctrinated to hate me-Her mother and hate God her creator. I beg of you to please stop spending our tax dollars on harming children, there are only two sexes, male and female, in which God our creator create it. I do feel that as those wonder from God and the foundation of life, and go more into the world in the way of Satan . That we the elders who do believe in God,The same God in which our founding fathers believed who created America has to put a stop to this.

Grace Garcia
Self / Holy Bible, Christian
Victoria, TX

??? Call to ACTION:

Lawmaker in the TX House. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. Please prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm & #LetThemGrow

Even if not all people believe that God is Creator and that He made man and woman in His image, it is immoral for healthcare establishments to act as a creator / god and change a minor who is not mature enough to truly make such a life altering decision. A decision that cannot be taken back or changed once done. The Healthcare should be utilized to help these minors with their emotional and mental state and protect the minor's. Establishments that medicalize anyone no matter the age are selfish for monetary, power, fame, or prestige reasons. They do not truly care for the person.

Phillip Sanders
Sanders Land Group, LLC.
Peaster, TX

I suppport passing this bill now.

Kenneth A Parker, Mr.
self / pastor
Victoria, TX

It is hard for me to believe that educated intelligent Texans can think that a person can be born in the wrong body. Please use your God give knowledge and support this house bill.
Thanks Kenneth A Parker

Tracy Hays
Self, retired
Runaway Bay, TX

I respectfully request your support for HB1686 to prevent the irreversible damage to healthy bodies of young children in Texas.

Sincerely,
Tracy Hays

Nakul Rao
Self, Youth Care Counselor
Austin, TX

This bill is a gross overreach of government authority. Decisions about childrens health should be made by parents and their doctors. The government should have no say in this process.

Maribel Jenkins
Self
Lake Dallas, TX

I support prohibiting child sex changes. Let's wait until they are 24. For the sake of society.

Tomi Jarrell
Self
Paradise, TX

I support the prohibition of treatments and procedures for gender transitions, gender reassignments, and gender dysphoria for minors and any use of public money or public assistance with these treatments or procedures.

Stephanie Van Fossen
Self; LPC
Austin, TX

As a mental health professional with knowledge and experience in this domain, and as the cisgender daughter of an amazing trans-woman, I have serious concerns about House Bill 1686. This bill would completely ban transgender youth from receiving essential healthcare in the state of Texas, which is in stark contrast to medical standards.

Every major U.S. medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has empirically sound, approved, and established standards for gender-affirming care for transgender and gender nonconforming young people and adults. Bills like these deny children life-saving, gender-affirming care, and put families and professionals who APPROPRIATELY support these children at risk. This, in turn, very negatively impacts the very same children I believe you are sincerely trying to help in a fundamentally misguided, misinformed way. The entire system is at risk with bills like these- - the child, the family, the professional support network, and the safety and moral foundation of our entire society.

Texas families know what's best for them. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. Vote NO on HB1686.”

Patrick Steil, Mr.
self
Chico, TX

I support all prohibitions on any procedure or hormone treatment for children for so called "gender transitioning" or "gender reassignment" and use of public money or assistance. I further support the banning of support or teaching such lies in our public schools or in any public service provided by the Texas State government.

Holly Clapp
Myself
Corpus christi, TX

Please look out for the future of our children and continue to keep them precious as they are. Please continue to fight to not allow gender reassignment, gender dysphoria, nor gender transitioning. Thank you for supporting majority of the general public's opinion. We rely on you to support the future of Texas!

Mary Goerner
Self
Hallettsville, TX

Please let children be children!!! I feel like we should leave children to be free of these kinds of decisions for their lives. God does not make mistakes! I feel like there will be much regret in the future of these children if we don't stop surgical alteration of sex organs in children. I STAND UP FOR THESE CHILDREN and I pray they will be able to live free of such a heavy burden and to discover God and the image in which He created us all.

Angela Sokol
Self
Sherman, TX

I am FOR this bill. No child is born in the wrong body. Texas must protect children from genital mutilation. Stop making kids into eunuchs!

Drake Cameron
self retired
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686 that prohibits gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria treatment on children in Texas. Do not allow irreversible procedures on children.

Nancy Byrne
SELF/RETIRED NURSE
Corinth, TX

Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Renda Hawkins, Ms.
Self
Bedford, TX

Children have a crush on someone and 30 min later they love someone else ! I have personally witnessed this as a middle school teacher for years . They have no clue about what they will wear to school tomorrow much less if they want to be a "boy or girl." This is miscarriage of justice to allow this as a minor and should never be allowed. Some kids (late bloomers)don't even go through puberty until 14-16 years of age. Many children even outgrow the idea of certain stages they go through and science has proved a persons brain isn't fully developed until early 20s. Please stop this madness to our children and let them be children!

Maris Clegg
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. | strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else.

Calvin Mark Tallant
Self
McKinney, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body.
Children should be protected.

Dave Welch, Rev.
Texas Pastor Council
Magnolia, TX

This is a bill that should have never been necessary, yet it must be adopted to protect children who are being preyed upon by an extremist agenda with the complicity of parents or caregivers who would subject these children to permanent physical, emotional and mental damage. We assume that minors lack the maturity and life experience to make decisions regarding their medical care of any kind, that they should be protected by the adults in their life and certainly by the laws on the books. HB 1686 is a vital piece of legislation that will put what are clearly and urgently needed protections in place for the children most vulnerable to gender confusion so they can make their own decisions as an adult. "for God is not a God of confusion..." He did not make a mistake when He created male and female from the beginning and if parents, educators and so-called medical professionals are willing to abuse and even destroy children, we must step up and in place to protect them from this terrible agenda. We urge the committee to adopt the passage of HB 1686 for the sake of these children.

Teena Perkins
Self
Cushing, TX

Children should not have gender changing treatments. They are not old enough to realize the many harmful results of these procedures. Lasting harm comes from them. All these procedures should be prohibited.

Mary Dodds
Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
Fort Worth, TX

Humans are humans and it is imperative that you consider all human beings in your decision making process. I am strongly opposed to HB 1686. By voting for this bill you are casting aside the rights of humans to have the choice over their own bodies. I realize this bill does affect children, but it is proven that gender designation is determined at birth. The treatments you are opposing can be be reversed if at any time the individual chooses to do so, yet starting youths on treatments early on can be a life giving choice for them; a psychological as well as physical relief for them. The suicide rate for transgender youth is so high I would think you would want to alleviate the pressures placed on them because of not being able to be who they biologically choose to be.

Louise Henari
Self/Retired
Merkel, TX

Gender mutilation should never be permitted.

Linda Caffey
Self
Abilene, TX

I support this bill. I do not believe in gender transitions and I do not want government funding to help with this issue.

Christopher Cubas
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. | strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else.

Susan Aikin
Self
Nacogdocges, TX

I agree with the bill. Surgeries to change gender of children including teens should Not be allowed.

Susan Williams
Wise County REPUBLICANS
Decatur, TX

I support this bill

Joyce Spitzer
Self
Belton, TX

We should not be transitioning children!!!

Cindy La Greca
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church
Austin, TX

For a state that claims to want to give parents inalienable rights when it comes to their children (ie using state money for private schools, lax homeschool laws, the right to not vaccinate their children), it’s astonishing to me that those rights suddenly end if the child in question is trans. If parents are trusted to make all other health decisions then why stop with this one? One would almost think it’s a targeted hatred for the lgbtq community? But that can’t be right in a state that claims family first?

These children and these families are not hurting you in any way. Surgery is not being performed on 6 year olds. Parents are just literally trying to give their children the healthcare that they need. Why does it bother everyone so much? Why are they scared of 7 year olds?

Anna Celum
Self
Victoria, TX

Children are not born in the wrong body.

Megan Perkins
Self, IT Manager
Katy, TX

For some reason members of the Texas legislature have convinced themselves (and many constituents) that there is rampant gender transitioning happening amongst children in the state, with little to no oversight.

Having witnessed the transition process of a family friend first hand, nothing could be further from the truth. The approach I saw was careful and thoughtful, with several experts involved in his several years of care, from psychologists to endocrinologists to surgeons (once he turned 18).

HB 1686 is a dangerous and potentially deadly attempt to deny medical care to transgender youth and blatantly overrides the parental choice and medical expertise of providers to determine what care is best for their child.

Gayla Hawkins
Self
Sherman, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill.

Jennifer Kratky
self, homemaker
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill. Protect all Texas children from drugs & surgeries that will damage their healthy body parts and bodily functions.

David Nash
Self - Retired
Harper, TX

I'm wholeheartedly for HB 1686 to protect our children from from gender transitioning by health care providers and physicians. I'm also praying this can be expanded to criminal consequences as well.

Michael Zaal
Restore the Republic
Frisco, TX

To protect the little ones, our future please vote in favor of HB1686.

Gloria Wengel
Self - Grandmother
Haskell, TX

As a grandmother, a conservative and a Christian, I support this Bill 1,000%. My hope is that this prohibition will also be extended to all tax-payer supported educational facilities.

Rhonda Ward
Self/Real Estate Appraiser
Nacogdoches, TX

I support HB 1686!

Tracy Quesada
SELF
Arlington, TX

Standing in full support of this bill to protect our children. Minors are in no position to make these kind of life altering discussions.

Paul Price, Mr.
Retired
NEWTON, TX

I enthusiastically support HB 1686 by Oliverson that provides prohibitions against procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Please pass this bill out of committee so it can be voted on by the entire House of Representatives.

Joy Roberts
Self, Homemaker
Howe, TX

I support HB1686! Please end childhood gender modification in Texas! These modifications are irreversible and children are not mature enough to make such a life altering decision. We don't allow them to get a tattoo for the same reason and that is much less invasive and life altering. End childhood gender modification in Texas!

Debi Litton
self
Sherman, TX

Dear Congresswomen and Congressmen,

I am so happy to see this bill come up! I am very much for this bill to go through.

This phenomenon of transgenderism that has just recently swept our country since 2010, needs to be dealt with quickly. Our young people need to be protected and nourished with compassion by their parents until they have reached the age of at least 18. God gave parents to children because they need their guidance and wisdom until they are able to make these kind of decisions without emotions and feelings getting in the way. These are life changing decisions that require reason and deliberate and contemplative thought.

I, therefore, ask each of you to dig deeply down inside and evaluate the significance of this bill and protect our young people.

I am asking that you forward this bill to be voted on and say yes.

Thank you for your kind consideration and service,

Debi Litton

Margaret Garry
Self, Project Consultant and graduate student/doctoral candidate
Austin, TX

I write to voice my strong opposition to HB 1686. Trans kids in Texas deserve access to medical care. Parents of trans kids in Texas deserve to be able to provide their children with healthcare. If this state truly wants to prioritize parental choice, it will oppose this bill, as there are plenty of parents out there who choose to love, accept, and care for their trans children who will not have an opportunity to do so if this bill were to succeed. In Texas, we talk a big game about people knowing what is best for their family. For many families, providing gender affirming care to a child is the best thing for that child and that family. I strongly encourage house members to take a stand in opposition to this legislation so that trans kids in Texas can grow up safe, happy, and healthy.

Victoria Manusos
Self, Rancher
Plano, TX

For

Beverly Cheevers
Self, WFW Center of Hope camp/office assistant; Birchman Baptist Church childcare worker
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly and unequivocally. Please protect our children!

Lynne Morris
Self
Tyler, TX

Let children be children. There is no need for such drastic surgical or hormonal changes when a child is under the consenting age of 18. Even then, the science is out on the whole transgender subject. Many transgender individuals who have done drastic surgery or treatments are now regretting. It is a one way street. NO on allowing minors to be disfigured and scarred for life and NO use of hard-earned public money on such things.

Dale Fessenden
self/retired
Conroe, TX

Dear committee members, with all of the restrictions on health measures for children, how can we even think of not passing this bill. This bill will protect Texas children from the atrocities that are being foisted upon them by non-thinking parents and by media and by profit motivated or socially motivated agendas. This bill will protect Texas children and should be readily passed from the committee to the floor and voted 100% in support on the floor. Please move this legislation forward expeditiously.

Kathy Haigler
self
Dale, TX

It is our duty to protect our children from irreversible surgery. As adults, it is our duty to give them the freedom to change their bodies as long as no one else is harmed.

Jack McCarley
Self
San Antonio, TX

Go get 'em tiger

shellie hayes-mcmahon
self
cedar park, TX

I'm registering AGAINST this hateful bill.

David Carothers
Self
Dallas, TX

Against procedures & treatments for children for gender reassignment.

Karen Marsalis, Mrs
Panola County Conservatives
Carthage, TX

I Support, HP 1686 very simply, because we need to protect our children from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization. They will change their mind later on in life. This will affect them for the rest of their lives. We need to support House Bill 1686.

Terisa Wilson
Self
Denison, TX

I support this bill.

Mary Lou Tazelaar, Mrs
Self - housewife
Spring, TX

Please allow this bill to pass and move it all the way to Gov Abbott's office to be signed into law. We must protect our children at all costs from harmful treatments to their bodies. Minors especially need to be protected since their minds and bodies are still maturing. Please protect and support our children on this matter. Thank you for all you are doing on this matter and God bless you.

Daniel Lee
Informed resident
Aledo, TX

Surely the logic for supporting HB 1686 is obvious but here is what I think. The choice of sex is made at conception and is immutable. Efforts to make a change can only be harmful to the individuals and to the whole of the population. It is insane to encourage children to make life altering decisions before they can possibly understand the ramifications.

Larry Lasiter
self
Lufkin, TX

I am writing this note supporting the passage of this legislation to protect Texas children from permanent harm by not allowing procedures or treatments for gender transitioning in Texas. This legislation is critical to the prevent misguided individuals from forcing or influencing children to make life decisions before the children are mature enough to make such decisions for themselves.

Carl Scott
N/A
Bullard, TX

I support HB 1686.

JAIME MEYER
Self
Argyle, TX

Support

Jason Reed
self
New Braunfels, TX

Vote against this bill. Let parents and families make their own decisions in consultation with medical professionals. Real Texans don't get into other people's personal and medical business and real Texans let parents have control over their own families.

Lonnie Meredith
Self
Haskell, TX

Support

Joseph Trahan, Mr
self
Houston, TX

It is immoral to modify the genitalia of any human being, an abomination before the Lord God Creator of the Universe that subverts the natural order and egomaniacally places the many shortcomings and failures of mankind ahead of the will and knowledge of our creator.

Having said this, I'm of the opinion that all persons involved in such an act should be held for psychological evaluation. Medical staff who participate in this travesty are complicit in a sick criminal act of mutilating a child and deserve a sexual predators fate.

Parents that participate are not to be trusted with children. Those that groom a child for such nonsense with confusion and twisted diabolical affection are equally complicit in a demented crime.

Public executions for all of them is too kind.

Protect children. Protect them from harm. Let them be children and help them to think, learn, discern. They'll be adults soon enough and when they are, if they choose such actions, that is their adult choice.

But, let's protect the children and prevent the unneeded confusion...the world is confusing enough. Let's not add to it.

Thank you for you Bill to protect children Dr Oliverson.

Richard Wheeler
Self, retired
Decatur, TX

Public funding for gender modification, reassignments or dysphoria should never be used.

Sonya Richardson
Self
Sherman, TX

This disastrous policy needs to end on children now.

Michael Wise
Self
Sherman, TX

End this practice now.

Alicia Gray
Self
Pottsboro, TX

A child is not of the age or maturity to make the choice to mutilate their body. They should be offered mental health treatment. If we age they are not old enough to choose to smoke, drink or go into military service, or get a tattoo, they certainly should not be seen as old enough to make this kind of body and life altering change. There is too much physical and emotional damage caused by this procedure. We are genetically coded by sex long before birth. Doctors aren't God and should step out of trying to take his place. Vote for stopping this mutilation off our children.

Dylan Gonzalez
self, student
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it is unnecessary and will cause severe harm to Texans as a whole. Both and trans and cis youth utilize hormone treatments. While this bill has intentions to harms trans youth specifically, it will be harming all demographics of children. On top of that, the most effective treatment for aiding gender dysphoria is not conversion therapy or any other treatment that rejects an individual's transgender identity. The most effective and scientifically supported treatment is transitioning and receiving gender affirming care. Rates of suicide are extremely high within the trans youth population and by removing gender affirming healthcare (again the most effective treatment for gender dysphoria) these numbers will only increase. Trans kids will kill themselves if this law is passed. There is no exaggeration in that. As a byproduct, the government in place right now will have American blood on their hands. If this does not bother you, that Texas youth will die as a result of this, then you are being complicit in the genocide of trans people. History will remember you as fascists and they will be exactly right.

Take a moment to talk to real life trans people in your life. They are not some mysterious, unfathomable entity. They are your everyday Texans, just like you and me. They want peace, life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. They want human connection and love and acceptance.

If you're concerned about Texas youth, I would suggest redirecting your energies to making Texas schools safer for students, who should never have to fear gun violence in their place of education. I would focus on making a Texas where children of color don't have to fear that their law enforcement will commit violence against them. I would focus my energy on insuring that no child in the state of Texas faces the tragic reality of homelessness or poverty in their lifetime.

With so much hurt in our world right now, I plead with you to not add to the adversity and violence of our Texas youth. I invite you to be a part of creating a better Texas for every single Texan in this state. Trans youth deserve the human right of becoming trans adults and living long, beautiful, and fulfilling lives. Do not strip Texans of their right to live and to live freely by passing HB1686.

Heather Roell
self, freelancer
Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill. Family medical decisions should be up the family.

Susan Fountain
Dallas county Republican party, SREC SD16
Dallas, TX

I support this bill to protect children from this horrible abuse. This world has been turned upside down to promote this permanently life altering,childhood shattering procedure which perpetuates medical trauma to these children. They have no concept of making these permanent decisions. Thank you.

Robert Hayhurst
Self
Canyon, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit medicalization of minor children for profiteering by rogue medical organizations who are in pursuit of lifetime clients. The medical community is called to do no harm and let children grow up.

Jim Spencer
Personal
Cleveland, TX

The mere idea of allowing the mutilation of children to change their God given gender is horrible. Please prevent this through legislation to protect these most vulnerable in our society.

Jerry Schirmer, Ph. D.
Self
Austin, TX

House bill 1686, in the way it is structured, breaks my heart.

It really does. The state of Texas has been my home my whole adult life. As a transgender Texan, I have lived exactly the life demanded by these bills -- I have "waited to see who I was" and made my transition decision as a full-minded adult.

The wage I collected from this was decades of pain. It was hurt caused to loved ones. In order to get to the core of "who I was", I had to unwind all of this pain, I had to make as many amends as I could, and I had to get to the bottom of it all, to discover, "I have to start down the course of taking this medication. I know it's almost a cliché to say "life-saving treatment" in this context, but it's nearly impossible to get around it in this case. The benefits, for me, were immediate and intense. The grey cloud over life was simply pulled back, one day.

This is also why this issue inspires such intensity. If there are young adults and teenagers that can simply not go through all of that pain, and endure all of those bad coping mechanisms, isn't it our job as adults to protect them from all ofthis pain and suffering. And it's not just me saying this, it is the entire physical and mental health establishment, including the AMA, the APA, and the American Academy of Pediatrics

Please, please please vote no on HB1686. Lives are on the line

Elwin Grissom
Self
Weatherford, TX

It is the State of Texas duty to protect our children from life altering surgery and drugs until they are an adult.

Jean Jeter
None
Carthage, TX

Please support and pass this bill to protect our children! Thanks

Lamya Thompson, Mx
Self
Del Valle, TX

this is what I sent in my email to the committee via TFNs webform, feel free to steal or spin off any of it

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Please, please please vote no on HB1686.  Lives are on the line.

Marc Pitts
Self - Financial Professional
Lindale, TX

I strongly support HB 1686! This bill is long overdue and must be enacted to protect vulnerable children from psychological and medical child abuse. There is no justification for abusing and mutilating children!

Cathy Stroud, Mrs.
Republican Women
Gainesville, TX

I urge you to pass this bill to protect our youth. It seems ridiculous to even have to ask for this. This procedure makes no sense. Our young people are our future. As an educator,  a grandmother and a Christian this procedure is a detriment to health and the future of young people and of our country. Please protect Texas youth.

Michael McCracken
Self-Consultant
Burke, TX

I support this legislation

Joy Herrington
Myself
Magnolia, TX

I support this bill.
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Kaitlin Popielarz, Dr.
Self/Educator
San Antonio, TX

Hello,

My name is Dr. Kaitlin Popielarz and I am a faculty member in the College of Education and Human Development at UTSA. I am also a resident of San Antonio, TX and my zip code is 78228.

I am emailing in solidarity with my LGBTQIA+ students who deserve equitable access to healthcare. I am emailing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else.

I have serious concerns about House Bill 1686. This bill would completely ban transgender youth from receiving essential healthcare in the state of Texas. Bills like these go against medical standards and deny children life-saving, gender-affirming care.

Every major U.S. medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has approved and set standards for gender-affirming care for transgender young people and adults. This bill puts not only the lives and well-being of transgender youth at risk, but also doctors for helping children receive best-practice medical care.

Texas families know what's best for them. Lawmakers should not overstep into the private medical decisions made between families and their doctors. Vote NO on HB1686. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely,

Kaitlin Popielarz, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching
College of Education and Human Development
University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249
Email: kaitlin.popielarz@utsa.edu
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Joan Buckley
Self
Denton, TX

Let the children grow up. Their little deciders are not fully developed. Preserve their innocence. Pass this bill. Please.

Brandywine Reyes
Self, former teacher now homeschooling parent
Cypress, TX

Absolutely, under no circumstance, should CHILDREN be allowed to permanently alter their physical bodies. That is, and should always be, an ADULT decision that should be made by the child when they themselves are an ADULT. That is NOT a decision that ANY adult should be making for anyone else, even their own children. Psychologically, children cannot be expected to reason through and navigate the lifelong affects of performing such procedures at such a young age.

Mande Kalbfleisch
Self
Denison, TX

This bill needs to pass. We are destroying the future of our country and our children by allowing this to continue.

Arthur Cameron
Self/ Retired
Tyler, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686 to stop mutilation and abuse of healthy children in Texas. Our country has accelerated the dying process by years of abortion, so we certainly should not allow mutilation and sterilization of our young people.

We need to be content with the way God made each of us and stop this nonsense of trying to ignore and change basic facts.

Thanks for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Beverly Koonce
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I support this legislation

Maria Guadaluoe De La O, Republican Party Chair
Self
El Paso, TX

I support this Bill. I don't want these procedures to be performed on our children by our schools without parental consent.

Jennifer Eckhart
self
Magnolia, TX

I support this Bill and the fight to protect our most vulnerable, our children. True gender dysphoria is a very small percentage. What we are seeing today is a social contagion and those that wish to profit off those in a mentally unhealthy place.

Lynn Wilson
Emmanuel Fellowship & School
Gonzales, TX

Dear Sirs an/or. Madams,
I strongly encourage you to adopt these regulations and restrictions on medical procedures and treatments , and government money spent, for any treatment and procedures that assists any person in transitioning to a gender opposite to the one they were born with. If an adult chooses a homosexual lifestyle, that is his or her business, but if they make the choice, I, as a taxpayer should not be forced to help pay for that choice. To allow these procedures and treatments to be done on children, with or without, parental approval, is a form of child abuse that should be made illegal. There are many reports and scientific studies which show most transitionally gendered people come to a point in their lives where they regret the decision they have made. Do not increase this number by allowing the decision to be made for them, or by allowing them to make the decision when they are not emotionally and intellectually capable of making so serious a decision. Please vote for the restrictions included in this bill. Sincerely. R. Lynn Wilson

Mark Cragle
The Village Church
Carrollton, TX

This is protecting our kids

Linda Ahrens
self
Whitehouse, TX

This is a MIUST.

Neal Trantham, Mr
Self
Denison, TX

I think transitioning anyone under the age of 18 is CHILD ABUSE!! Until a person has had time to mature they are not able to make such a life altering decision!

Joyce Gassiott, Mrs.
Texas Values and Grass Roots America
Mabank, TX

Please support HB 1686.

Robin Hayes, County Chair
Eastland County Republicans
Eastland, TX

I support this bill

Laurie Giertz
Springtown
Springtown, TX

Do not fund these procedures

Phyllis Hoffpauir
Self
Port Neches, TX

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Susan Crews
Self-Healthcare
Sadler, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. I believe this is the worst form of child abuse and should be illegal in all forms.

Ronnie Jones
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am for this bill. It must be passed to the floor of the house.

Joseph Orsak, Jr.
First Rock Fellowship
Aubrey, TX

We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children.

JoAnn McCracken
Self/retired
Houston, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children from the people who would influence them negatively about their gender identity. Thank you.

Ashley Jones
Self
Flower mound, TX

I am for this bill. It must be passed to the floor of the house.

Jamie Torres
Self
Leander, TX

Children cannot consent to such extreme medical procedures.

Diane Bell
Grassroots
Houston, TX

Stop gender transition procedures

Gary Calvert
Self
Jacksonville, TX

I am in full support of this bill and the total eradication of this monstrous crime against children.

Ginger Russell, Citizen
Myself
Magnolia, TX

I support HB1686 100%.

Becky Peevey
Self
Cedar Park, TX

FOR passing this bill

Arielle LaGuette
self
Austin, TX

The language of this bill is misguided and fails to address the research about Gender-Affirming Care being linked to less depression, lower suicide risk for trans youth who are able to receive it. Vote NO - it is a life or death matter that needs to use data and research to make the right decision. The right decision is to strongly oppose.

Barbara Sundstrom
Self
Allen, TX

Gender modification is an assault against our children! We are responsible for protecting them while under parental care. I urge you to pass this bill.

Theresa Winship
Self
Decatur, TX

Yes, we need to protect all young children from these types of procedures, treatments or drugs that prevents their bodies from the natural steps of growth. Plus I don't feel tax payers should foot the bill for any of it.

Doris Fike, Pct 102 Chair, Montgomery County
Self
Conroe, TX

Protect all children from this irreversible life-altering procedure and from those that support and encourage them to make this choice.

Support and vote FOR HB 1686.
Thank you.

Marsha Eubanks
Self - Escrow Asst
Sherman, TX

Please pass this bill

Jon Jackson
self
Aledo, TX

I urge the committee to support this common sense bill. Children can be easily confused, manipulated, or unintentionally pressured into making a decision for which they do not have the maturity and prepared to make as young children. We all remember peer pressure all to well. Parents should be fully informed and the only ones who make this decision on behalf of their child. There is too much as stake for the child, almost none of which do they comprehend the long term consequences.

Please take a stand for truth and our children!

Jane Anne Sellars
Self/Retired
Frisco, TX

Please protect our children from these medical procedures that harm them for life.

Jolie Humphrey
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. Children should not be permitted to transition their sex underage. People do not fully develop their mi da (reasoning) until they're mid 20's. This is a fact. Therefore I am supporting this bill. We need to protect our youth.

Jonah Welch
Self
Austin, TX

Good morning, my name is Jonah Welch. I'm 30 years old and have been out as transgender since I was 19. I took hormone therapy as an adult for 9 years and had a double mastectomy when I was 24. This medical care saved my life. I oppose House Bill 1686 and Senate Bill 14, as well as any other legislature that would restrict the human rights of the transgender population in the state of Texas.

I belong here. I know because my ancestors were judges and attorneys in Texas for generations. My great uncle, Ramsey Clark, former attorney general of the United States under president Johnson, got his education right here in Texas. I carry the spirit of their commitment to justice with me.

Although you do not understand us now, there are many people who do.

And although you refuse to recognize us now, there are many people who have. We are your children, your siblings, your parents and friends, your doctors and your teachers… we belong here in Texas. There is nothing you can do to penetrate the sanctity of our homes and communities. We are well loved by those who know us.

I am speaking out now because as a medical student and a transgender person, I believe that the decision of whether or not to pursue gender-affirming medical care should be a choice between a young person, their parents, and their doctors. There is no scientific data to support the claims made in these bills, and by passing them you will be harming a population that already faces many challenges in society. You will also be harming many people who are not transgender, who utilize hormone replacement therapy and other surgeries to treat an array of medical conditions ranging from uterine fibroids to low testosterone in older males. There is no real division between you and I. I am a facet of you and you, me. What you are doing is wrong, but it will not make us go away. We are a part of humanity. We have always been here, and always will be.

Sarah Stutler
Self
Austin, TX

I am against HB 1686. Legislators writing laws related to healthcare without consulting actual healthcare professionals is abhorrent and this proposed bill only serves to harm a marginalized group. Healthcare decisions, regardless of sex, gender identity, etc, should be between the physician and the patient.legislators are not welcome in the exam room to weigh in.

Priscilla Bryan
Self
Lorena, TX

I am for HB1686

Jennifer Cook
Self
Denison, TX

I am for this bill. I do not believe that children should be given procedure or treatments for gender transitioning.

Amber Davis
Self
Meyersville, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Monique Doolittle
Myself
San Antonio, TX

Please protect the children of Texas by supporting this bill. In no other area are children allowed to make such permanent decisions for themselves. We wouldn't allow them to get a piercing, a tattoo, join the military, get married, smoke cigarettes, drink alcohol or use drugs because they want to because we feel they aren't mature enough to do so. So why would we allow this? Children go through phases in every other aspect of life. They are curious and can become confused or caught up in a trend.

Claudette Webb
Odessa Republican party
Odessa, TX

Prohibit gender modification/mutilation of our children.

Jacob Roberts
Self, Student
Howe, TX

I support HB1686. End Childhood Gender Modification.

Crescenicio Reyes II, Mr.
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686
Thank you for defending our children. God bless.

Kay Butchko
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I support this bill.

Kimberly Holley, Ms
Self/woman/mother
Abbott, TX

Do not allow this mutilation - surgically or chemically - this makes BIG $$$ for- HOSPITALS -and DRUG companies! Watch “Operation Paperclip” a documentary how we got to this point. PLEASE watch it.

Support HB 1686

Martin Porter
Self
Flower Mound, TX

No gender reassignment of any kind should be allowed below age 18. We are told by Christ to take care of his children. In no way shop we treat kids this way. Teachers, administrators, doctors, hospital admin, parents and anyone else performing these acts should be put in JAIL. What could possibly be up for discussion? STOP THIS NOW.

Tisha Crow, SREC
RPT
Odessa, TX

We must protect our children on multiple fronts and this bill would be of great assistance to parents in that fight!

Lucy Reyes
Self, student age 12
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686. I don't think kids should be able to have surgery that changes their bodies. They aren't mature enough to make that decision.

Katheryn Moore
Self, Precinct Chair 4065 Tarrant County
Fort Worth, TX

Research is showing that most that receive gender transitioning later regret the castration or chemical altering drug procedures. We are now seeing that many victims of these procedures later have mental issues because they were too young to make decisions of that magnitude at a young age. As adults, we absolutely must protect children from these horrific procedures. I fully support this bill.

Serena Ashcroft
Self
McKinney, TX

We should be protecting our children! Absolutely no gender modification or surgeries for minors.

Deborah Avellano, Precinct Chair
True Texas Project/Denton County Republican Party
Corinth, TX

To the Committee on Public Health:
I strongly SUPPORT HB 1686.
As a person under the age of 26 has not yet fully developed mentally and physically, and the consequences of such procedures cannot be reversed, the decision to radically alter that person's body by pharmaceutical and/or surgical means cannot be made rationally. No pharmaceutical company can give long term consequences for the life time effects in the use of the necessary gender modification drugs, physically, psychologically and economically.
It is a macabre, evil practice for profit that will sterilize the individual. It must be prohibited so our children are not abused and rendered eunechs. Please pass HB 1686 forward to a vote and end these practices.

Kelly Hartmann
Self
Lewisville, TX

Please support this bill and protect our children!!!

Kimberly De La Garza
self
Austin, TX

I think these decisions are too complex for children to make. I am not against gender transitioning once a person is a legal adult.

Cindy Thompson
Self
Whitewright, TX

Prohibit gender transitioning

Betty Daugherty
self
The Woodlands, TX

Please vote to oppose this bill. My working experience as asocial worker has taught me this health care decision is better handled by parents and doctors. This is a road to too much government in our lives. Thank you.

Wilma Tate, Mrs.
self
Victoria, TX

Regarding: HB1686 No child is born in the wrong body. We are created just as God has ordained and therefore should not be changed. STOP the medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm #LetThemGrow.

Sarahbeth Holman
Self
Mckinney, TX

I oppose this bill. Gender affirming care saves lives. Please do the actual research to see what medical associations and professionals say. Please vote no.

Paulette Carson
Self
Apple Springs, TX

I support this HB 1686 and urge Legislators to also support this very important bill.
Paulette Carson
SD3

Bruce Maxwell
self
Van Alstyne, TX

A child is not able to purchase alcohol or tobacco. How would anyone think they could make a life altering decision to transition or attempt to reassign their own sex. This should be viewed as child abuse and is totally unacceptable. Please support this bill to prohibit these procedures for children.

Amanda Bennett
Self, Program Director
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 and I urge the committee to vote against this bill. Transgender children deserve our support, and must be able to access the right healthcare that they need to live authentic full lives. Studies show that when transgender children and teenagers receive gender affirming healthcare, they are healthier. The fear mongering and lies from those who oppose this care doesn't erase the truth, which is that gender nonconforming people have always existed and will continue to exist. Trans, non-binary, and intersex people deserve support to live long, happy, healthy lives, choosing their own consensual healthcare. The fact that this bill has made it to a public hearing is already endorsing the bullying of transgender children. Children will yet again come to the legislature begging to be allowed to exist. Families are terrified for their future in Texas if they or their children can't access the healthcare they've been safely getting for years. Studies show that suicide rates for transgender youth increase when they are denied healthcare. If you vote for this bill, you are complicit in harming young Texans who just want to live their fullest lives. Texas should welcome all families and all young people, regardless of their gender, and let them access the healthcare they need to thrive. Please vote against this bill. Protect trans children.

Elizabeth Jones
State Republican Executive Committee, CommitteewomanbSD 20
Alice, TX

I urge you to SUPPORT this bill and be courageous enough to protect our Texas children! The unspeakable is being done to confused children who are developmentally unable to think through the lifelong consequences to which they will be subjected by gener modifying medical treatment. Give these children time to grow, develop, and work through their struggles BEFORE we allow activist "doctors" to cause them irreparable harm. Young people who aren't even allowed to consume alcohol are being encouraged to permanently modify their bodies either chemically or physically. Make TEXAS a safe haven where children can heal and work through their childhood and adolescent struggles without facing lifelong consequences!

Alan Higginbotham
Self
Reklaw, TX

I urge you to support this legislation to protect Texas children.

Milena Kontareva
Self
Allen, TX

I am for this bill that protects children at their most vulnerable time, when they can not take life altering desicions. The way our culture is now with trans propaganda in schools, tv and doctor offices, we can not longer rely on common sense. It's a huge business that mutilates and creates life long pharma patients at age of 7. Nobody is born in wrong body, some are just unfortunate to have indoctrinated parents and unrestricted social media access. Thank you for your work to protect our youth.

Lincoln Achilli
Self
Dallas, TX

Gender modification should not be available to minors. It causes irreversible changes to the body that a minor lacks the full awareness and knowledge to make such a consequential decision. It is not a life saving or medically therapeutic decision in any way which is why even parents should not be able yo make this decision on the child's behalf. The child, only once they have become an adult and is fully aware of their own unique situation should be the only party who can agree to permanently, fundamentally alter their body in a medically unnecessary way for the rest of their lives.

Shelia Weddell
self
MIDLOTHIAN, TX

HB 1686 I believe this should be a punishable offense

Cheryl Measures
Self
Weatherford, TX

Parents must observe a child's growth, traits, and behavior; neither forcing nor allowing surgical or chemical changes. Such decisions are the right of a legal adult beginning at age 18.

Ann Jackson, Mrs.
Self, Homeschool parent
Hockley, TX

I fully support this bill as protection for Texas children and Texas medical personnel against mutilation of children's bodies.

Ginger Johns
Self
Argyle, TX

Yes. Stop this immediately!

Nina Clark
Self - Retired
Houston, TX

Thank you for sponsoring HB 1686. It is unimaginable to me that this Bill is even needed. I find thetreatments being given and the procedures being perfomred on young chilcren are barbaric... not life saving.

Valerie Cooper
Self
Garland, TX

As a citizen, mother, and family member of someone in the LGBTQ community, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill. Not only is it discriminatory and cruel, it takes away healthcare choices from parents and their children that belong between solely them and doctors and experts. It will only lead to pain to trans kids and their families.

Sara Dick
Self - Teacher
Sherman, TX

As a teacher, I am well aware of what struggles children face in day-to-day life. Many children struggle in finding who they are. Teaching them that there is more than male and female gender has only added to that confusion. Teaching them other than what is backed up by biology greatly affects their basis of understand of how they and the world work. Regardless of what they are taught, they are not old enough nor developed enough to make such a life altering decision of "gender reassignment". We do not let them vote because they are "not old enough" to make such large decisions, yet are proposing letting them adjust the very identity supported by their own biology? We should not support gender reassignment, much less use tax payers money to pay for something that will ultimately destroy our society in generations to come. Instead, we should support them in giving security of understanding of who they are on a biological standpoint to give them greater understanding and lead to acceptance of who they are from birth. Kids crave stability, allowing them to take such drastic measures will never give them that.

Gertrudis Presley, Mrs.
Self.
Argyle, TX

Let children be children and stop the mutilation of our children and the grooming ! We should not use hard working tax payers money to treat any transitioning. This is a mental issue and the parents should stop exploiting their children!!

John LaMarr, Mr.
Self
Plano, TX

Please pass HB1686 to prohibit the provision to certain children procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Eric Caynak
Self
Weatherford, TX

Common sense dictates the passage of this bill.

Preston Gillham
Self
Fort Worth, TX

First, it is astounding that this bill is necessary. This said, I am writing to let you know I am in favor of passage of HB1686.

Colin Ashlock
Self
Sherman, TX

God made male and female. Not male to become female or vice versa. Our country needs to turn its eyes back to God, and when we do, we will see a better place.

Kelli Scott
Non
Denton, TX

Please vote yes and support our children and our future

Jackie Wakin
Self
Frisco, TX

I support bill 1686

Pepa Paniagua, Rev.
kin-dom community
Plano, TX

This bill is death dealing and will cause irreparable damage to young people across the great state of Texas. This is not in line with Texas values and our long held beliefs in freedom and liberty. Transgender individuals deserve to be safe and deserve access to life saving health care in the state of Texas. As a pastor and person of faith, I know that all trans people are created in the image of God and are sacred and worthy of dignity and a full life- a full life that is only accessible through life saving health care and mental health resources. I stand AGAINST HB 1686.

Shannon Bicheno
Self
Argyle, TX

We are called to protect children!

Bea Cannon
Self
Houston, TX

Please do the right thing and support and pass this bill. Protect our children

Brenda Latham
Self
Bartonville, TX

I beg you to please support HB 1686. If you can't support this bill then you need to lower the age requirement for driver's license, tobacco, alcohol and gun purchases. If they are old enough to make such a MAJOR decision that will affect them the rest of their lives, with no way to correct this decision later in life, then they are old enough to make the other major decisions they are currently restricted from. This should actually be a no brainer for everyone.

Dale Inman, Pastor and SREC SD 4 Committeeman
SD4
Conroe, TX

Strongly in support of Texas, HB 1686.
Texas should be a leader in protecting children from long term harmful/unknown procedures.

Melody Benteler
Self, consultant
Dripping Springs, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Where is the freedom in this bill - for children, families, and physicians? Texas used to be a “live and let live” state - let’s go there again. Just because you don’t understand something, or it makes you uncomfortable, does not mean it is illegal. Please vote no.

Summer Calhoun
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

I support this bill as we must protect children from irreversible damage that can occur.

Michael Sharp
Individual
Denison, TX

We support this bill to help stop the mutilation of our children.

Darshana Kalikstein
Self - Financial Analyst
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and any bill that prevents parents partnering with licensed medical professionals to best evaluate and meet the mental health and medical needs of their children. As the parent of pediatric cancer survivor I am shocked at proposed legislation that would infringe on parents rights to love and care for their children.

Rita Whitley
Self/Health Insurance Plan Builder
Winona, TX

Children below the age of 18 do not have the emotional development to make decisions that are physically irreversible. Children with gender dysphoria generally come to accept their bodies over time. They should be given the time and support to do so.

Chris Bischoff
HWS Air and Heat
Richards, TX

My family and I support this bill and pray for legislators that work to protect gender as assigned by our creator and redeemer The Lord God.

Dorothy Farkash
self
Duncanville, TX

We must protect our children from this mutilation - please!

Robert Vann
Self/Retired
Fort Worth, TX

You should be ashamed of yourselves, though I doubt if you will. This bill is a cowardly, bullying attack on young people and their families who are not able to defend themselves. The entire purpose of this bill is to solicit political advantage for yourselves from your ill-informed and hateful base and from a small element of religious zealots. On one hand, you scream that parents must have a right to determine what books children read and what professional educators can teach, as well as whether their children are vaccinated against serious diseases that could devastate communities, while on the other you say those self-same parents do not have the right to take medically approved steps--in consultation with their doctors--to ensure their children's emotional, mental and sexual health. Any physician specializing in sexual matters could tell you, if you had any interest in listening to facts, that both physically and emotionally there is a wide range of sexuality and not just straight male or female genders. This bill needs to die a quick death, and you, as legislators, need to start focusing on actual matters of public health.

Thomas McDonald
Self
Sadler, TX

Let’s protect our children!

Wanda Furgason, Mrs
Pecan Valley Republican Woman
Brownwood’, TX

I support this bill please protect our children the generation that will be in charge of government in the near future.

Sue Sharp
self retired
Denison, TX

We support this bill to stop the mutilation of our children.

Nelia Lynn, Ms
Self retired
Carrollton, TX

Please protect our young people from medications and surgeries that will alter their life and well being.

Melanie Willis
Self
Argyle, TX

I support this bill

Cheryl Warren
CHILDREN
Orange, TX

DONT LET THEM HURT THE CHILDREN !!
women can not decide to be men, Men can not decide to be women.
It has always been a mental issue. UNTIL big pharma learned they had a life long customer.
NOT THE CHILDREN.

Rose Hernandez
Republican Women of Brown County
Brownwood, TX

Support this bill

Bethany Scanlon
myself
Cypress, TX

Allowing minors to receive Gender Modification/Transitioning is child abuse. You must be 18 years old to get a tattoo, because of it’s permanence and possibility of physical harm. Use of public funds for any gender modification/transition is insidious and abuse of taxpayer funds. Please vote yes to HB 1686.

Robert McElroy, Mr
Self
Katy, TX

I support this bill. Please end the mutilation of children.

Caroline Allen
Self, retired
Dallas, TX

When children are not protected by their virtue-signaling teachers and parents and are rushed into radical procedures that require lifelong medical (and apparently psychological) care, then we have a duty and an obligation to do what we can to shield them from such insanity. Thank you, Representative Oliverson, for proposing1686 to restrict such harmful practices.

Janie Brittain
Self - Retired Systems Engineer
Garland, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1686:

Please support and fight for HB 1686. Multiple state legislatures have passed laws to stop the barbaric and evil practice of child mutilation. We should have been the first state, but let's not let Texas be the last state to stop it. The Texas Legislature and the Supreme Court of Texas failed James Younger in the recent past. Please pass this bill in his honor so that other children may be saved.

Matthew 18:6 - "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea."

Brenda Barber, RN
Self
Bangs, TX

I believe no child should go through gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. And the use of public money should not be used.

Tamara Gandt
self/homemaker
Flower Mound, TX

Public money or public assistance should not be available for said procedures and treatments in this bill. It is wrong for these treatments to be allowable and used on any child under 18.

Tricia Kim
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on HB1686. All of the difficult choices made by parents of trans children revolve around one question: "How can we keep our child from attempting/completing a suicide?" They are seeking to a) provide the least intensive/most reversible level of intervention, and b) stave off -- using hormones --- the adolescent changes that exacerbate the feeling of one's body not fitting with how they feel on the inside. I doubt that you have personal experience with this struggle.

One friend's teen was miserable and did not feel that their body matched how they felt on the inside. They hated being in their body every single day. My friend wanted to support her child in exploring actionable changes that might help with their mental health and well being, in addition to already seeing a therapist and taking medication for depression and anxiety. Another issue with some teenagers is that they have a wish to begin college with a fresh start, in which their body outwardly/more closely "matches" their identified gender. Sometimes "minor" is a 17 year old high school senior.

The responsibility of parents' making these medical decisions for their child is heavy. I don't understand why legislators are saying that a) parents should be the ultimate authority and know what's best for their kids' educations, AND also b) parents may not have access to medical care that can help their developing adolescents survive. Trans kids are a small % of all kids, and not all trans kids wish to seek out gender affirming health care. Do we really need to create/enforce laws about this?

I believe in the Texas Medical Board and other existing physician associations that determine and enforce the best practices for medical care. This law is unnecessary, harmful and a violation of the patient-doctor relationship.

Mike Jackson
n/a
Lufkin, TX

I support HB 1686. No child in Texas should be submitted by their parents or legal guardian to any type of gender transitioning or reassignment. This is child abuse. Neither private nor public money should be used for such evil purposes.

Amanda Smith, Chief of staff
Self
Austin, TX

Please stop hurting our trans kids. Healthcare is a right. And it’s personal. We should be protecting our children, not denying them life saving healthcare.

Brian Roberts
Grayson County Republicans
Howe, TX

I support this bill and a ban of gender modification surgery for minors. It is a shame that this bill needs to exist and that it requires grassroots pressure to get it passed. Please protect the children of Texas from deluded parents that would make permanent changes to their body before they have an opportunity to consider the life-long ramifications of such destructive surgery.

Kara Russell, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

A child’s body is created for the gender God chose according to his good and loving purpose.

Wendy Taylor
Restore the Republic
Frisco, TX

Please don’t allow our money to be spent on gender transitions surgeries for children. I feel these children need time for their brains to fully develop before they start having these life changing procedures.

Richard C Maxwell
Jesus Christ, crucified and raised from death to life
Godley, TX

YHWH created male and female in His image. There are NO mistakes or clarity issues in this. If children are allowed to be surgically butchered, the suicide rates will increase upon their realization they were meant to be as they were born to be. Those who sponsor, support and pass an abomination such as this will be tying a millstone of guilt around their necks for end time judgment…and it is going to be a real thing.

I do not support nor want any part of taxpayer monies funding something as horrid as this!

Sylvia Rodriguez, Ector County Republican Chair
Ector County Republican Party
Odessa, TX

I support this 100%

Carolyn Mitchell, Rev.
Texas Women for Justice
CONROE, TX

I encourage you not to support HB 1686 which would ban access to life-saving healthcare for transgender youth and allows legal action against parents and providers, including the loss of physician's license.

"Gender-affirming care, including the use of hormones to delay puberty and to promote the development of secondary sex characteristics that are consistent with a child's gender identity, is recommended for transgender youth by the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Endocrine Society and is viewed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as evidence-based patient care. Moreover, the American Medical Association supports insurance coverage for gender-affirming care for transgender people. Research shows that gender-affirming care improves mental health and overall well-being for transgender people, including youth." UCLA Williams Institute

These children are human beings who deserve the utmost in medical care. Please do not support HB – 1686 and instead affirm these children and youth. Even though they may identify differently they too are God's children.

Julie Rix
Self
Houston, TX

CHILD is the operative word...THEY ARE NOT EXPERIMENTS!!! A life altering, permanent decision is to be made as an Adult.

Marilyn Kent
self, retired
Houston, TX

vote FOR the bill

Stacy Weidmann
self
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is poisonous to Texans and I strongly oppose it. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity, and the Texas government has no business getting between Texans and their doctors providing well-researched care. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Cynthia Hicks
Self, editor
Nederland, TX

No public money should be used for any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria for any child or person under the age of 21. Furthermore, gender transitioning and gender reassignment surgery, procedures and treatments should be made illegal for anyone under the age of 21. Children cannot give consent to procedures they do not understand the long term, lifelong consequences of; these treatments and procedures result in mental anguish, lifelong dependence on dangerous medications, mutilation individuals cannot recover from and infertility, among many other negative and harmful outcomes.

Cynthia Sloan
Self, retired teacher
San Saba, TX

We must protect our children! Please stop all of these evil procedures and treatments!!

James Dammann
Self
Brownwood, TX

Please protect our children by passing this bill. Thank you

Shirley Sileven
Self - self employed Longarm Quilter
Van Alstyne, TX

Please SUPPORT this BILL!!!! Our children are counting on us to hold the line for them!!!!

Jordanna Muse
Self / photography
Austin, TX

Strongly and vehemently against this bill. It is life saving.

Honesty Clement
Self
Mansfield, TX

I support this measure

Kimberly Tortorice
Self - Former High School Teacher
Austin, TX

I understand that this is an upsetting issue for some people, but not all decisions should not be made by the state. Young people are experiencing a significant mental health crisis and blocking access to gender-affirming care will be a death sentence for some of these kids. Please let children express themselves as THEY see themselves. Any related decisions should be made under the guidance of medical professionals - not legislators. Thank you for your time.

Lily Reyes
self, student
Cypress, TX

I support House Bill 1686. I am a student in Junior High, and personally I believe that it is quite dumb for a child to make a decision like that at such a young age. They might just say this because their best friend wanted to switch genders, so now they do too. Little do they know, this decision forever alters them. They will never be able to change back, never be their ACTUAL gender again. I believe if your child is begging you to switch genders and get surgery, don't let them. Depending on their age and their parents, they probably don't even know what surgery is, or what it'll do to them. But I'll say this. Let them cut their hair. Let them change their name (like a nickname, of course, nothing permanent), and let them try it out. By the time they reach adulthood, they might have changed their mind. If not, then they're an adult know, they can make these kind of decisions on their own. But while you are their parent you are responsible for the choices they make. You will forever change your child and nothing can change them back. That is why I support House Bill 1686.

Clint Stutts
Self/Self
Malakoff, TX

This is one of our Republican priorities; please support.

Raven Raines
self
Alice, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill on principle and purpose.

Elizabeth Exley
Exley Farms
JARRELL, TX

My family and friends are in FAVOR of this Bill passing. As you may know, emerging research documenting serious risks and irreversible side effects associated with medications used in sex reassignment procedures has led many European nations to revise their standards of care for treating children experiencing gender dysphoria to prohibit medical transitioning. Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to “Do No Harm.” We are praying for you to do what is right in God's eyes.

Jessica Saucedo
Self
Sherman, TX

I am in full support of prohibiting any kind of procedure, treatment, medication, and/or allotment of public funding to such entities that provide gender transition, reassignment, or gender dysphoria. If a child is still considered as such and in care of a guardian until the age of 18 per law then children are not capable of understanding the full effects of such irreversible treatments and procedures. We cannot allow thoughts/feelings of such a minority group to dictate our own personal parental rights to insure the wellbeing of our children. It’s absolute nonsense to consider a child having to mental capacity to make such decisions of permanent consequence.

Marshall Duncan
Self
Plano, TX

Vote Yes. Protect our children!

John Murray, Mr.
self parent
Austin, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT the passage of HB 1686.

Patricia Blair
self
Cypress, TX

I am FOR HB 1686, which will protect children from experimental and harmful sex reassignment medical procedures by prohibiting Texas medical professionals from engaging in these practices and holding those who violate the law accountable. Based on the weight of available and emerging research, these medical procedures violate the first duty of medicine, which is to “Do No Harm.”

Billy Ballow
Personal
Nacogdoches, TX

I strongly support this legislation to protect our Texas children.

Susan Markus

self, retired, mother, grandmother

Austin, TX

This bill is cruel, inhumane and will lead to more depression and suicide among youth who are denied this treatment. Why is the state interfering in teh doctor patient relationship? The AMA and the Academy of Pediatrics support gender affirming treatment. Moreover, only a very few number of minors seek gender affirming treatment, and even fewer seek surgery. Less then .1%! Why are we making laws that make the lives of these youth and their families more difficult than they already are. As Spencer Cox, the Republican governor of Utah said when he veto an anti-trans bill in his state, we should with respect, kindness and an effort to understand - not with laws that constrain youth, their parents and their doctors. Reject this horrible, cruel, unnecessary bill.

Maureen Cage

Self and parents

Coppell, TX

Transitioning is a fad/trend that these kids are regretting as they mature. No child under age 21 (but really older since their frontal lobe may not be developed til age 30) should be allowed to change their sex by mutilation/surgery or hormones. This is flat out child abuse! Parents and doctors should be held accountable and there WILL BE lawsuits jamming up our courts.
If a child wants to be the opposite sex, they can “pretend or dress” like the opposite sex but not permanently transition. They need counseling to help them understand what is happening in their body. Take the case of Dr Anne; former Coppell, Texas pediatrician who insists that one of her twin boys has wanted to be a girl since he was a toddler. Dad disagrees and the elementary school child is caught in the middle of his divorced parents battle.
There are enough diseases, physical limitations, health issues that need to be addressed before we start making new problems that are sure to arise. And who is paying for these surgeries? I don’t want my insurance to go up because people are doing ELECTIVE surgeries.
Let kids be kids and stop affirming this insanity. We have survived thousands of years as male and female. Biologically determined by chromosomes and body parts. Stop the madness! Focus on other health issues like finding a cure for cancer and other diseases and do not allow doctors to cause harm.
Look at the numbers of kids who have transitioned and
Are detransitioning. We have an identity crisis and that is a mental health issue that cannot be fixed by greedy doctors and parents who are driven by fear and fads.
God ordained us and created us as male or female.
We are destroying lives, catering to children’s cries for help by mutilating their bodies while they have mental health issues/identity issues that need urgent attention. Teaching children to love who they are through gratitude and affirming their uniqueness and that they have value and worth just as they are.
GOD HELP US for allowing parents and doctors and even the government to be complicit in these atrocities. Stop these crimes against humanity; and our precious children.

Kendra Laflin

self

Austin, TX

I am registering AGAINST this bill. Leave medical decisions to doctors and let parents keep their rights as parents.

Kristin McGarity

self, musician and disability rights advocate

Kyle, TX

I have testified to House committees before, on bills regarding access to medication in Texas. As with those bills, I am here to testify that a medication can be unhelpful or harmful to some people, while being literally lifesaving for others. This bill says to Texans: "if you and your doctor believe this medication helps you, we don't believe you." In a state that values freedom, banning medication across the board just isn't what we do. Humans are way too fascinating and complex to sort into two binary categories from birth, and the world is so much more complicated and beautiful than we humans can possibly understand.

Sarah Covey
Self
Bertram, TX

I am for this bill.

Gaylyn DeVine, Mrs
SREC SD 11
Pearland, TX

Children do not have the mental capacity to determine if life-altering permanent medical treatments should be made to change how they were born. God does not make mistakes! And for doctors who took an oath to "do no harm" to perform these treatments is criminal at best, along with parents who go along with the physical, mental, and emotional trauma of allowing these procedures. If a person wants to make these decisions when they are an adult & at their own expense, that is one time. But to think it is proper, safe, and improves the quality of life of a child to do ANY of these procedures is pure evil, unloving, and causes more harm than good. Please vote FOR HB 1686 and stop these treatments on children today!

Diana Richards
Self - Retired
Sherman, TX

FOR - Thank you for this opportunity to comment in Support of HB1686 by Rep. Oliverson. My name is Diana Richards, & I testified at the TX Capitol last Session in favor of prohibiting child gender modification & medicalization. This was happening just as numerous countries like Sweden, Finland, & the UK were announcing ceasing the Dutch Protocol due to "harm to minors," but sadly the TX House did not pass a bill to protect minor children. We must see that the medical industry will always - FIRST DO NO HARM. Too many people are losing trust in our healthcare system, and the medical predation of gender confused children (many Autistic) is a major reason.

INTERSEX: You will hear those opposed to HB1686 say that medical issues like being born "Intersex" is not rare & suggest that the prevalence might be as high as 1.7% has attracted wide attention in both the scholarly press and the popular media. Many reviewers are not aware that this figure includes conditions which most clinicians do not recognize as intersex, such as Klinefelter syndrome, Turner syndrome, and late-onset adrenal hyperplasia.The diagnosis of Intersex, to retain any meaning, should be restricted to those conditions in which chromosomal sex is inconsistent with phenotypic sex, or in which the phenotype is not classifiable as either male or female. Applying this more precise definition, the true prevalence of intersex is seen to be about 0.018%, almost 100 times lower than Fausto-Sterling s estimate of 1.7%.

PRECOCIOUS PUBERTY: It is now known that the Diagnosis Code for Precocious Puberty is being used to get financial coverage for the off-label prescribing of puberty blocking drugs to minors in Tanner Stage 2 of Puberty that are older than 8-9 years old and do not have the underlying medical conditions known to cause Precocious Puberty such as tumors or growths on the ovaries, adrenal glands, pituitary gland, or brain. Precocious Puberty is diagnosed under the ages of 8-9 not after. The fraudulent use of this code for the purpose of attempting the impossible change of sex of a child should be seen as criminal theft and child abuse. A male's body must have its natural production of Testosterone to properly form their developing bones, muscles (including heart muscle), and brain.

CONSENT: Children cannot consent to getting a tattoo or even purchasing some paints, glues, glazes at arts & craft stores until they are 18 years old, and recently the TXLege saw it fit to increase the age to buy cigarettes/tobacco to 21 to match alcohol. A person can't rent a car until age 25 - and that is due to brain development. Insurance industry statistics are clear that people under age 25 commit more risky behaviors. I ask that you not only pass HB1686 but RAISE the age for transition medicalization and surgeries to 25 years old.

DE-Transition: There is no "affirming care" for those who learn this is a huge mistake. They have to cease medications without insurance covering a physician's care.

Lynn Baber
self-writer
Weatherford, TX

Please pass this bill to protect stressed children from making decisions they can't unmake later. Once they're grown up, they make revisit such weighty decisions and be accountable. This is a bill to protect Texas children and their families. Strong families make strong citizens. As a community member, I work a little with the local school system and know that too many kids aren't prepared to succeed in school because of tremendous economic and family stresses. Please help keep them children until they're able to get a basic education and grow up, before making a decision than the most mature adult would find difficult.

Marc McDaniel
self, retired chemist
Austin, TX

I'm all for Republican principles of smaller government, family values, and individual liberty. However this bill is big government at it's worst injecting itself into medical decisions that should be made by families and their doctors on a case by case basis. The Texas Legislature needs to butt out of social issues, respect family values, and remember that "the government that governs least, governs best.

Jon Bouche
None
Conroe, TX

I am in favor of this bill and we need to really strengthen the penalties for abusing children in this way. By allowing young children to change their gender, we are affectively lowering the age of consent. I guess that’s what the groomers are most happy about as they are, stealing the innocence and the lives of children.

Nick Gass, Pastor
Wise County Conservative
Bridgeport, TX

We need to stand with this bill. It’s time to put a stop to harming our children and trying to change their gender. We can’t change someone that God has designed.

Robert Burns, Dr
Self
Sugar Land, TX

gender transition medical procedure are destructive for our way of life. vote YES on this bill!

Rhonda Cabello
self
Austin, TX

My name is Rhonda Cabello and this testimony is against HB 1686. I am a proud 6th generation Texan! My 3rd great grandfather fought in the battle of San Jacinto, so I know that we Texans are fiercely independent! I also happen to be the proud mother of a fiercely independent transgender daughter! She is a successful, thriving college graduate with a great job! While this bill would not affect my family personally, I could not stand by and see other parents and children suffer or move out of Texas because I did not speak up. I do not want to speak to you today about the appalling suicide rates and statistics because I assume you've already heard those. I am guessing that most of the members of the committee are parents or maybe even grandparents? If you would indulge me, close your eyes, just for a moment, and picture your child or grandchild. Now imagine that they tell you that they do not feel what is on the inside of them matches the outside; in essence, that they are not the right gender. Would you love them less? When we bring home our babies, we never expect to be faced with this dilemma either. But we love our children and want them to feel WHOLE! As a parent, it is difficult to face, but as the person in a body whose internal sense of self does not match the external, I can only imagine the self-doubt and suffering they go through. The decision for parents to seek mental and/ or medical health care and treatment for their child is not easy. However, they need the advice of professionals not the opinions of lawmakers; even the most well-meaning ones. If you do in fact, believe in "less government interference" then you must oppose this bill that would insert an unnecessary barrier between children, parents and physicians. Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Henry
Self
Cypress, TX

I support HB 1686 and ask that this be approved out if committee for full approval.

Pat Oates
Goodwin-Lasiter-Strong
Lufkin, TX

This needs to be passed now.

Shelley McCarty, Mrs
Self
Aledo, TX

I am in full support of HB 1686

John Matthew, Dr.

Clear Lake Baptist Church and the Texas Ethics and Religious Liberty Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention of Texas

Houston, TX

We encourage government officials and policy makers to support public policies that recognize the unalterable God-given distinctions between male and female and especially protect children under the age of 18 from surgical procedures or pharmaceuticals that are for the purpose of gender transitioning or gender reassignment.
We affirm that gender is determined by God alone and is not influenced by man or open for selection or alteration. We further affirm that God has designed two genders, male and female, as part of His original creation design and assigns one to each human He creates (Genesis 1:27).
We call upon our elected officials to:
1. Ban any method of gender modification of children such as body altering surgeries, genital mutilation, chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, psychological and social gender transitioning
2. Ensure the rights of parents to be involved in conversations at school concerning the gender identity or gender transformation of their children.
3. Protect and defend the privacy of women and children in intimate facilities such as locker rooms, restrooms, dressing rooms, and shelters by maintaining distinct and separate facilities based upon biological sex.
4. Save women's collegiate sports and protect athletic opportunities and fair competition for women by ensuring that only biologically female athletes compete in women's sports.
5. Ban any taxpayer funds from being used for treatments or surgeries to alter a person's biological sex.

Brigitte Youngblood, Mrs

Self

Spring, TX

Please know that this bill represents the most noble inclination to protect children from permanent and serious damage to their physical and mental well being. I am sorry we even need such legislative help as it speaks to the moral depravity of our fellow citizenry. Please support this legislation.

Margo Carmichael

Self-- mother

Lantana (Dallas area), TX

Pass this bill!

Jeffrey McCarty, Mr.

Self

Aledo, TX

I Support HB 1686

Shelby Williams, Plano City Council
Myself
Plano, TX

Minors should not be permitted to undergo permanent gender alteration any more than they should be allowed to undergo body modification (which they aren't). The idea that we say a child isn't mature enough to get a tattoo, but can chemically/surgically alter their apparent gender is intellectually and logically incoherent.

Those who suffer from gender dysphoria overwhelming (and statistically) suffer from additional forms of mental illness. They need our help, not our indulgence. This apples tenfold for minors.

This is not a matter of parental choice any more than it is a matter of parental choice to perform female genital mutilation, have a child drop out of school to work in a mine, or engage in child pornography. Parental rights are not absolute, nor is this "just how gender works" as is evidenced by the entirety of mammalian species.

Please vote to prevent child gender modification, including social transitioning, chemical alteration or blockers, and surgery.

Esther Schneider
self
Buda, TX

No one is mentioning the effects of changing a female to male, and the impact on the pituitary and other hormones with regard to long term health. Forcing a woman into menopause has dire repercussions that no one is discussing. Never in the history of the world, regardless of culture or religion, have there been such discussions about allowing children, yes children, make such life altering decisions. Our children are our future and they must be protected from predators with evil agendas. My tax dollars need to be spent teaching our children how to read and think for themselves, not be pawns in a political tug-of-war.

Jose de la Cruz
self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill that antagonizes giving minors the ability to accentuate their mental disorder by providing for body mutilation and gender reassignment sessions.

Laura Proske
Self house maker
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686.
Kids are not capable of taking decisions that will affect the rest of their lives because they are not mature enough. Parents cannot support altering their children life's for ever because it's their children's decision to take when they are old enough. Otherwise, it's child abuse.
If a child identifies himself as a pirate, are you going to remove his eye, amputate his leg, remove his hand? I think this a very good example. Let kids be kids. Stop sexualization on kids. Stop kid's abuse.

Caleb Johnson, College Student
ADF
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Deborah Miller
Self
Flower Mound, TX

To provide public funding and tax payer dollars allowing for children to mutilate their bodies is absolutely insane, disgusting, and criminal.

Pamela Morton-Neary
Self
McKinney, TX

Please prohibit procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and the use of public money or public assistance to provide such treatments.

Thomas Pessa
Self Retired
San Antonio, TX

I hereby direct the Representatives to pass this bill

Solange Hommel
Self
Killeen, TX

I am at the capitol today to register my support of transgender Texans and my opposition to HB 1686.

HB 1686 is a dangerous and deadly attempt to override the judgment of parents and medical providers to deny essential medical care to trans children and young adults. It threatens to influct immediate and irreversible harm on young Texans who are already receiving gender-affirming caree and strip their health care providers of their licenses.

As a cis-gender woman who knows and loves several transgender individuals, I oppose this bill because it puts the safety and well-being of fellow humans at risk for no reason other than political posturing and unscientific fear-mongering.

I ask you to protect health care access for this at-risk community and VOTE. AGAINST HB 1686 and all similar bills.

Brienne Loftis
Self - CPA
Plano, TX

Any kind of gender modification surgery or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria needs to be outlawed for any child under the age of 18. The human brain does not mature until we are in our early 20's; therefore, a child under the age of 18 is just not equipped to make this kind of decision. If you need to see proof of this fact, please let me know and I will supply it.

These procedures are permanent and some of the medication, etc. cause other physical problems that are also permanent. Not enough research has been done to ensure the absolute safety of these procedures.

There is plenty of documentation and testimonies of children who did make that kind of decision only to regret it when older.

There is also plenty of evidence of adults - teachers, counselors, etc. who are grooming, pushing/forcing children to undergo the surgery and treatments. This is absolutely unethical and illegal. Any discussion of a child's gender should also be outlawed! When I was attending school, no teacher or counselor ever told me I wasn't really a girl or needed to be a boy. In fact, no one ever said anything like that to me. And this is how it needs to be now. Any such discussion interferes with personal rights, and our US and Texas Constitutions.

One point to consider is that the physicians who are involved in gender transitioning make much money. They support the surgery and treatments solely because they profit heavily! That is obscene, but the truth!

Another truth is no matter what surgery is one or medications taken, no one's sex is really changed. No man transitioning to a woman will ever become pregnant and have a baby. No woman transitioning to a man will ever father a baby. We can't change our sex! God created man and woman and it is unchangeable! As for the argument that some people's brains are different at birth, I would direct you to the research of Dr. Caroline Leaf and other scientists who have proven that the brain changes from BEHAVIOR, NOT that the brain doesn't match a person' sex at birth. Transgenders and LGBT human beings may have changed brains, but it due to their activity and behavior. This is also true for all of us from any kind of behavior, so I am not pointing fingers. I'm just saying that our activity and behavior changes our brains!

Please let me add that each person is free to choose what they want in life as long as it doesn't hurt someone else. But no one is free to try to push or force his or her way of life on anyone else. if a boy or girl wants to change genders, that is their choice. I'm just saying wait until you are 18 to ensure this is really what you want to do! And I would like to make sure the surgery and treatments are safe.

Therefore, we need to outlaw any gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria until the age of 18 in the state of Texas.

Mark Graca
Myself
The colony, TX

No public money for mutilation! I support this bill

Maria Miller
Self
Cuero, TX

Please vote in favor of HB1686. Children deserve to be protected until they are adults and can make informed medical decisions for themselves

Roger Hall
self - designer
Ingram, TX

I am FOR this bill - please pass out of committee today. We need to protect children!

Angie Huse
Self
Whitt, TX

Please stop this abuse by voting against aiding and allowing children to change their God given gender.

Jerry Rubli
Self
Spring, TX

I think it is an abomination that there are procedures and treatments we are allowing to transition the gender of children and to use public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Please back HB 1686 by Representative Oliverson.

Jim Lennon
self - Father
Cleveland, TX

I am for the bill.

Deborah Shepler
self
Cypress, TX

Vote FOR this bill

Delores Barnes, Mrs.
Self retired
Denton, TX

Please vote for this Bill 1686. We must protect our children. Thank you!

Dawn Tucker, Mrs.
Self
Odessa, TX

Support HB 1686 ….. Please help protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization.
Dawn Tucker

Terry Putnam
self/retired
Georgetown, TX

I fully support this bill HB 1686. The future of the United States and of mankind depends of only two birth defined genders. Medical manipulation of the body is barbaric and un Christian.

Jennifer Datchuk
self, Assistant Professor of studio art
San Antonio, TX

As an educator, I have seen how receiving trans affirming care can significantly help an individual. From the Association of American Medical Colleges "The interventions help transgender people align various aspects of their lives — emotional, interpersonal, and biological — with their gender identity. As noted by the American Psychiatric Association (APA), that identity can run anywhere along a continuum that includes man, woman, a combination of those, neither of those, and fluid."

Billie Katherine Stern Gilbert, TCRRW
self retired
El Paso, TX

I do not support gender reassignment or gender dysporia

Jim Lennon
Kingwood TEA Party
Cleveland, TX

For HB 1686. Please pass HB 1686

Judith Calhoun, Texas citizen
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

Praying —God created boys to be boys and girls to be girls!!!!! It’s not that hard. Can’t believe this is even a topic. God is probably very sad. Please vote right

Angela Krampitz
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Ronald Lee Wiatrek, SELF
Ron's Auto Sales
STOCKDALE, TX

Please vote FOR banning gender modification.

Kennedy Castillo
Self (Paralegal and Student)
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686 because it poses an undue burden and an inhumane restriction on the rights of parents to pursue effective, gender affirming healthcare for their children at the advice of trained medical professionals. The decision to seek the types of healthcare targeted in this bill are not taken lightly by parents of transgender children. They often consult with multiple medical professionals before pursuing any kind of life altering treatment. so such steps are not taken capriciously or willy-nilly. Furthermore, gender affirming medical treatment is essential for the mental and physical wellbeing of children who identify as transgender. With all this in mind, parents of transgender children are only acting in the best interest of their children. I implore this committee to preserve the freedom of parents to seek proper healthcare for their children.

Joel Heath
self (software engineer)
Austin, TX

There is no legitimate reason to restrict access to known-safe and known-effective options available to qualified medical professionals when treating patients. The fact that the treatment in question happens to be for a condition that is currently divisive politically is all the more reason to leave the decision-making to the experts.

Parents of children in need of gender-affirming care are fleeing the state of Texas in order to maintain access to these treatments. Restricting access serves no purpose other than to deny the reality of the situation and do harm to children who are already vulnerable. Because of the fear and uncertainty it creates, to even propose such legislation is tantamount to abuse of every child in Texas who may need such care. If the goal is indeed to protect children, let us take action to support and affirm them rather than restrict their rights and access to necessary medical care.

Passage of HB 1686 would leave an indelible stain on our history as a state and as a nation. Not only should this bill be voted down, but there should be a public apology to the children and parents affected as well as a denouncement of this and any similar legislation in Texas and beyond.

Lori Schmitt
Self
Amarillo, TX

I fully support this bill to prohibit procedures and treatments related to altering a child's gender.
These procedures are dangerous and extremely unfair to the child.

Renata Richardson
I represent children everywhere concerning this issue
Denison, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit mutilation of children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and protect children and adults.

Gary Bessee
Bessee Expert Services LLC
San Antonio, TX

no gender transitions and definitely noy paid for with taxpayer funds

Caitlin Diamond
Self, student
Buda, TX

I am a lifelong resident of Texas and I strongly oppose this bill. Transgender individuals are vibrant and important members of our community who deserve the same healthcare protections as anyone else. Our job is to protect Texan children, including transgender children. I strongly urge you to stay on the right side of history and treat Texans with dignity, equality, and respect.

Kathy Bobbitt
Self/ secretary
Odessa, TX

I support this bill

Tim Rutherford
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

I am for HB1868. Children's innocence need to be protected. From social network brain washing (group think) to professional organizations who receive funding from pharmaceutical companies to so called "news" agencies, kids are being sexualized and lied to in regards to true biology. Pumping chemicals and sterilizations won't change the XX or XY chromosome found in every cell of their bodies. This threat of "Do you want a live son or dead daughter" logic to scare parents is abhorrent and just a plain lie. The suicide rate of transitioners is 28 times higher than the rest of society. Planned parenthood has been leading this by handing out testosterone like candy. This is poisoning females and will lead to a lifetime of complications requiring, of course, more drugs to help with the side-effects which are NOT told to these young girls.

Please vote for this bill and it is disgusting that society has devolved this far.

Sandra McCarrie, Ms
self-retired
GREENVILLE, TX

I support protecting minors from having a surgery or procedure that changes their sex. We don't allow minors to vote, drink or buy cigarettes, why would we even think about letting minors make a decision about a life changing procedure. Parents should be prohibited from using their child to push an agenda that the child may not agree with.

Edna Huselton
Self
Orange, TX

I support HB 1686 because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering procedures and medications. They are not old enough and mature enough to make these decisions!

Cynthia Ramain
Representing Myself
Austin, TX

I am still in shock that I have to even write this correspondence to my legislators, but the fact that ANYONE with half a brain thinks this is okay to do to children is abhorrent! DO NOT allow this to happen to our innocent children. This gender 'transitioning, reassignment, dysphoria is CHILD ABUSE! This is NOT a public health matter. It's insanity, quite frankly. Stand for Texans and protect their children from this craziness. It should be illegal for parents to allow this on their young children. DO THE RIGHT THING for Texas' children. Thank you and God Bless!

Paul Piche
Self
Kerrville, TX

Against gender reaffirmation.

Michele Webb
self retired
Burleson, TX

Children need protection not exploitation. A child should be under parental protection unless a court decides otherwise. They do not have the experience nor do parents to make a decision about a permanent physical sexual change. Put a stop to sexualizing children in this State and allow them to grow up. Making this life changing decision is weightier than drivers license, marriage, voting, drinking that have age requirements. If the individual makes this change as an adult that is their right. As underage, they make these decisions to fit in, under pressure of influencing adults, etc. If you desire to end sexual dysphoria, stop those pushing the agenda and their greed. Garbage in garbage out. Stop feeding them an agenda forcing them to make lifelong permanent decisions they lack maturity for.

Naomi Narvaiz, SREC SD25
State Republican Executive Committee Senate District 25
New Braunfels, TX

I am FOR this bill! Please pass this bill to prohibit the horrendous act of gender modification on children. Children are too young to make these decisions that will change their lives forever and cause them to lives with a lot of mental anguish and emotional pain. If your wish is to fix the ills of society and make life better for our Texas citizens; then you must vote FOR this bill and make it law. VOTE AYE!

Mark Ramsey
self
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686. Please pass this bill.

Brandon Bakka
self
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is a harmful piece of legislature that will serve to only hurt trans identifying kids by denying them medical care. Gender affirming care for children is safe, effective, and supported by peer reviewed evidence that demonstrates the efficacy of such care. Furthermore, this care is endorsed by major medical groups such as the American Medical Association and represents necessary care for individuals regardless of their age. Furthermore, gender affirming care can include many non permanent interventions such as talk therapy and puberty blockers (which are fully reversible). I also believe it is not the place of the legislature to interfere with an individual's ability to seek medical care for themselves or their family and that forcing the state into this matter is not only government overreach, but a waste of tax payer money and government time.

This law would ultimately deny care to those who need it by forcing the government into personal medical decisions. Furthermore, evidence shows that denying such care to children will lead to higher rates of suicide and further mental health burdens. This bill will only make lives worse, and lead to the death of trans kids across Texas.

David Roberts, CEO
Self, CEO and multi-business owner
Conroe, TX

I support this bill and urge you to do the same.

Richard McKenzie, Mr.
Self - retired fixed income derivatives trader
Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB1686.

God did not create and place any soul in the wrong body. Every cell of a human body contains either XX or XY chromosomes. No surgery can change one's sex.

Gender dysphoria is a psychological and spiritual ailment that cannot be rectified by mutilating healthy bodies.

We deem minor children as being not capable of making a host of important decisions that reach much less far than the removal or alteration of their healthy sexual organs. Minor children can never consent to such mutilation and no adult should be permitted to inflict such abuse.

George Winn
Self/Retired
TYLER, TX

For the Bill.

Theresa Kruse
Self Retired
Conroe, TX

I fully support this bill and pray that our legislators will vote to pass this bill.

Darla Louvin, Chaplain
self Chaplain
Granbury, TX

Please vote to protect our children from all forms of mutilation.

Samuel O'Dell
Self
Athens, TX

Please support this bill. This is extremely important to my family. Thank you for all your hard work.

Sharon de la Cruz, Mrs.
self / Development Officer
McKinney, TX

No child is born with the wrong body.We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must do no harm and let them grow.

BECKY BELEW, Mrs.
GRANDCHILDREN and SELF
KERRVILLE, TX

Please stop this insanity. It is evilness
being forced on Children! Thankyou

Kristin Ciara Birthisel
Self
Alvin, TX

I am writing to ask that you please vote YES on this bill. Thank you for Dr Oliverson for filing this important legislation. As a young mom of 2 daughters;I could not imagine how a parent could possibly agree for their children to go through removing healthy parts of their body because they 'feel' or 'think' they are not happy with their gender. All children need love and discipline and to be taught right from wrong. Going through these procedures is not right. Please vote YES on this bill. Thank you.

Robert Huunkins
Self/engineer
San Leon, TX

I urge Texas state representatives and senators to make it illegal for minors to pursue sex change surgeries, hormonal treatment to impede natural growth processes related to their sex, and to make it illegal for surgeons to perform or recommend such operations. There are only two sexes, male and female. People are born one or the other. If for some reason an individual thinks they were born the “wrong gender” they need mental health care, or in the case of minors, good parenting, not drugs and mutilation that will leave them physically scarred an infertile for the rest of their lives.

Jasmine LeNoir
Self
Garland, TX

The government has no business interfering with the doctor-patient relationship. These treatments save lives, and tellingly, they are still going to be allowed for cis teens whenever needed. All major medical organizations support gender affirming care. It is immoral for bureaucrats to override that expertise based on their religious preference. 2% of trans people were found to detransition 5 years later, torturing 100% of trans people is not a sane reaction to that issue. This bill, and others in red states around the country, is consistent with an effort to eradicate trans people. If you were concerned with detransitioners then you would be adding guardrails to make it safer, you arent...you are eliminating all care other than conversion therapy. You just want trans people gone. The hate that you legislate flows into the streets where white nationalists scream death threats at the people that you are targeting. Voting for this bill states you would rather have dead kids than trans kids.

John Bolgiano
Self - Retired
Llano, TX

I urge the committee to support HB 1686. "Gender affirming healthcare" is several lies in one statement. This sick practice cannot be allowed to continue in Texas. Permanent and damaging changes to a child's body, whether through surgery or through drugs, causes harm not only during the transitioning period but throughout their entire life. It is simply a barbaric sacrifice on the altar of psychological illness.

Ben Ellebracht
Self
Kerrville, TX

Do the right thing and protect our kids and their future, these bills should be passed without hesitation!!

Geri Bentley, Ms
Self
League City, TX

I support this bill.

Keri Heflin
Self
Kerrville, TX

FOR THE BILL - HB 1686

Savannah Joy Carrier
Self
Edinburg, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. As a young woman, I find that this idea that young people can make these type of decisions is not well thought out and that is because they are being wrongly guided. I am glad
my parents raised me with love and wisdom. That is what children need to go through the difficult stages of life. Please vote FOR children and vote AYE to pass this bill! Thank you!

Catherine Wells
Wise County Conservatives
Decatur, TX

The purpose of government is to not only protect the rights of the governed but to support the rule of law. Philosophically, there has to be a supernatural/super-human source of our laws or they are ultimately ever-variable and rule of law will be utterly impossible. Thus, we look to the wisdom of our forefathers in known civilization when we ask, " What ought our basis of law to be?" Without fail, all such societies that we look to (Greeks, Romans, Babylonians, Jews, Christians) are rooted in deistic practices, acknowledging both humanity and diety. All such societies gave no place to the practice of allowing humans to permanently change their outward sex. If we would like to claim to be ABOVE the wisdom of all civilization to this point, we ought to declare OURSELVES deity and be done with it. If we are not willing to relinquish our role as the created and not the creator, we must align our legal system with the wisdom of our western forefathers and proclaim that, NO, in fact, it is not ACCEPTABLE TO THE TELOS OF MAN to "change his sex." Grow up, kids. Part of life is accepting things you don't like in both yourself and others. We refuse to perpetuate fantastical childhood in our youth or adults and we refuse to abandon our deity, our humanity, and our history.

Rhonda Schneider
Self
Llano, TX

I am for the banning of gender modification in chuldren

Angela Amith
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

I am registering FOR this bill. Texas is behind on banning the transitioning of MINORS.

Sheri Root
Self Self Employed
Brady, TX

Gender transitioning procedures should not be allowed to be performed on anyone under 18 years of age PERIOD!!! Anyone who performs these elective surgeries on anyone UNDER 18 years of age should be in jail. It should be a felony to perform the procedure AND to sign off on an elective procedure of this type on any minor under the age of 18 years. Better yet, make it 21 years of age. The brain is more developed at this age making it a better age to make such an important decision about changing the body with a surgery/procedure. This is just COMMON SENSE PEOPLE!!! I am sincerely flabbergasted that we even have to deal with stopping something that should NEVER have EVER been something that was allowed to happen. I know it’s all about the money. But this has gone a step too far and has to be stopped IMMEDIATELY!!!
Sincerely,
Sheri Root

William Fitch
Retired
Kerrville, TX

Please don't allow this to hurt our children. Please vote for 1686.

Ron Richardson, Mr
self
Denison, TX

Stop the mutilation of children and administering drugs that can effectively castrate children and lead to life altering consequences. Do no harm. There are only two sexes and God never makes a mistake.

Aimee Hein, Dr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. Healthcare decisions should be made by doctors and parents, not the government. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Bonnie Wallace
retired; self
LLANO, TX

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill to protect our vulnerable children from permanent mutilation and sterilization. Vote YES!!!!!!!!!!1

Virginia Morgan
Self
Austin, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686. Thank you.

Peggy Robinson
self/retired Refugee Family Support Specialist for AustinISD
Houston, TX

My STRONG preference is for the government to refrain from interfering in health decisions that should rest with the patient in question, his/her doctor, and his/her parents. We need to be supporting care that is deemed to be in the best interest for the mental health and well being of marginalized youth by all relevant medical specialist groups. Please vote NO.

Susan Dietzmann
Conservative Americans
Ingram, TX

HB 1686. Ban all gender modification to children.

DAVID ALEXANDER
Self - Attorney
WACO, TX

In recent months, several European national health systems have examined the science supporting the "gender affirming care" model, and determined there is very little, if any. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones are known to cause severe and permanent problems for patients, altering their bodies and interfering with natural and healthy growth. Gender-affirming surgery destroys or mutilates healthy organs and tissue. While "transitioning" may be a treatment of last resort for severe cases of gender dysphoria, you have heard testimony that most children claiming gender dysphoria have multiple mental health comorbidities which make it impossible to assess GD accurately; that children are being referred for puberty blockers, hormones, and even surgery as a first resort on the basis of a few minutes of mental health examination; that studies have shown that 80-90 percent of children claiming to identify as a different sex grow out of it if left alone; and that the long-term benefits of such gender-affirming care in doubtful cases are unknown. The precautionary principle demands strong evidence to support radical treatments, and it does not exist for the "gender affirming care" model. If our medical professionals cannot be trusted to restrain themselves from experimenting on children, it is up to our legislatures to act to protect them.

Christine Roberts
Myself
Cypress, TX

Stop this brutal trend from liberal crazy people on American (Texas) children!!

Zachary Taylor
Self
Houston, TX

Hello, I strongly OPPOSE HB1686. I oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgendered people are vital members of our communities and deserves the same freedoms of what is best for their bodies as anyone else. This bill is cruel and unnecessary.

Stephanie Rosser, Dr.
Self, Nurse Practitioner, Academic Nurse Educator, Professor
Alvin, TX

I strongly encourage support for this bill. This social contagion is harmful to all children. Other states have already passed legislation banning these treatments and Texas does not need to be a laggard on this issue.
The medical and pharmaceutical industry is causing irreversible harm to children with unscientific and unethical practice all in the name of profit.

Declan Daniel
Self/College Student
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives. Gender affirming care creates happiness where there once was sadness and aguish. Gender affirming care changes lives, for the good. Let us live. Let us love ourselves the way that you have been able to love yourself. Let us become the people we were meant to be.

Yvette Llorance
Self - photographer
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686. Children are not adults. They are not allowed to drink or smoke. Parents cannot make that decision for them as it is harmful. Doctors used to heal. Now they remove healthy body parts from someone suffering from mental illness. They administer puberty blockers to stop the natural process of a developing individual. This is Frankenstein behavior. Behavior similar to the experiment s of the Holocaust. This is a life altering process that should not be allowed but if it is to be made at all should be by the individual as an adult. The government should not be playing God.

Rachael Burke
Self parent
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

kathryn isbell
self
Brownwood, TX

Please support this Bill to STOP THE MUTILATION OF OUR CHILDREN!

Johana Huff, Precinct Chair
Self Investment Advisor
Cherokee, TX

This is child abuse for profit! These procedures are being preformed on children before they are old enough to really understand the consequences. Research shows the vast majority of children outgrow their gender confusion in a few years. I call these procedures for profit at the expense of the next generation. We don't allow underage smoking or alcohol consumption as preteens and teens. None of these drugs or surgeries are without long term health consequences.

Kim Trantham
Self
Denison, TX

Children don’t know how life changing this is

Cynthia Brewer
self
Sherman, TX

No child is born in the Wrong body. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children

Camille Bayer
Self
Hempstead, TX

For

Gail Hammond, Ms.
self/retired educator, secondary level
Azle, TX

I strongly support the passage of this bill. This should not be permitted in any circumstance, nor should there be any public assistance used for these procedures. Furthermore medical specialists, doctors who are involved in these procedures should have their licenses revoked or terminated.

Wilma Joy Putnam
Self
Georgetown, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILL because it prohibits providing children with procedures and treatments for

Teri Helton
Myself
Little Elm, TX

I support this bill for thé protection of our children. Their brains aren’t fully developed yet and have no idea the ramifications of their decisions to get a sex change. Please make this illegal. It is mutilation of our children and I do not want my tax money going to support mutilating children and supporting their confusion.

Nichole Chaput
Self
League City, TX

Our children deserve parents and adults that will stand up and protect them from catastrophic decisions.
HB 1686 is that stand! Children do not have the life experiences and the wisdom to make an educated, permanent decision to change their bodies.
Children need guidance and empathy, but they also need the adult to put their foot down and say No.
Gender modification is not the answer to their perceived problems.
Let's all be the adults in the room and save our children from the permanent mutilation of their body.

Cynthia Deal
Self
Junction, TX

I vote NO

Jan Friese, CEO
Texas Counseling Association (TCA)
Austin, TX

TCA opposes HB 1686. This bill would prohibit Licensed Professional Counselors and other mental health professionals from working with children and families to deliver gender-affirming care. As defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics, gender affirming care is developmentally appropriate, nonjudgmental treatment that is provided in a safe clinical space. The care is individualized and based on peer-reviewed scientific studies that show its effectiveness. This kind of care takes a multidisciplinary approach. Medical providers work with counselors, the person, and the person's family. Children who are not able to access gender affirming care are at significant risk for self-harm, including suicides. HB 1686 will not protect children.

Linda Medrano
I am a registered Republican voter
Brady, TX

I am voicing my support of HB 1686. God does not make mistakes. We need to protect the children of Texas from sex change surgeries. God is watching what we do and we will be held accountable for allowing such evil to befall on God’s innocent children.

Gerald Bottenfield, MD
Pediatrician
Lake Jackson, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 prohibiting any surgical or medical treatments promoting sex transitioning in vulnerable children. These procedures fly in the face of common sense, normal child development, the confusion that social trends have introduced to innocent children. Any procedure that promotes gender change should be considered immoral, unethical, and criminal.
Most pediatricians and child developmental specialist do NOT support the views of their professional organizations- AAP, AMA, AAFP, etc.

Patricia Pacheco
Self
Carrollton, TX

Project facilitator

Karen Llewellyn, Mrs
Self
Kerrville, TX

There should never have been any gender procedures, changes, adjustments, treatments, reassignment. What we were born with is we should always be nothing more. Birth certificates and marriage licenses should not be changed to fit a new normal. God created us to be who we originally are. And so shall we stay. And we as people should accept that. There is no such thing as this new alphabet soup lgbtq+

Elaine Cook, Mrs
Myself
Cedar Hill, TX

I strongly support any and all permanent changes to minors. Minors need to be protected.

Carl Kalbfleisch
Self
Denison, TX

Members of the committee. This bill is important to me because children are precious. They are image bearers of God created male or female. Children are not capable of making many basic simple decisions like what to eat for lunch, what time to go to bed or even if they should go to school. Therefore rhey certainly have are not capable of making life altering decisions that will leave their bodies mutilated and sterile. I'm shocked by the news over the weekend that Minnesota is now a sanctuary state for so called "gender affirming surgery" which I can only consider to be "child mutilation". While other states like Tennessee already have legal protections in place, sadly Texas is behind in protecting our children. I urge you to support this bill and make it illegal for these surgeries to be performed in the state of Texas

Jennifer Evans
Self
Denton, TX

I support HB1686. This should be left to the parents, but the parents are failing their children. I consider this child abuse, therefore there needs to be a law in place preventing parents from allowing their children to undergo any gender treatments/procedures.

Guy Talley
None
Brownwood, TX

For

Norma Garza Guillen
Concerned Women for America
Houston, TX

Children do not have the maturity to know what they want before before 20 they should not be able to get any type of procedures that would confuse them even more. They need to focus on reading, math and arithmetic playing sports, not be concerned about their gender, or any of the emotional trauma that goes with gender, transitioning and reassignment

Alicia Youngblood
Self
League City, TX

I totally support the passage of this bill.

Tonya Yeary
Self
Rising Star, TX

I support this bill

sundi Price
Bolivar peninsula
Port Bolivar, TX

Please pass

Jana Grimes
Self, RN
Mabank, TX

We must not allow our children to make life changing and body altering decisions before their brains are even fully developed. Please stop bending to the loud minority who push for the most extreme agendas to weaken and destroy our nation. The testimonials of these young adults who have regrets on transitioning is heartbreaking. Texas, stand up and put a stop to the destruction of our children!!

William Gallman
Self / Project Manager
League City, TX

Gender affirming care is NOT settled science. Trans children shouldn't be allowed to make a life long debilitating decision under 18. Most of these children suffer from gender dysphoria and have some type of Autism. They should be provided mental health care. Some Parents are becoming more radicalized thinking affirming care will save their children from suicide and the data does not support that. We need to protect all children by not allowing them to be mutilated and have their future adult sex life permanently ruined.

Pat Baughman
Myself
Cypress, TX

This is so sick to allow this to happen to our kids.

Randy King
Self, retired software engineer
Euless, TX

Honorable Members of the Texas House Committee on Public Health:

Child sex change (a.k.a. gender transitioning) is medical, psychological, and spiritual abuse of the most vulnerable and innocent citizens of Texas. No legitimate, rigorous long-term studies indicate otherwise. The treatments and procedures employed destroy basic biological human identity as male or female.

These treatments and procedures do not change the sex of a child any more than removing their arms and attaching crudely fashioned “wings” changes them into a bird. They do, however, sterilize children and ruin normal sexual functioning in adult life.

Outrageous profits are being made by doctors, hospitals, other "health" providers, and pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psycho-social “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove healthy body parts. The lucrative, FOR PROFIT “transgender” medical industry destroys children’s bodies in order to create customers for life!

Moreover, minors do not possess sufficient maturity to make such life altering decisions and NO parent has the right to mutilate and sterilize their child.
For these reasons, I strongly support the passage of HB1686 out of your committee. No amount of medical treatments or procedures can truly change the sex of a human!

Respectfully,
Randy M. King
Euless, TX 76039

Maia Wright
self - designer
Austin, TX

This bill endangers children who are already at risk, will put them in physical harm due to self-harm and suicide. This bill contradicts the stance of the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This bill does not protect children -- to the contrary, it puts them in mortal danger. I do not want to be part of a society that demonizes children and treats them as less-than, due to their gender identity. This bill is reprehensible, dangerous, and discriminates against people who are already some of the most powerless members of our society. It is shameful.

Freda Daniels
Self/ Precinct 111 Chair
Odessa, TX

Please pass this bill

Christopher Corbett
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Please pass HB1686 as written by a fellow House member and doctor. Medical science demonstrates the harm caused by so-called “gender modification,” and the list of regretful victims is long. This medical evidence of harm confirms what common sense, biological science, and the testimony of human morality tell us. It is the role of government to protect children from such proven harmful practices. Extremists are preying on confused kids. Outlaw this abusive practice which masquerades as “medicine.”

Rodney Casey
Shackelford County Republicans
Albany, TX

Please be wise and support HB 1686! If you don’t your children and grandchildren, will wonder someday why you didn’t! Don’t be fooled by the woke crowd!

Suzanne Womack
Self
Houston, TX

Children must be protected

MD Fields, Dr
Self
Kerrville, TX

All these procedures should be banned for everyone.

Tim Rutherford
Self
ROUND ROCK, TX

As a parent of a daughter who has been caught up in the transgender cult, I am for this bill. If this is so "freeing", then why has she cut us off from all communication? It is tearing my heart out not being able to see or hear my girl. She is on the autism spectrum and from everything I've read, that is the main group of girls that is attacked first. I am mad at all the adults and so called professionals who are affirming this madness. Public schools are drowning the kids with this sexualization and perversity. Common sense has left the room after being beaten to death.

R Bradshaw
Self, Graduate Student
Round Rock, TX

I fully OPPOSE HB 1686. All people, adults and youth, who need gender affirming care should be able to get it. Doctors aren't just performing gender reassignment surgery willy-nilly on kids. The American Medical Association and American Psychiatric Association both support gender affirming care for all people. We should listen to the medical experts and the science, not just opinionated politicians.

Jared Koutnik
Self
Buda, TX

This bill must pass! Its evil and doing this or anything to children is disgusting!

Nicole DeGuzman
Self
Bastrop, TX

I fully support the rights of families to choose gender reassignment for children in Texas. It should be supported publicly just as any other health concerns are.

Carol Reed
Self
Houston, TX

Children should not be allowed to transition! They are too young to make that decision!

JULIANA MARTINEZ, Precinct Chair
Self/retired
Dallas, TX

I support this bill.

DONNA GARNER
self
waco, TX

I believe this is a much-needed bill in the state of Texas.

Christopher Lowery
Self
Tomball, TX

We are very much in support of this bill. Tax dollars should never be used to permanently alter minors.

Florence Netzel
Self
Pearland, TX

None

Stacey Caster
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Good day,

I am contacting lawmakers in regard to the right for healthcare coverage for Transgender youth. I would like to personally attest to the impact of this care on my wife's gender dysphoria. My wife is transgender MTF. During the first few years of our marriage she attempted to avoid taking HRT as we were concerned that it would negatively influence bodily homeostasis. As an integrated medicine practitioner and RN, I was skeptical of the need for treatment. But after a few hard years of witnessing severe depression, anger and suicidal ideation on the part of my spouse, we felt that the risk of suicide and the impact on her daily life as a result of her mental health was worth altering her biochemistry. I am fortunate that my wife is mature enough to speak out and not act upon her suicidal impulses, but many trans youth, especially teens do not have that level of self awareness. I do not believe that being transgender is a mental illness, but rather, that society's expectations of people to present as either male or female and the influence of certain sex hormones cause mental illness. For my wife, testosterone made her feel uncomfortable in her own body, when given estrogen, she felt right again and her life became brighter, worthwhile and she no longer wanted to die. HRT saved her life and I fear that if teens are not allowed access to Gender confirming care, at the very least puberty blockers, there will be many increased instances of death among the youth of Texas.I have hope that lawmakers will make the decision that causes the least negative impact on the mental well being of trans youth. Thank you for listening to my story and for advocating for the health of Texas youth.

Sincerely,
Stacey Caster

Velma Perry
Self
Angleton, TX

I encourage committee members to support this bill. Please stand for the health & welfare for our children. Gender modification treatment is detrimental to children’s physical & mental health. I also wish to thank the authors of this bill. Thank you.

Daniel Solina
Self, Information Technology
Galveston, TX

This notion that children should be allowed to change their gender and do irreparable damage to their body is completely asinine. Protect Texas children from leftist idealouges who only wish to destroy families and change the essential foundations of our nation. Republicans, stop being weak and fickle. You have the power to protect these children. I'm looking at you Phelan, Abbott, and Patrick. If these kids are experiencing gender dysphoria, treat them properly! DO NOT AFFIRM MENTAL ILLNESS. Remember the words of Christ.

Donna Scheel
Self. Retired
The Colony, TX

Protect our children from any gender procedure until at least age 18.

Dana Myers
self
Houston, TX

I support this bill.
Dana Myers
Houston, TX

Rachel Stevens
self, retired attorney, artist and writer
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB 1686. Strongly, vociferously, passionately and without reservation. It's a disgrace. It callously disregards the health, happiness and the very lives of kids who are simply trying their best to live authentically and without being stigmatized, bullied and disrespected. Who are they hurting, and what business is it of yours? Listen to the experts. Listen to the doctors. Listen to the parents. Listen to the kids. They obviously know far more about who they are and what's best for them than you do, if this bill is any indication. You want to stand up for parents' rights? What about these parents? This is far more important than drag shows or what books these kids might read in school. Unlike those things and the gender affirming medical interventions that have prompted this legislation, this WILL have lifelong detrimental emotional and physical consequences. If these kids are forced to go through puberty without regard to their gender identity the damage will be with them for the rest of their lives. Those changes ARE irreversible. The toll that they take on the kids emotional wellbeing and sense of self, not to mention how they contribute to bullying, is so serious that they all too often drive kids to thoughts of suicide. Does this mean ANYTHING to you, those of you who support this bill? Or does your divisive political agenda override the very real interests of these kids and their families? Try opening your minds. What if it was YOUR kid who was considering suicide because you can't bring yourself to accept who they are, because they get bullied everyday, because they've been stigmatized and delegitimized by people who don't know them, don't understand them and can't bring themselves to learn from the experts, or even from their own child? Please do not do this. It's a travesty. You should be better than this.

Lois Cazinha
Self
Victoria, TX

Please pass this bill! I am a rax payer,and I support this bill

Joshua Beard
Self
Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose this legislation. This legislation only takes these treatments into question when concerning youth experiencing gender dysphoria. Meanwhile there are several other medical reasons for many of these treatments. Puberty blockers are used to prevent precocious puberty or to allow time for bones to grow in people with short stature. Hormone treatment may be used on children who are not producing enough growth hormone on their own. As for gender reassignment, it is extremely rare to be performed in minors, especially given the psychiatric testing which must occur first.

However, this bill asserts that these treatments are not tested enough. The hypocrisy is coded into the bill. This bill does not target the treatments. It targets the recipient. Even a sponsor of this bill has named transgender issues as a “social contagion.” This disregards the years and decades of work medical professionals have spent to determine the legitimacy of gender dysphoria as indicated in the DSM-V and the safety of treatments like puberty blockers and hormone therapy. These treatments also do not require full transition. Instead they offer time to those who still need it.

So what is the proper treatment for those suffering from gender dysphoria if not the ones listed in this bill? The only assumption we can make is the author intends to kill trans youth instead. Trans populations are nine times more likely to attempt suicide than non-trans populations. Gender affirming care is not a disservice. It’s a life-saving service this bill attempts to remove—supporting eradication instead of care.

This bill should not move forward and should never, in any form, be reintroduced. Instead, I support legislation which requires Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice training for all congress members and prevent their ability from even authoring or sponsoring legislation until they do. Government sponsored trans elimination is not the way.

Laura Oakley, Mrs.
Self
Grapevine, TX

I support this bill fully. We must protect our minors from life altering procedures and drugs until they are adults and can make informed decisions for themselves. Permanent changes should never be performed on still forming bodies and minds.

Alexandra Cloyd
self
Austin, TX

I am writing against HB 1686. As a therapist working with adolescents in Austin Texas for the last three years I can tell you this bill will have a negative impact on the queer and trans adolescents of Texas. I have seen first hand how bills restricting access to life saving gender affirming health care for adolescent Texans leads to increased suicide rates. Our youngest Texans are paying attention and they are scared. Until you have found yourself sitting with a suffering adolescent trying to keep them safe, until you have been a parent who fears for their child's life, you can't fully understand how this bill will impact adolescents. Trans and gender non-conforming teens are at a disproportionately high risk for suicidal behavior, in a study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, nearly 1 in 2 transgender boys and 2 in 5 non-binary adolescent have reported suicide attempts. Suicide is already the second-leading cause of death in adolescents according to a 2017 study published in the journal of the American Medical Association. You will hear that there is no research to back this up however this is incorrect. You are advocating for counseling yet not listening to those of us who are doing the counseling which seems completely counterproductive. Additionally, there have been considerations criminalizing those of us who are providing mental health care for gender expansive youth. There is a right side of history here, there is a compassionate decision here, queer and trans people are under attack in Texas. I was born and raised here in Texas and I don't believe these bills represent the best version Texas can be and I will never stop fighting for our youth. I will never stop being that safe and caring adult that may save a child's life.

Connie Schoenrade
self
Double Oak, TX

The government needs to stay out of the private health care of individuals and must not fund for gender changing procedures with tax payer dollars. There is no science behind these initiatives and the health needs of these young children must start with the mental health care to find out what REALLY makes these young people so unhappy in their own skin. Please do not encourage this abomination on the next generation. They do not understand what they do not understand and the changes cannot be undone.

Sherry Smith
Self / Social Worker
Mesquite, TX

I am expressing my favor in the passing of this Bill!

Mark Matta
Myself
Odessa, TX

This bill needs to pass to protect our children

Wanda Avary, Mrs.
Texas resident
Odessa, TX

I am against using public money or assistance for providing procedures for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria

Edward Ewing
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

We support HB1686 .... we do not want our money going to mutilating our children of Texas!

Kimberly Jacobs, Mrs.
Self
Gainesville, TX

Please don’t let this happen to the children. God forbid.

Donald Zeek
Self
Dickinson, TX

I fully support this bill. It is a shame for our culture and the medical profession that we even need to have such legislation but here we are. A biological boy is a boy and a biological girl is a girl. We should be helping those that have this so called gender confusion work though their confusion but we should never change what God has designed for each person. Every gender changing procedure is always harmful to the person and many times in irreversible ways. I recommend passing this bill or something very similar to it into law.

Patricia Kuper
Self RN
San Antonio, TX

As a registered nurse, I treat and care for my patients using Evidence Based Care. HB 1686 is an intrusion into families' and patients' private medical business. . The restrictions this bill is attempting to place on this medical care is in stark contradiction to the well researched and evidence -supported care of persons with gender dysphoria and the treatment thereof. In addition the relentless persecution of these patients and their families and their caregivers is unprecedented and ugly and mind boggling. Vote NO!!

Thomas Anglemyer
Self
Abilene, TX

I strongly support HB1686 and I urge you all to do the same, please!

Sara Casper
Tri-County Republican Women (retired SWA Records Analyst)
Deer Park, TX

The aforementioned procedures in HB 1686 would've been considered medical malpractice just a few short years ago. It remains nothing short of malpractice, and permanent disfigurement and probable mental anguish foisted on a child should be considered a crime of the highest order.

Kristina Lozano
Self
Austin, TX

I greatly oppose this as someone who has known and loved those who sought healthcare through these means. This will be removing treatment from Texans, who pay taxes, and contribute to the greatness of the state. Please do not put more strain and chaos on healthcare options in this state. These treatments, are life saving. Outlawing them, will not stop them, but only make it more dangerous. Protect Trans Kids.

Jan Allison
Self/Student
Manvel, TX

Please make this happen… help keep children safe in Texas

Christie Allen
Self
Odessa, TX

There should not be such a thing as "gender transitioning". Allowing parents to subject their children to this should be seen as physical abuse, emotional abuse even possibly sexual abuse and criminal charges should be brought against the parent and the physician. These children need emotional help, not life changing surgeries.

Marsha Bujnoch
Self
Houston, TX

Children are unable to consent to these procedures. It's egregious to mutilate them permanently when they haven't grown up yet. I'm opposed to harming children physically and emotionally.

Rachael Beavers
Self, Attorney
Houston, TX

This bill will deny life-saving healthcare to at risk youth. There is no legitimate governmental interest in interfering with the decisions made by a patient, their doctor, and their guardian. Pursuing this legislation is a waste of time, money, and attention.

Jonette Sheridan, Mrs.
Self/ retired
Pearland, TX

I support HB 1686! Thank you for advocating for our children the way God created them. Texans should not be mutilating their kids! Thank you for being there and working here against these dark forces.

John Ruiz
Self
Arlington, TX

I support this bill and believe it is wholly necessary to protect Texas kids from life-altering surgeries that children simply cannot comprehend consenting to. Children are vulnerable targets, as seen from advertising efforts that target easily-influenced children, and it was for that reason that a massive outcry happened when parents caught wind of corporations taking advantage of their children.

This is no different- doctors that seek only profit prey on vulnerable children to make them life-long patients with promises of short-term gratification. This isn't "healthcare", carving a child up when they don't even know what they're doing doesn't "save trans lives", all it does is mutilate children by giving them fake genitals that will never function as what they attempt to imitate. These children will be put on puberty blockers that will halt their bodies' natural functions- functions that will never reoccur- leaving with permanent damage and a weaker body that wasn't able to go through puberty.

This is not an "anti-trans" bill, nor does this bill do anything to threaten the lives of those that identify as such; rather, this bills seeks to protect those children that simply cannot consent to this kind of procedure. A child's brain does not even finish developing until somewhere in their mid-twenties, if not later, and it is with that reason that alcohol sales are prohibited to minors- because they can't comprehend what they're getting themselves into. How, then, does it make any sense to let a child undergo permanent surgery and/or hormone treatment? It doesn't; there is no reason to put children at risk of altering their body at a young and vulnerable age, a situation that many find themselves regretting later in life, sometimes as soon as entering their teens or early twenties, when they've come to the realization that they weren't actually trans and underwent the surgery for no reason other than being pressured into it by radical trans activists that target and groom minors.

David Epperson
self, consultant
Tyler, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our kids from the woke ideology of so-called "experts." Even liberal Europeans are turning against this type of mutilation of young people.

Diego Rodriguez
Self
Pearland, TX

I am against this form of child abuse

John Basford
Myself
Ingram, TX

Put a legal stop on this insanity

Sherry Harrell
Self retired
Henderson, TX

For HB1686

Ashley Blizzard
Self
Pasadena, TX

It is so important to protect our children. These choices the children are making for medical procedures and medications will permanently alter their bodies and make the gender dysphoria worse. Every teenager goes through an awkward phase where they dislike themselves especially girls. We need to teach children to love themselves first. Cutting off body parts will just make them hate their bodies more. There's no peer reviewed studies showing the long term effects on these medical procedures. Please protect the children

Dawn Tucker, Precinct chair ector county 203
Self
Odessa, TX

Please vote for this bill!!! Please pass it for our children's safety. We must stop the destruction of our children!

Debbie Oakes, Mrs.
Self
Kerrville, TX

I am for banning gender modification

Danielle Bodin
I'm a Texas mother.
Orange, TX

Changing a child's gender is ABUSE. We mist hold the line and not give into this non-sense!

Sarah Miller-Fellows, Dr.
Girls Empowerment Network
Austin, TX

Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and Texas House Committee members,
My name is Dr. Sarah Miller-Fellows. I am Director of Impact at Girls Empowerment Network and the mother of two children. At GIRLS, we believe that girls are unstoppable and our mission is to help them know it too - more specifically, we served 4,133 girls last year alone through school-based groups, conferences, and programs that have been proven to increase outcomes in communication, creativity, critical thinking, bonding, and self-efficacy. At our org, we are proud of our inclusion of all girls – 100 percent of our highly qualified staff agreed or strongly agreed that "girls of all kinds (cis, trans, gender expansive) should be centered in our mission and work.

We are strongly opposed to HB 1686. HB 1686 will prevent guardians and doctors from making medical decisions that are in the best interest of their children and patients.

As you may have heard in recent news, we are in the midst of a youth mental health crisis. Rates of sadness, violence and suicide attempts are on the rise for high school students across our country. Transgender youth are among those highest at risk. Over half of transgender youth have considered attempting suicide in the last year, and one in 5 did attempt suicide.

One of the most effective ways to support transgender young people's mental health is to affirm their gender identity and support their transition. One key method is to provide medical care, like puberty blockers, that allows them to "push pause" on the progress of puberty and give them more options as they grow into adulthood. This bill would limit doctor's abilities to prescribe these medications and other issues.

I believe that this decision should rest solely within the hands of children, their parents and their physicians, rather than the state of Texas. Transgender youth have a right to receive appropriate medical care and SB 625 would greatly restrict that access for the 1 in 3 Texas children who receives healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP.

We urge you to oppose HB 1686, to protect our Texas girls and youth, and stop it from passing committee. I appreciate your consideration of this matter and thank you for your time.

Larry Konty
Self. Retired engineer, father and grandfather.
Colleyville, TX

Support for this bill is common sense. I am appalled that this is necessary. To treat gender dysphoria with drugs and/or surgery is unproven and unnecessary medical practice. I rather contend that drug and/or surgery on minors for gender dysphoria is child abuse of the worst kind. Practitioners should lose any and all medical credentials they have forever if they perform or advocate this abuse. Please pass this House Bill and end this madness.

Susan Perry, Ms
Self
Abilene, TX

Vote for this to pass

John Jameson
Self, Software Engineer
Buda, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Transgender healthcare is a decision for families to make and it is inappropriate for the government to block access or defund treatment.

Terri Chaney
Self
Kerrville, TX

Our children need protection against these horrific procedures!

Marian Phillips
SELF- Retired
Whitney, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686.

Virginia Young
self/teacher and exercise physiologist
The Woodlands, TX

Thank you for addressing this issue. Please do not give up. I would like to add that this is far more than a problem of the medical community not policing itself. We need to look beyond blame on physicians. We need to look at the infiltration of the medical system, the education system and our state and country in general. Physiologically, it is common sense to leave a child's body alone during puberty. We should be looking at all possible factors involved, from prenatal onward. Mankind has been experimented on for many generations. All environmental factors should be thoroughly and independently investigated. I pray the committee will take a closer look at the root causes of these problems, all the problems you discussed today.

Alice Woods
self (and all common-sense minded people), Retired
ODESSA, TX

I fully support this bill and commend all who are working so diligently to protect our children.

Steven Ingram
Self
Pottsboro, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Guillermo Matos
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill.

Connor Daigle
self
Vidor, TX

As a constituent of Dade Phelan's, I stand in strong favor of this bill to ban child gender modification. It's long past time for the Texas Legislature to act on this issue and protect children. Child gender modification is child abuse, and should be treated as such.

Darrell Thomas
Self
Manvel, TX

The basic fact is that you are almost always born with a specific gender; male or female. As a minor this should be fostered and not altered in a manner that show's disapproval of biological design. Also, barring such emergency as a concern that could cause death, sterilization should be a personal decision, instead of one made by others.

Gregory Young, Pastor
Self
Bandera, TX

Children are taught to listen to adults. They are taught to trust people like teachers. Unfortunately many teachers are telling children not to listen to their parents. Thai is a breeding ground for abuse and psychological manipulation. Children also want to please and they are being coerced to believe that this mutilation of their bodies will please their teacher. This is abuse of authority. Children are not prepared to make these life altering decisions and this bill aims to protect these innocent children from the illusion they can process the long term harm and risks of these procedures.
I have spoken to members of the de transition community and their stories are harrowing. A double mastectomy at 13 can not be reversed. Hormone therapy is not fully reversible.
I understand how the Mon is beating down your doors and using tactics to intimidate you. They care little about the children and only about the money they are funneling in to do these heinous acts of child mutilation. The only counseling which they offer is to continue the manipulation process and convince these children to mutilate their bodies and to intimidate the parents into believing that if they don't allow it to go through, they will have either a dead daughter, or a live transition to son. But what the reality is teaching us is that these children are not prepared for this kind of a decision. and this transition process does nothing to address the deeper issues that they are facing emotionally mentally and as they look to their future. So again, I am asking you please do not allow this intimidation and the assault from those who simply wish to line their pockets with hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical operation fees, rather than actually addressing the issues that might be facing these young people. Thank you.

Lucas Scanlon
Self
Cypress, TX

I agree that prohibitions and use of public funds should be spent on assistance of gender transitioning / reassignment.

Jan Lance
Self - Retired
Austin, TX

As a mother and a grandmother who loves her children and grandchildren unconditionally, I strongly oppose this bill which would prohibit physicians from providing best practice, life-saving care for transgender youth. 72% of Texans support anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people. I support the right of every transgender youth to live a life as their authentic self. I believe that with the support of their families and physicians, they deserve the opportunity to make decisions about their own health care. The state of Texas has no right to intervene in health care decisions that are rightly made by families and individuals.

Gary Boudreaux
self
Tomball, TX

The law has generally defined the age of adulthood at 17/18. Anyone below that age is regarded as a child. Making a gender transition decision, if that is even physically or psychologically possible, is robbing that child of his choice. Every child has cross dressed at some point in life but does that mean that that childish endeavor is a call for radical surgeries or harmone theraby. I suspect not. Happiness is seldom a result of any transition. It's an inside job developed through virtues of love, faith, forgiveness, charity, and temperance. Save the children both born and in utero.

Kathi Fletcher
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. In Texas we care for ALL our citizens, especially the most vulnerable. We must not get in between care doctors, caring parents, and their children's healthcare. Gender affirming care saves lives.

Rather than supporting bans, please support research that includes trans Texans and that will help us provide the best, least risky, and most caring healthcare.

Kathi

Deborah Bryant
self/retired
Bridgeport, TX

Please vote for HB 1686 prohibiting the use of public money or assistance to provide any procedure relating to gender reassignment or any mental disease described as dysphoria. There should also be a law against any of these procedures being used on children under the age of 18.

Dina Rich
Bible Family Fellowship
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686

Melinda White, Mrs.
self - teacher
Azle, TX

It is heart wrenching that we we even have to have this bill. I do not want public money or public assistance to go towards any kind of gender modification/treatment. I support HB 1686.

Erica Adam
Self, software developer
Austin, TX

At the age of 46 I came out as transgender. I had known something was "wrong" with me since I was very young, and as I grew older, my gender identity became suppressed by the dominant culture. This was the time before people were talking openly about gender and they were barely talking about sexuality. The message was clear: If you are queer, you are an outcast and an acceptable target for violence. This is the message that some legislators want to enshrine in law. It's a miracle I didn't become a youth suicide statistic. I even became a mostly-functional adult while living as my gender-assigned-at-birth. I was absolutely miserable, depressed, and tormented by metaphorical demons I couldn't understand. Now at middle-age, I finally came to understand that what I had been feeling was gender dysphoria. That understanding happened when I discovered media about the experiences of other transgender people. It wasn't indoctrination or marketing, or something that was ever presented to me by any medical professional. It was merely reading about what the life of other transgender people was like, and how their lives had changed with proper gender-affirming therapy. I have since started medical hormone therapy, and the impact of medication and living as my true self has saved my life. It has cured what a lifetime of other drugs and therapies never could.

As an adult who has come to their true identity later in life, I had to go through a difficult grieving process. In many ways my life and happiness were denied to me by the ignorant, and often cruel beliefs of others. The knowledge of who I might be was withheld, and with that, so was the possibility of treatment. I would give anything to go back in time, learn who I am, and have access to medical intervention. Puberty is difficult, expensive, and sometimes impossible to undo as an adult. Assistance and treatment as a minor would have given me an entirely different adulthood- One where happiness was a possibility. Instead I managed to survive through a sub-optimal, depressed existence until I came to terms with my gender identity.

I understand that the transgender experience can sound unreal or absurd to people that haven't experienced it, but it is very real. I have never felt more sure about anything in my life, that I am not the physical gender I was born into. The words to express this as a child were hidden from me, but not the feelings. Don't deny children the opportunity to live a true life by denying life-saving medical treatment delivered by healthcare professionals under the supervision of parents.

Joyce Miller
Self
Adkins, TX

I am for this bill.

Wendy O'Keeffe, Self
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This needs to pass! Let children be children, stop the sexualization of the children. Do not perpetuate and confuse a mental health issue, which should be addressed on it's own. Stop mutilating children, let them grow up so they'll be able to make an intelligent decision without undue social pressure.

Sandra Gravley, Ms
Self
Frisco, TX

I believe that a person is the gender that God has given them.at birth. That children should be protected from mutilation to change their gender. I find it appalling that we need a Bill to protect our children from this mutilation

Luis Cayo
CayoVFX
KATY, TX

I believe This bill needs to pass. There is a lot of abuse from narcissistic adults transitioning their kids. Enough is enough. No kid can consent to life-changing decisions. "Gender transitioning is life saving" is a lie repeated too many times. Transitioned kids also commit suicide. Blind affirmation is not the way.

Jon Wauson
Self
Yoakum, TX

Please vote in favor of HB 1686. That decision should be left up to the individual when they are old enough to understand the long-term consequences, which means at least voting age, no sooner.

Tamma Gunn
Precinct 3247
Euless, TX

It is awful that we should have to discuss the castration of healthy young boys, mastectomies of healthy young girls, or giving the youth drugs that we know will shorten their lives and potentially have long term side effects before they are old enough to have had an opportunity to bear children or even consent to sex. However, we are here. Mature adults must protect our young people from life altering decisions until they reach the age of maturity and can seek counsel from many perspectives and learn to make wise decisions based on facts rather than feelings. Please prevent this senseless mutilation of future generations.

Jose Briones Jr, Mr
Self
Westworth Village, TX

I am in support of this bill. No tax money to fund these procedures nor even to transition these children.

janis east
self
Caldwell, TX

we need this passed

Vaughn Wedlake
Self
Grand prairie, TX

Transitioning kids is one of the dumbest things I've ever heard in my life. You should be no younger than 25 before making a such a dumb ass decision. Leave kids out of this dumb ass nonsense

Stephanie Broncano
Self
Frisco, TX

Please Vote FOR this bill
Protect the children! No one is born in the wrong body. Stop the medicalization of this issue

Sherial Lawson
Self
Dayton, TX

Writing to voice my support for HB 1686 which would help protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization through use of hormone therapy used to chemically castrate criminals. Our children are not mentally, emotionally not intellectually mature enough to make these life changing decisions at this young age and need to be protected from predictors and themselves. Research is showing that "long term", many who have undergone these procedures and treatments have regret and remorse, but have lost reproductive abilities and are worse off psychologically and emotionally than before.

Chris Nystrom
self
PFLUGERVILLE, TX

Please get this done. Children are not old enough to consent to these life altering changes. Doing this to a child is child abuse.

Eric Mata
Texas Organizing Project
Dallas, TX

As a resident of Texas, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1686, which seeks to prohibit certain children from accessing procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria, and would also restrict the use of public funds to provide these necessary treatments.

This proposed legislation is a clear violation of the basic rights and autonomy of individuals, particularly transgender youth, who have the right to make their own choices regarding their health and well-being. By denying access to necessary medical treatments, this bill would put countless children at risk of experiencing significant physical and mental harm, and could even lead to an increase in suicide rates among transgender youth.

Moreover, this bill completely ignores the fact that gender dysphoria is a recognized medical condition that requires proper medical care and attention. Treatment for gender dysphoria should be based on the individual needs of the patient, not arbitrary government restrictions.

Furthermore, the proposed bill is an infringement on the principle of separation of church and state, as it seems to be motivated by religious beliefs rather than sound medical practices. As such, it would be unconstitutional and against the basic principles of a free and just society.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1686 and stand up for the basic rights and dignity of all Texans, including transgender youth. This bill would be a grave injustice to the most vulnerable members of our society, and would ultimately harm our entire community by promoting discrimination and intolerance.

Brenda Platt
Precinct 19 Chair
Bridgeport, TX

This Bill needs to be passed to protect our children as children are not able to make decisions for themselves until they’re at least of age. You can’t join the military until you’re 18, why would you be able to decide to change your sex? This is brutalization of minors and an abomination. There’s plenty of stories of children that grew up and wished they had not done this and many suicides due to it. Please pass this bill. Wise County 19 Precinct Chair. Brenda Platt 469-233-3303

Paige Burlew
Self
Argyle, TX

Please protect our children from making life altering decisions before they are old enough to be aware of the severity of their decisions. If you can’t smoke, drink, get a tattoo, or join the military, you should not be considered old enough to make a permanent change to your body.

Karyn Brownlee, Mrs.
Self - Writer/Consultant
Coppell, TX

As a former candidate for State Representative District 115, I remain strongly supportive of every child's right to life and to live in his/her God-given gender. Adults should be prohibited by law from making decisions about gender reassignment for a minor child. Certainly no person should be able to choose to permanently alter the body of another person. Gender modification of a minor is child abuse, regardless of a child's opinion. We do not allow children to drive, marry, drink or vote until an appropriate age. There are reasons for this. Similar reasons support the fact that children under the age of 18 are not ready to choose this life-altering procedure. I am FOR this HB 1686.

Katharine Nance
self
Bells, TX

I am for this bill

Charles Shirley, Mr.
self/Real Estate Investor
Spring, TX

I am FOR this bill, HB 1686 authored by Oliverson. Children do NOT have the capacity to make fully informed decisions about having body parts removed. It is ludicrous to think they do. And I do not want my tax dollars to go to support such chicanery.

Marian Nichols, Mrs
Self - teacher
Victoria, TX

If a child is too young to drive. Too young to vote. Too to drink or get married. I'm thinking they are too young to decide they need to change their sex. So I would not support a parent opting to do that.

Jayme Maxwell
None
Van Alstyne, TX

Please save our children! If they can't even buy alcohol why should they be allowed to make life altering decisions??? Please do something constructive and that actually makes sense!

Tara Petsch
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Children cannot make life altering decisions. I support this bill.

Vicky Little
Dallas Eagle Forum/myself
Dallas, TX

I support HB 1686. I believe everyone here cares about and wants to support our confused children. Adolescence is a very confusing and awkward time. Children should not begin medical gender transition therapies. “Based on currently available evidence, “encouraging mastectomy, ovariectomy, uterine extirpation, penile disablement, tracheal shave, the prescription of hormones which are out of line with the genetic make up of the child, or puberty blockers, are all clinical practices which run an unacceptably high risk of doing harm.” Source Dr.Joseph Ladapo Dr. Paul Hruz, along with Dr. Lawrence Mayer and Dr. Paul McHugh wrote “Something must be done to help these patients, but as scientists struggle to better understand what gender dysphoria is and what causes it, it would not seem prudent to embrace hormonal treatments and sex reassignments as the foremost therapeutic tools for treating this condition.” These medical professionals warned there are severe issues with gender affirming care. Dr. Kaltiala, described as one of Finland’s leading experts on Pediatric gender medicine says four out of five gender questioning children eventually accept their bodies if no medical interventions are carried out. The Washington University Transgender Center at St. Louis is under investigation. The whistle blower alleges that hospital workers pressured parents into treatments by asking them “Do you want a live son or a dead daughter?” We must find ways to support our confused children, but, first, we must do no harm. Thank you.

Laura Judah
Myself
Leander, TX

Do No Harm! No child is born in the wrong body! I do not support gender modification of any type! I am FOR this bill. Please support.

Claudene James
self
Cresson, TX

I support this bill. I am a grandmother of 17 kids and I think it is cruel and abusive to address young children with these possibilites. And I certainly don't want any of my tax dollars go to these abusive procedures.

Jerry Hanlin
Myself
Frisco, TX

I support HB 1686. Gender modification of minors should be illegal in Texas.

Jane Audas
Self
Midland, TX

No mutilation to children

Betty Morrell
Self/Retired
Odessa, TX

I strongly urge you to support HB 1686. This is important legislation to protect our children and I am strongly in favor of this bill.

Thomas Gregory, Mr
Texas resident
Perrin, TX

I support HB1686

Julie Dahlberg
Self
LA VERNIA, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 1686. Passing this bill is critical to protect children from becoming a victim of abusive practices that will likely ruin their lives physically and mentally and may prevent them from being able to reproduce in later years, among many other issues.

What is missing from this bill is psychologists and psychiatrists introducing notions that there is something wrong with them, and introducing any notion that attempting to change their sex is the proper mindset and treatment plan to 'fix' them. I would strongly encourage an amendment to also prohibit mental health professionals' wrong sex practices and counseling, as this social and mental 'transitioning' is where the confusion all begins in a child's mind and psyche. It has become obvious to me that physicians, pharmaceutical companies, counselors and school personnel have been compromised financial benefit from these practices; parents compromised by counseling that tells them their child will commit suicide; and even worse, to participate in this mass Munchausen By Proxy for attention in this social contagion.

There is much public opinion and insistence by a multitude of various people...a legion, if you will... that once children are told they are 'trans,' that it is incumbent on parents, teachers, doctors, counselors and the general public to affirm the changed identity in order for the child to be healthy. I ask, where was all the affirmation and support for the child's identity as they were, the way God made them, with their given temperament, personality and character - whatever their degree of femininity or masculinity of either sex - prior to the introduction and indoctrination toward embracing the fantasy, not reality, of the need to choose to recreate themselves as the opposite sex in order to be whole.

The concept of transgenderism needs to be eradicated entirely. It is just one arm of the current push of deconstruction of reality that we are experiencing in society now with a variety of critical theories - whether the deconstruction of the traditional family, deconstruction of faith, deconstruction of equality, and so on. It breaks my heart to see children and even adults who have been confused and victimized by these concepts.

While the common argument against eradicating the concept of transgenderism is the claim that that means to deny the existence of these affected people - which is not at all the case. We need to boldly put the stop sign up on all the practices that embrace transgenderism as a means to protect and help them heal as well. To, with empathy, acknowledge the originating factors that put them in the mindset they are in, support them reaching more toward reality and address the root causes and what's wreaking havoc on their spiritual and mental health. And to also protect them from those who would intimidate them and object to their reaching toward reality & away from unhealth fantasy.

Please vote to pass this bill out of committee.

Summer Elliott
Self
McKinney, TX

I support this bill. Stop ruining the lives of children.

George Baer
self
Canyon, TX

I am in favor of this bill and I STRONGLY URGE the members of the Public Health Committee to PASS this bill out of committee and for the House to pass the bill. We MUST protect Texas children.

Cherilyn Keeney
Self, mother
Deer Park, TX

Please vote FOR this bill! Children are being bombarded and indoctrinated with this gender ideology that goes against all that is natural and good. Please protect our children from making medical and surgical decisions that can negatively impact their mental and physical well-being for a lifetime.

Linda Arnold
Self
Whitewright, TX

I support this bill! NO public money should be used for these purposes. No gender alteration should be allowed until a person reaches the age of consent.

Sherie Carroll
Self
Yoakum, TX

It is wrong to teach children they were born the wrong sex. Please vote against this bill

Gabrielle Clark
Self
La Porte, TX

My daughter was socially transitioned into believing she was a boy. It was a traumatic experience for our entire family. We had to leave the state and move back to my hometown of Houston. She was convinced she needed to have her healthy breasts removed. It took a lot of time and effort but I pulled my baby out of this cult! I now help others who have been harmed by gender affirming care. Please, pass this bill so no more children will be abused and mutilated by this poison. Stop mutilating our children!

Ed Sarlls
Self, engineer
Rosenberg, TX

I am AGAINST this bill as currently written.

I have served as a Harris County Republican Precinct Chair and State Convention Delegate for over 20 years before a recent move to Fort Bend County. I have served on the Harris County Republican Party Rules Committee and Harris County SD17 Resolutions Committee for more than half of that time and on the 2022 Texas Republican Convention Rules Committee.

Banning bottom surgery for minors is appropriate but unnecessary as it is extremely rare.

All other psychological and medical treatments should follow the guidelines of professional organizations like the American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, and the Endocrine Society and not the political agenda of any party or religion. If there is a concern that some prescriptions are not properly following these professional guidelines and best practices, this could be a focus for oversight without denying or impeding compliant care.

The proposed denial of treatment based on willful ignorance of science and medicine is abhorrent and disgusting and will harm Texas families.

Michael Phillips
self
Weatherford, TX

I am in strong support of this bill and protecting Texas children from mutilation, abuse, and barbarism of ALL kinds

Carolyn Rachaner
Self
Lantana, TX

We absolutely must stop the gender mutilation of children. I can’t believe that actually has to be said in a civilized society but here we are. Children do not have developed brains and are not capable of making decisions that have life-long consequences. We must stop this insanity and save these kids!

Wylan Rosser, Mr
Self
Alvin, TX

I support this bill and following the vote.

Kathryn Puckett
Self
Howe, TX

Please care about the innocence of our children

Bess Loveless
Self
Bynum, TX

Please do not mutilate innocent children and mess up the hormones! There are other steps that need to be done especially on boys that can’t happen until completely mature!

Kathy May
Self
Keller, TX

I support this bill because of detransitioners are coming out every day with their stories.

We as adults must protect children,not mutilate them. Why does this even need to be said!

Loretta Bradley
Self
New Braunfels, TX

protect Texas kids from these barbaric sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization.

Robin Lennon
Self-Retired, and Kingwood TEA Party, Inc. (as Founder & President)
Cleveland, TX

I am Robin Lennon, representing myself & the Kingwood TEA Party as its President, which I founded in 2009. I am fervidly in favor of HB1686 which bans sex/gender mutilation surgery of children under the age of 18 in the State of TX. I thank Rep. Tom Oliverson, et.al. for this bill, Chair and Author, Rep. Stephanie Click, and everyone on this committee for your time and consideration of this important bill to prevent our Texas children from being used for monetary gain by this evil practice. Having read the horrendous testimonies of many adults who regret their surgeries as children, it is clear this mutilation which results in permanent scarring, pain, loss of ability to orgasm, and worse of all, does NOTHING to alleviate/ cure underlying mental issues the child is encouraged by trusted adults, teachers, counselors, and/or doctors to mischaracterize/misdiagnose as gender dysphoria. Criminally ignoring these underlying conditions which are never addressed/treated before performing the permanent surgeries that render these children permanently sterile & sexually impotent is gross malpractice of the worst kind. As to the detrimental mental, and physical effects, I defer to the adults who now regret and/or suffer from the sex-gender mutilations they underwent as children who have or are testifying in support of this bill.

Deborah Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I am totally against this bill. I cant believe that TX, of all states, thinks it's just fine to insert the government into the private business of parents and health providers with respect to the wellbeing of a dependent child. To the best of my knowledge, none of the writers or sponsors of this bill are experts in physical or mental health and certainly not in the field of sex dysphoria. None of you have any business telling those who do how to manage care. Would you tell PCP's not to give polio vacines? (Don't get any stupid ideas now.) What does your bible tell you about modern medicine? How about we give YOU an appendix opperation as they would in biblical times? No pain killers, no knock out juice, no antibiotics. Seems different now, doesn't it? Reread the US Constitution about separation of church and state and leave your antiquated religion out of the people's business.

Lindsay Carter
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and do not pass this legislation.

Andrew George
Myself
Sunnyvale, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Gender transition for children is child abuse and should be banned.

Valeria Nevárez
Self
Fort Worth, TX

We cannot allow our tax paying dollars to pay for surgical procedures on minors that will harm and ruin their bodies forever!

Vivian Mccoy
Self
Howe, TX

Support!!!!!

Dan Gibbs, Mr.
Self. Retired.
Houston, TX

I am strongly FOR this bill.

Robyn Tibbs
Self
Llano, TX

I am FOR this Bill! STOP harming our future generation!

Justin Maloney
self
Ft. Worth, TX

I support HB 1686.

We must put an end to the bodily mutilation and chemical castration of our youth. Kids are impressionable and are often persuaded by social media, their friends, or counselors to begin these life altering decisions. Let's not allow one more adult to regret mutilating their body as a child.

Barbara Woodroof, Ms
Self. Retired
Gunter, TX

Children are a gift from God. Their body was reveled in the womb. No one should tamper with this beautiful creation. No one can predict what these procedures, etc. will result in since we are each one of a kind. I support this bill.

JoBeth Medina
self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill and see this as an infringement on medical privacy and medical autonomy.

Patty Metcalf
self - Healthcare Quality Analyst
Round Rock, TX

I am for this bill.

Keith Kittle
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. No child has ever been born in the wrong body.These are facts. Please support this bill.

Laura Hicks
Self
Deer Park, TX

Children are too young to decide such life changing events. For some, this is a permanent solution to something that may only be temporary. I am AGAINST HB1686.

Ana O'Quin
Girls Empowerment Network
Austin, TX

Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and Texas House Committee members,

My name is Ana O'Quin, I am the mental health policy fellow at Girls Empowerment Network. At GIRLS, we believe that girls are unstoppable and our mission is to help them know it too - more specifically, we served 4,133 girls, youth with marginalized gender identities, this year alone through school-based groups, conferences, and programs that have been proven to increase outcomes in communication, creativity, critical thinking, bonding, and self-efficacy." At our organization, we are proud of our inclusion of all girls – 100 percent of our highly qualified staff agreed or strongly agreed that "girls of all kinds (cis, trans, gender expansive) should be centered in our mission and work."

We are strongly opposed to HB 1686. HB 1686 will prevent guardians and doctors from making medical decisions that are in the best interest of their children and patients.

As you may have heard in recent news, we are in the midst of a youth mental health crisis. Rates of sadness, violence and suicide attempts are on the rise for high school students across our country. Transgender youth are among those highest at risk. Over half of transgender youth have considered attempting suicide in the last year, and one in 5 did attempt suicide.

One of the most effective ways to support transgender young people's mental health is to affirm their gender identity and support their transition. One key method is to provide medical care, like puberty blockers, that allows them to "push pause" on the progress of puberty and give them more options as they grow into adulthood. This bill would limit doctor's abilities to prescribe these medications and other issues.

I believe that this decision should rest solely within the hands of children, their parents and their physicians, rather than the state of Texas. Transgender youth have a right to receive appropriate medical care and SB 625 would greatly restrict that access for the 1 in 3 Texas children who receives healthcare through Medicaid and CHIP.

We urge you to oppose HB 1686, to protect our Texas girls and youth, and stop it from passing committee.

Sources: https://everytexan.org/kids-count-2021/; https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/?section=Introduction

Erik Elliott
Self
McKinney, TX

I can't believe that in Texas, a bill protecting children is needed. This is pathetic and a failure of our elected Representatives. Why can't we let kids be kids. No "procedure" or "treatment" that would alter or impede any natural maturity should ever be allowed. Be Leaders. Protect our kids. If at 18, a young person wants to use these services, so be it. Just leave the kids alone.

Connie Hudson
Denton County GOP
The Colony, TX

Please support this bill. Our children are too young to make life altering decisions. To allow them to make decisions that will compromise their ability to recreate as an adult is child abuse. Please keep this bill in its entirety. Thank you!

Melissa Martin, Teacher
ITTexas
Deer Park, TX

I support this bill.

Christopher Russo
Self
El Lago, TX

I am strongly FOR this bill. Children should not be medically or psychologically transitioned to a gender identity distinct from their biological sex.

Lesley Pyle
Self / Business owner
Spring, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Zoey Minor
Self, Texan
Mansfield, TX

This bill is the right thing to be passed! No child is born in the wrong body and indulging in gender dysphoria in confused children is wrong. Government money being spent on life and body-altering decisions made by children is not best for these children and it's a misuse our our tax dollars!

Anna Preissig
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this bill

Glennie Stone
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. No child I'd born in the wrong body. End child gender modification; this practice is barbaric #DoNoHarm

DD Johnston
self
Dallas, TX

SUPPORT!!!! Please support this bill that will protect children!

Kris Kittle
self
Fort Worth, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We need to prohibit gender modification of minors. We need to DO NO HARM to children! Please SUPPORT this bill!

Ilan Huang
Self
Round Rock, TX

Sadly in this time in our country, children are so confused about their identity and so hungry for an identity that they are willing to mutilate their bodies. As sound-minded adults who know the truth, we need to save them from this confusion and hunger for identity in other ways besides gender modifying procedures that permanently harms the child. Please do not allow children to have life-altering procedures to change their God-given gender. It was never meant to be changed. We need to affirm these children that they are made in the image of God and that they are meant to be their biological gender for a wonderful purpose.

Kelly Anderson
Self / mother
Henderson, TX

I am expressing my support for HB1686. Just as we do not allow children to surgically modify themselves to be pirates, we should not allow surgery to mock gender. Please protect our children whos brains are not fully developed.

Sarah Dupuis, Mrs.
Self
Deer Park, TX

For the Bill

Janette Friend-Harrington, Mrs
Self, Realtor
Round Rock, TX

FOR

Bonita Winter, MRS.
self
Cypress, TX

FOR THE BILL

Lorie Meynig
Myself
Austin, TX

Please vote YES! Our Texas children have not been protected by our State Board of Medicine! These procedures to cut off healthy body parts must stop NOW. Children regretting these procedures are already finding their voice against this horrible currently" permitted" practice. The fake documents that are in the medical journals are linked to LGTBQ groups out of Europe and Europe has already stopped these horrid procedures. Also the research is all founded on Alfred Kinsey research which we all know allowed 3 month olds to be raped over and over for a 24 hour period to test the sexual reactions from the infants. While this sounds freakish and it is…. It does not mean it didn't happen. We have the proof and the research can be seen in the documentary called The Mind Polluters. Please vote YES to stop the physical and mental mutilation of a generation. Thank you.

David Tomlinson
Self, Landman
Spring, TX

I am for this Bill

Jonita Yates
Self
Whitt, TX

I am in favor of prohibiting any provision to children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. I also am in favor of prohibiting the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Manni Mora
Self
Austin, TX

Gender dysphoria is a real thing. This needs to be addressed by a professional doctor and not the government. Help instead of getting in the way. There are no children getting reassignment surgery. That is not a thing. Other than intersex who are getting reassignment surgery without consent for the child.

Tiffany Nelson
Self
Spring, TX

We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. No child is born in the wrong body.

Darren Howes
Self
Quitman, TX

For

Joan Armstrong, Ms.
Self/friends
Bastrop, TX

Transgender youth need healthcare just like every other human being.

Jessica Baker
Self, education student
Deer park, TX

I am commenting FOR this bill. No child is born in the wrong body, and it is the government's responsibility to ensure that no medical doctor can permanently mutilate a minor in the State of Texas.

Gale Carter
Self
Allen, TX

I'm writing to show my support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson. It is our job as adults to protect children. They deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

·Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
·These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
·Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
·A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Theresa Widlen
Self
Deer Park, TX

I am against public money being used for transitioning especially when related to a child.

Joni Clonts
The Moosehead Cafe
Crockett, TX

It is a sad day in the American (greatest country world) when a House Bill has to be passed in order to safe our children from the left. Please pass this bill to protect all children from these monsters. A child may think they would like to be the oppose sex. But, one day they will realize that thought is so foolish. God made male and female period.

Sincerely, Joni K. Clonts, Chair, Houston County Republican Party

John Stalmach
Self - retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I am registering my support FOR this bill.

Jennifer Payne
Self, infant care specialist
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR this bill. Please pass it!

Autumn Springer
Self
Frisco, TX

FOR

David Yates
Self
Whitt, TX

I support bill HB 1686

Rachel Lopez
Self - musician
Austin, TX

Please stop allowing all children under the age of 18 to undergo ANY gender assignment procedures or surgeries! It is well documented that most kids grow out of this phase after proper counseling. Children do NOT have the maturity to make such a life altering decision that they can NOT reverse. Allow kids to be kids & please put an end to this perversion!

Pat Tibbs
Montgomery County Tea Party PAC
Magnolia, TX

This bill would help to protect our children. We don't allow children to drive a car, buy cigarettes, liquor or guns, check themselves out of school because they aren't mature enough to make those decisions so why should we allow them to mutilate themselves. I am for this bill.

Donna Cobb
self, homemaker
Colleyville, TX

Please support HB 1686 to protect our children from damaging, irreversable treatments and procedures. Gender transitions should not be encouraged or allowed on underage children. They were not born in the wrong body, and to encourage or push that ideology is child abuse, and it should absolutely never be paid for with public money or assistance.

Caren Atkinson
Self
Weatherford, TX

We must protect our children.

Melinda Bradley, Dr
Self/ optometrist
Plano, TX

I strongly support Bill 1686. These procedures are child abuse!

Nicole Clark
self/self employed
Austin, TX

I am against HB 1686. Please vote against this bill, it is an attempt at banning best practice medically necessary care for transgender youth. It unfairly targets health care providers from providing critical care to trans youth. Already marginalized youth will be harassed, and are at a higher risk for anxiety, depression, and even suicide. All children have the right to access necessary medical care, without discrimination.

Carla Hall
Self
Mckinney, TX

I am against gender reassignment and this bill. No public money or assistance to provide these procedures or treatments should be used. If people want this they can use their own money like anyone getting elective surgeries. I'm not paying for this.

Carolyn M Parker
Self
Normangee, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Misty Odenweller, Conroe ISD Trustee
Myself
Spring, TX

I am asking for you to vote in the affirmative and support this bill. Our children need us to help protect them as they really don’t know and understand what they are saying and doing with gender dysphoria and should not be allowed to alter their bodies in anyway that is so harmful and disfiguring in their childhood. Let them wait until adulthood when their brains are fully developed.

RaShell Southerland
self
Waxahachie, TX

Please vote yes on HB 1686. We must protect children from permanent and irreversible damage. Children are unable to make adult decisions. Can a child get a tattoo? NO! But it's okay to cut of body parts and prescribe medication that will destroy their bodies for the rest of their lives? You know the answer to that question. Don't be fooled by a loud minority. Please protect our children!

Denise Hopkins
Self
Plano, TX

I am FOR, in favor, of this bill.

Kristal Gonzales
Self
Grapevine, TX

I believe that this bill is a great start to protecting our children from the satanic influence of this world.

James Meadows
self
tyler, TX

We would have all recognized "transing" a child as child abuse and medical malpractice 10 years ago. We need to come back to our senses and treat this as what it is - abuse and malpractice.

Clayton Smith, Sgt
Self
Odessa, TX

I'm in favor of the bill to help save children from an unchangeable fate... This shouldn't even be a question.

Rochelle Wells
Self ; self employed
Llano, TX

FOR! Protect our children.

Anne Booher
self/housewife
FORT WORTH, TX

Absolutely NO public money, public aid, or public resources should ever be used to for gender transitioning. Gender transitioning services to children should be prohibited by law in Texas. Children should not be encouraged to undergo surgical, medical, psychological, pharmaceutical treatments to be considered "authentic".

Ralph Huffman
Self - Retired
Frisco, TX

I am for this bill to protect kids from life-altering surgeries

Sherronna Bishop
America's Mom
Carthage, TX

I support this bill.
Tax payers should not be funding personal family decisions to mutilate or chemically castrate children. Public funds should never be used for hormones treatment of gender dysphoric minors

Bernice Gould, Taxpayer
The Human Body
Ft. Worth, TX

If you want to slice & dice the human body, do it out of your own private income and your own private assets, lawmaker Oliverson.

I am a retiree on a small teacher pension. I do not want to pay for any gender education, or procedures,, nor do I condone any gender transitioning.

NO, NO NO. This bill is an absolute disgrace & unethical in every way. It is mutilation of the human body.

Mary Katherine Nolan
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I can not even believe that there is an argument here…children SHOULD NOT be subjected to gender modification surgeries. It is insane. Please protect our children by passing this bill. Thank you.

Lindsay Dawson
self, business owner
Conroe, TX

SUPPORT HB 1686

Robin Phillips
Self, Realtor
Sherman, TX

I oppose gender modification of minor children.

Matt Payne
Self, director of safety
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill.

Terri Rountree
Self
Whitewright, TX

I request that you vote for this bill.

Kevin Martin
Self
Deer Park, TX

I support this bill and want children protected. I do not want tax dollars used to support gender reassignment or transitioning.

Brice Lostracco
Self - engineer
Richardson, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS LEGISLATION. IT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND DISCRIMINATORY. THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE SHALL NOT PASS BILLS THAT ARE DISCRIMINATORY AGAINST INDIVIDUALS ON THE BASIS OF GENDER IDENTITY.

Stephen Armstrong
Self
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson.

Children must be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures.
I believe HB 1686 is needed because:

· Please allow the parents to be the adult in the room. Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
- Allowing this behavior to continue unchecked is CHILD ABUSE.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote IN FAVOR of HB 1686.

David Day
self software engineer
Katy, TX

I am for this bill. Mutilating children has got to stop.

JAN HEINRICKS
Self
Spring, TX

I support passage of this bill.

Rebecca Nix, Mrs.
InnovativeTeachers of Texas
Shepherd, TX

I say NO to this bill!

Michael Burdiik, Pastor
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I strongly support this bill to protect vulnerable children. Children are not sufficiently mature enough to make these permanent decisions. Public money should not be used either.

Arletta Beard, Mrs
Self
Deer Park, TX

I support this bill.

Kathryn Kizer
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Medical decisions should be left between doctors and patients and should not be state mandated.

Ryan Springer
self, software engineer
Frisco, TX

I do not believe that a minor has the ability to properly understand the long term effects of any form of gender modification "therapy". These treatments can have long term consequences, and if a minor cannot be trusted to buy and consume an alcoholic beverage, then they have zero ability to seriously alter their bodies in ways that cannot be reversed.

Scott Dupuis
Self
Deer Park, TX

For this bill

Lisa Nickelson
Self/Receptionist
La Porte, TX

I find this to be horrible. This is something they should decide as an adult. They are not old enough understand the long term effects of these types of decisions!!!!!
And I certainly do not want to pay for it! Let the parents of these children pay for it if they allow it.

Mary Moore
Self, ministry
Llano, TX

I support prohibitions of procedures and on the use of public funds.

Kim Nguyen
Self
Rowlett, TX

We should not use residents tax money for uneadical reason in purpose of brainwash our younger generation to harm themselves by so called “ independent of woke culture

Ivana Silva
Self
Austin, TX

Please protect all children. Proceeder like this should be done in adulthood when the person is sure of gender dysphoria not on a minor who changes mind every 5 minutes.

Michael Nix, Mr.
Self
Shepherd, TX

I support this bill

Nancy Weir, Ms
Grayson County Republican Women
Collinsville, TX

AGAINST GENDAR TRANSITING GEBDRE REASIGNMENT

Rebecca Kern
Self
Pearland, TX

Please do not allow children under 21 to undergo any gender therapy

Ned Luscombe
Precinct chairman ector county
Gardendale, TX

I support this bill chemical castration o young boys and surgical mutilation of little girls should be a felony in this state as is use of puberty blockers

Kelly Sharp
Texas Family (native born in Austin) 5 of us voting age
Kerrville, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. PLEASE VOTE TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM MUTILATION. THIS IS INSANITY THAT THIS EVEN NEEDS TO BE DISCUSSED.

Gilda Bayegan
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Children too immature to drink or smoke are not mature enough to distinguish a temporary inclination to experiment with gender from the lifelong irreversible choice they would be making.

Chandra Ward
Self
Deer Park, TX

For the bill! Children should NOT undergo gender modifications. No child is born in the wrong body.

Karen Bennett
Self
Horseshoe Bay, TX

I support this bill. I can't believe this is up for debate. A girl is a girl no matter what she feels. A boy is a boy no matter what they feel.
Truth doesn't depend on what you feel. It needs a based on reality. Biology class tells us what we are…whether we feel like it or not! We have lost our reality! Thank you. Karen Bennett

Morgana Terry
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I beg of you, PROTECT CHILDREN from any & all gender procedures. These children are our future, not experiment species, test dummies or lab rats. God chose their gender & blessed the children with life. No one should ever allow such procedures on any child. The Hippocratic Oath includes the words "do no harm". Members of the Senate & House swear to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against enemies foreign and domestic". Anyone believing it is acceptable to put a CHILD through gender procedures of any kind is mentally ill. DO YOUR JOB AND PROTECT THESE CHILDREN!!!

Anilia Smith
Self
Schertz, TX

I support HB 1686

Inna Newbury
Self. Retired
Cleveland, TX

Children are not born into the wrong body. I am against gender modification in children!

Bradley Wahlert
self
Cresson, TX

This gender transitioning debacle is completely out of hand, nationwide. I believe children are being coerced into absolute confusion regarding their gender identity. There is no way that this wave of gender dysphoria has simply come out of the clear blue sky. It is being pushed upon children and their parents by half-wit liberals who do not want manly men and feminine women walking the streets. It's a ploy to weaken our country. Please let Texans stand strongly united and be among the leaders who deplore these cruel and inhumane concepts. Vote to banish these horrific procedures, teachers, and books from our state and especially from our schools.

Lori Ross
Self
Spring, TX

I am for and support this bill

Jody McGowan
Grayson county precinct 408
Denison, TX

FOR- we do not support gender modification in children

Mohammad Bayegan
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Gender Transitioning has become the fad de jour, but the treatments last a lifetime and children are not equipped to make this important decision.

Deanna Harris
Self/ Homemaker
Round Rock, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! I am For this bill!

Haley Campbell
Self
Austin, TX

It is wildly, incredibly offensive that our state elected officials continue to spend their time throwing taxpayer money away on culture war nonsense instead of solving real, meaningful problems impacting the majority of Texans. This bill is unnecessary, unhelpful political grandstanding, and every single person involved with its creation knows that. Instead of interfering with the rights of parents, children and medical professionals to make decisions related to their healthcare, which should be a private and protected matter for each individual person and family, why don't you do something useful like address massive failures of our electrical grid, the impacts of climate change, our embarrassingly inadequate foster care system, higher pay and benefits for teachers, or food insecurity for Texans? This bill is laughably useless and has no business being raised in our bodies of law. Shame on you all.

Scott Johnston
Self
Sherman, TX

I do not support paying for any gender transitions or reassignments and consider it child mutilation.

GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN
PRECINCT CHAIRMAN
DENISON, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Mechele Adrian, FN-P
Humanity!
New Caney, TX

Thank you for advocating for children!

Also please help me advocate for cancer patients- please connect me with state officials who can help me in my fight!

Gary Chiang
self, retired
Plano, TX

I read the the text of HB1686, and I support the passage of this bill. This bill is not anti trans-gender, but it does provide protection to vulnerable minors from undergoing life-changing medical procedures for the purpose gender transitioning that they may regret later in life.

KEVIN N. SHARP
OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN
Kerrville, TX

HUMANITY must prohibit gender modification of minor children. IT IS HORRIFIC THAT THIS IS EVEN A DISCUSSION.

Melissa Beckett
Self
Longview, TX

I support this bill. No child is born in the wrong body, we are teaching self hate to encourage anyone to change their physical body so much that they destroy the basics of who they are. I am a woman who doesn't like to wear make-up or dresses, enjoys sports and a lot of typical "boy" things but I am still a woman. We are doing a huge disservice to these children and ultimately it is child abuse. Please support HB1686.

Tracy Knudsen
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am in SUPPORT of this bill. Children are born perfect by God. Changing their gender is extremely dangerous. Once they are adults and if they want to make that decision on their own God gives us all free will. Let them decide as adults. Children aren't even allowed to pick their own bed time, food, and can't survive without an adult. There is no way they should be allowed to pick a surgery that they can never reverse. Any adult that participates in the altering of a child's sex should be held for a major crime and severely punished, including parents and doctors.

Patricia Keeney
Self
Deer Park, TX

FOR

David Stein
Self/Small Business Owner/Chairman Smith County Republican Party
Tyler, TX

I am speaking in favor of this bill.
Thank you for taking time to address this most important issue. The notion we are having to debate this causes great concern as to what we have become as a society. The precedents are numerous as to why a minor should not be subjected to this barbaric treatment. I'll use a 10 year old as an example. Someone that age cannot legally drink alcohol. Why? Because their brain is not developed enough to determine the full ramification of their actions. They can't serve in the military because they are not physically and mentally prepared. They can't drive a car. Why? While some physically have the size, they aren't mentally capable to make the proper judgement decisions. Can someone that age get married? Can they vote? Texas State Law State law states that 14- and 15-year-olds cannot go to work before 5 a.m., cannot work after 10 p.m. on a day that is followed by a school day, including summer school sessions when applicable, cannot work past midnight on a day that is not followed by a school day. Federal Law states that 14- and 15-year-olds, may not work during school hours can work no more than 3 hours in a day or 18 hours in a week when school is in session and can work only between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. during the school year. The list goes on as many have, an will offer testimony. How many teenagers and in particular, pre-teens can give a solid answer to the questions "what do you want to be when you grow up, what State of City would you like to live?, who do you think you marry, or would you prefer to marry or be unmarried, have you picked out any names for your future children, etc. In light of all this, we are trying to convince people that a child this age is fully capable to determine whether they are a boy or a girl. This is not just some "youthful indiscretion". How many adults think back to there early years and as "what was I thinking". No legislator will attend the counseling session in years to come of someone subjected to this child abuse. You must, and I repeat you must pass this out of this committee and onto the House floor for debate which I hope in turn, will pass in both houses and become state law.

June Criner
203 Alliance
Kylr, TX

I vote FOR the prohibitions to be put in place by law. All children should be protected from this atrosity!!!!

Pricilla Browder
None
Tuscola, TX

Please support this bill on behalf of our children

Frank Childers
Self
Austin, TX

I stand with this bill that protects children from life decisions they may always regret. The science relating to brain development & decision making clearly supports this bill as it acknowledges the fact that the pre-frontal lobe is not formed at this stage & long-term life impacting decisions by children are clearly at risk if they are uninformed & unable to consider the long term effects of such a choice. This bill must be passed to protect children from such decisions & my taxes must not be used for such an evil & unprecedented social engineering program!

Michelle Pique
Self
Copper Canyon, TX

Please support HB1686. I do NOT believe children under 18 yo are emotionally ready to make such a drastic and potentially permanent decision. Please protect our young and innocent, immature children.

Wendy Randall
Self
McAllen, TX

Children. To protect children from being gender transitioned, gender reassigned or gender mutilated. How hard is this? They're children. That there is a need for a hearing on this at all tells you how sick our society has become. Do the right thing.

Trayce Bradford
Self
Grapevine, TX

Children should not be used for profit nor "scientific" experimentation. Gender modification is is medical and psychological abuse. Children are being sterilized as well as losing the ability for normal sexual function.
This travesty should be stopped immediately to protect children from a decision that will have devastating repercussions for a lifetime.
Public funds should by no means be aiding and abetting in gender modification whatever the form.
Please vote to support HB1686

Samantha Hall
Self
Dallas, TX

I am asking that you please support HB 1686. No one should make permanent decisions on a child's gender and NO public money or assistance should be utilized for those procedures.

Julie McCarty, CEO
True Texas Project
Grapevine, TX

I am strongly in support of this bill. Without a fully developed frontal lobe, minors are in no position to be making these life-changing, permanent decisions.

Amy Huggins, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote YES on this bill. We must protect children from irreversible damage to their bodies. We don't allow our children to drink or own a weapon or vote, they shouldn't be allowed to be mutilated for life

Charity Ellis, Miss
Self
Azle, TX

FOR the bill!!!

Grover Wylie
self
Katy, TX

FOR

Vicki Hood
Self
Georgetown, TX

PLEASE VOTE FOR this bill to protect our children!

Kim Holtzclaw
Self
Burnet, TX

Until a child is an adult and can legally vote, they have no business making this decision nor do their parents need to allow these permanent changes knowing that children are very emotional decision makers, that they could have serious regrets later when their brain is more developed and they are out of school where most of the feelings/bullying/comparisons are magnified. By allowing this, many of these kids will guilt or manipulate their parents into giving in just because it can be done. It would be easier on the parents to just have a clear answer of “you can do what you want when you are 18.”
I also do not want public money or public assistance to fund such procedures. If the government isn’t going to offer every child free braces for their teeth or free counseling when they have these feelings, why would we offer life-altering surgeries.

Brenda Dunn
Self
Temple, TX

For

Paula Moore, Ms
Self
San antonio, TX

Children are born in the right bodies . Nothing can change their genes . Stop wth th knives , butchering our defenseless children

Roberto Rios
Self
San antonio, TX

By far this is the most egregious example of malignant intent towards the trans community. For a small percentage of our population that holds no political power in this state, they are targeted constantly by political actors that have yet to fix any of the real issues faced by people in our state. Anyone that's young enough to remember being a kid knows that your sense of identity starts developing at a young age. This is just the latest example of representatives in our state making non issues a problem since they are unable to govern without blaming everyone else but themselves for problems they cause. I hope this bill does not pass, as it will lead to other groups to targeted the same way, and in the state where people say they value freedom the most, everything that is done shows the opposite.

Susan Thompson
Self
Pilot Point, TX

Making decisions for young people who have no idea of the long term consequences of making physical changes in gender, should not be allowed. Many if not most kids wish at one time or another that they were other than they are, but given time and wise counseling and the natural progression of hormones, they become content with how they were born.

Elizabeth Henley, Mrs
Self
Cleveland, TX

NO to gender transitioning!!!!!! So wrong!!!

Jordan Lampman
Self
Spring, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. No permanent decisions should be made or encouraged to minors.

Adrienne Webster, Mrs
Self- retired
Katy, TX

Please pass this bill. We humans have no business changing what God created

carter odenweller
Self
Spring, TX

For

Deborah Kelting
SREC SD7
Houston, TX

I am supporting for this bill. 60% of transgendered children commit suicide. Please stop destroying children's lives and minds.

Jennifer Jenkins
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill. As minors under the age of 18 should not be allowed to make life altering decisions until they reach adulthood. Too many minors have already been hurt from the pharmaceutical industries blatant need for profits over these young people.

LuAnn Samaroo
Self self-employed
Austin, TX

In favor of this bill.

Malinda Yeargain
Self, taxi cab owner
Sherman, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Mildred Bronson, RN
Self
Conroe, TX

I oppose all procedures or treatments for children gender transitioning, reassignment or gender dysphoria and use of public money/ funds for such unnatural and immoral inclinations. Rather the govt should support and fund efforts to protect and strengthen traditional families, children, God-given at birth gender (male and female).

Robert Norriss
SELF
RICHMOND, TX

I am against any procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria for anyone undert 21 and NO public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments should be used for anyone of any age.

Cynthia Grubb
self
Dallas, TX

We are definitely FOR this bill. These procedures are child abuse, pure and simple. As a state, we must do everything we can to protect children.

Micheline Hutson
self retired
Houston, TX

I am for this bill because children can't have a tattoo until 18, how can they be expected to make permanent decisions before 18? This is medical malpractice and child abuse

James Clayton IV
Self
Katy, TX

As a father, grandfather and Harris County precinct chair I fully support this bill. We must protect our innocent children from mistakes which will haunt them for life.

James Clayton
Precinct Chair 0362
HCRP SD17 Vice Chair

Erin Davis
Jesus
Forney, TX

Support

Patty WILLIAMSON
Concerned citizen
ODESSA, TX

Please vote to protect our children from gender transitioning. Thank you for your work.
Patty Williamson

Gary Hamrick, Reverend Pastor
Monument Baptist Church
Deer Park, TX

This action clearly goes beyond the scope of education for children. It is my opinion that this intrusion of innocent children could negatively affect their natural thoughts and tendencies toward detrimental behavior!!! This attempt to manipulate children needs to STOP NOW!!!

Allison Heyward
Self
Schertz, TX

I support this bill. I believe children aren't ready to make decisions of this sort because their brains are still developing. If a child has to wait until they are 18 to vote 21 to drink alcohol then it stands to reason that making Dec of such magnitude requires them to be an adult in yes of the law.

Kathryn Vernon
Self
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to this bill. It is discriminatory in nature and threatens the health and lives of Texans.

Judy Chappell
Myself
Colleyville, TX

I support this Bill and urge its passage for the sake of our children.

Janet Duncan
Self
Pasadena, TX

Every child is born the correct gender.

David Brandt, Mr
Self
Cedar Park, TX

We need to protect the kids people from using tax payers funds for perverse reasons

Sharon Leitzell
Self / homemaker
Round Rock, TX

I am commenting FOR/support of this bill, with great concern about the procedures that are being allowed on children in the name of changing gender. Our DNA code specifys our gender before birth and to allow the bodies of growing children to be given medication and procedures that will alter or in essence fight against the permenant DNA code of their body is dangerous and irresponsible. Children are not allowed to make many decisions because of their inability to process fully the consequences (even drinking age being 21), that allowing such monumental decisions on such an age is irresponsible on the part of caregivers for those involved.

Keith Odenweller
Self
Sprinf, TX

For

Vince Gallo
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support legislation to ban gender modification in children. There is no such thing as gender modification in anyone regardless of age. If you doubt this, simply show me a person who has been born male that has the ability to conceive a child, birth the child, and nurse the child. You cannot. This issue is an attempt to Redefine reality for the purpose of destroying society based on biblical truth. If you support gender modification in any way, you support the downfall of mankind. You have to be sick!!

Gary Moore, Mr.
Inspired Data Works corporation
Llano, TX

We support this Bill to protect children and we want to know who is in oppisition that want to harm children.

Stacy Hofstadter
Self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body … they may have body image problems but with God that is curable not through surgery! ! ??????????

Jeffrey Morgan
Self
Dallas, TX

I support House Bill 1686.

On the National Institution of Mental Health (www.nimh.nih.gov), the institute provides 7 things to know about the teen brain. Under the first item, “Adolescence is an important time for brain development,” the institute states the following:

“Although the brain stops growing in size by early adolescence, the teen years are all about fine-tuning how the brain works. The brain finishes developing and maturing in the mid-to-late 20s. The part of the brain behind the forehead, called the prefrontal cortex, is one of the last parts to mature. This area is responsible for skills like planning, prioritizing, and making good decisions.”

If the prefrontal cortex – the part of the brain responsible for skills such as making good decisions does not finish developing and maturing until the mid-to-late 20’s, it is irresponsible to allow or to encourage people with immature brains to make consequential decisions such as cutting off their sexual organs.

The NIMH uses the term body integrity identity disorder/dysphoria (BIID/BID) to describe people who want to amputate one or more healthy limbs – either by self-mutilation or amputation. For the government permit or encourage individuals with immature prefrontal cortexes to mutilate or amputate or change sexual organs is not only abusive, but Mengelian. In no case should taxpayer funds be used to support these procedures.

John S. Parigi, Executive Directors
CCDF-USA Dallas County
Rockwall, TX

I support

Kimberly Gardner
None- customer service
Mckinney, TX

This needs to be struck down and killed immediately. It is common knowledge (or so I thought anyway) that SCIENCE shows that the human brain does not finish developing until age 25. With this knowledge how can we in good conscience allow a child to mutilate their body before then? Heck, many people who have the treatments, surgeries, etc after that age end up committing suicide.

Also, look at the divorce case in Dallas county with James/Luna. One parent was trying to make James a girl and he didn’t even want to be a girl or dress like one- but the courts sent him under custody of the gender-changing parent. Poor child is now probably having this garbage forced on him! If this bill passes cases like this one could multiply.

L Hartoonian

My children and my rights as a parent!

Frisco, TX

To Those Who Care About Protecting Children, This is a violation of human rights and dignity to take the sex organs or remove genitalia. Children are too young and parents should never have to live with such a burden. The state has no right to ask such questions or get involved in medical issues concerning minors. Why are we even allowed to to be indoctrinating minors to this type of behavior? The law needs to go further. Discussions regarding sexual orientation should not be happening with underage children in the schools or public venues. This was unheard of when I was a child. Stop this contagion immediately and those people who have such conversations should be in violation of statutes in the laws protecting children. No parent should be allowed to have their child mutated as well. Children who undergo such procedures lose their sensations in their sex organs and can never regain a normal functioning sex life. Children are feeding off of one another to create more cases of gender dysphoria and that is sexual harassment. My daughter asked once about the removal of her breasts?. That question was never asked in my lifetime to me ever before. We are human beings made in God's image not to be mutated and butchered for eternity. Sad to say in America we are at a very dark place. This needs to be stopped in its tracks immediately!

Heather Cooper, Mrs.

self

Iowa Park, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Tricia Slocum

Self

Kerens, TX

I support this in full. No child should make such a life altering decision in the formative years. They must wait until they are 18 or older. Please protect our children!

Madeline Doyle

self - city employee

Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. These treatments are safer than many other treatments that do not receive the same scrutiny, and tend to have overwhelmingly positive outcomes. Many children and teenagers must wait years before even getting an appointment with a gender clinic, and surgeries are incredibly rare. Cosmetic surgeries such as breast implants for teenagers who are not transgender are significantly more common. Banning these treatments does not make sense given their relative rarity and the hope and comfort they can provide teenagers in need. The rates of suicidal ideation and depression for children and teenagers allowed to live as their preferred gender are vastly improved over minors who are not allowed to transition. I oppose this bill based on the health and wellness of those children.

Jennifer Gonzalez

Self

La Porte, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Jennifer Fleck
Self
Spicewood, TX

I am in favor of this bill.

Thomas McDonald
Self
Sadler, TX

Please support this bill

Mary Ellen Cuzela
Self
Katy, TX

I'm FOR HB1686. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Suzanne Michelle
Self /International Logistics Manager
KATY, TX

Public money should not be used for elective reassignment.

Melanie Jennings
Self
Dallas, TX

Please support this bill. This is very important for our kids.

Jean Bassinger
Republican Party Precinct Chair
Highland Village, TX

Please support HB 1686. Children do not have the mental maturity or knowledge to comprehend the life altering consequences of transitioning. They are ignorant, naive and easily exploited by adults and even peers. For that reason, those who care about their wellbeing in the present and future protect them until the time when they can objectively make their own decisions.

Evidence is already mounting that transitioning doesn't turn one into the opposite sex. It only mutilates the body, sterilizes the person, and sets them up for lifelong mental and physical dependence to cope with the tragic lifelong consequences.

Cyndie Phillips
Self - retired
Magnolia, TX

I am for this bill. History has now shown that many youth, once they hit their early 20s, have regretted their decision to transition to the opposite gender and also have spoken out about being pressured into their “gender affirming care” causing them to go through with gender modification/mutilation. This procedure can always be done but can never be fully undone. When I was a child and even into my early teen years, I “identified” as a horse. I am so grateful my parents recognized this as a childish fantasy and did not try to have me transitioned into a horse. I still have a love for horses, but I am a very happily married wife and mother to 3 beautiful children and grandchildren on the way. Please record my vote for this bill and let’s prevent more innocent children from making life altering decisions before they are even old enough to vote or enter into any other legally binding contract on their own. Thank you.

Shannon Reidy
self
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this bill. Puberty blockers and HRT are essential to the treatment of dysphoria for transgender children. If your concern is that children might be making a choice before their sure, you should be in support of puberty blockers as they are 100% reversible. However, forcing transgender teens to go through an unwanted natal puberty will leave them with expensive medical procedures in their future should they survive long enough to turn 18. If you would consider talking to trans people and medical professionals you would see how essential this medically necessary care is to the health and wellbeing of transgender people. I hope you find it in your heart to reconsider this legislation.

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
Matthew 7: 1-3

Becky Hicks
Self
Pasadena, TX

Encouraging gender reassignment for ANY minor should be criminal. Children are not mature enough to make permanent decisions of changing their bodies. Public money certainly should not be used. I want no part of my tax money being used for this purpose.

Rebecca Lutz
Self
Dallas, TX

I support this bill.

Rachel Leitzell
Self- Admissions Coordinator
Fort Worth, TX

SUPPORT

Kris Slocum
Self
Kerens, TX

Please support this bill and help stop this insanity.

Carol Everett
N/A
Round Rock, TX

For HB1686

Natalie Widener
Self
Austin, TX

This bill misrepresents medical treatment of transgender children. Firstly, gender affirming surgeries are not performed on minors and the rhetoric of this bill is to create a boogeyman narrative through an exaggerated and predatory depiction of the certified medical community, i.e. medical providers, medical scientists, and psychologists. A medical community that has come to a consensus on the treatments that are observed to be helpful and succesful in improving the lives and mental health of transgender individuals. Treatments that are based in informed consent with the parents and patients, and are not immediately provided without thorough evaluation througj mental health professionals, and the cooperation of their physician and/or endocrinologist. Treatments such as puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy (HRT) are carefully monitored on a regular basis. If this House is so very keen on preventing "genital mutilation," then it has every onus to stop the noncensual cosmetic procedures performed on intersex babies and the practice of circumcision on babies which are being exempted by this bill. There is no health benefit to these procedures other than to enforce conformity without the child's and often even the parents' consent or awareness. If you cannot stand to protect children from these procedures than you are not here to protect children, you are only here to discriminate.

Most importantly I wish to impart on you, trans people don't BECOME trans when they figure it out, they've lived their entire lives through the perspective of being a trans person, the discordance of being forced to live in a body with gender expectations and roles, even before they realize and accept themselves as trans. Vis-á-vis, trans adults were once trans kids. Trans kids exist, it's not something they earn the right to choose later like choosing to get a driver's license, choosing to vote, or choosing a job. By restricting trans youth access to gender affirming care we condemn them to suffering greater when they are fully aware of who they are. Sure a lot of us don't figure it out until we are older, but a lot of that is steeped in the fact we had no exposure to the language, to the community, we were terrified of others finding out how we felt because of all the rampant cisheteronormativity, transphobia, and homophobia around us, and no understanding that anyone else was like us or what it meant to feel the way we did growing up. I cannot fathom how much crueller it would have been to endure puberty knowing I was who I am, knowing their were options, treatment, to alleviate it, and knowing that there are people who WILL support us.

We should never punish kids for knowing and understanding themselves. Their needs shouldn't be dismissed because of adults ignorance. Trans kids EXIST. You can't persuade someone to be someone they are not.

Fareen Ramji
Self, Admin team manager
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Deborah Arnett
Self, retired therapist
Dallas, TX

My name is Deborah Arnett. My education includes a BA I’m Psychology and Master of Arts in Counseling. My work history includes social worker for the state of Hawaii, department of CPS, Adoption Home Study, Child Care Licensing and teaching parenting classes for CPS parents through PATCH and the University of Hawaii. I also taught preschool and 7th grade science. My work as a therapist includes two mental hospitals in TExas and a private practice. My husband and I
Have also been foster parents and are adoptive parents. At NO TIME has anyone during my education or professional work suggested that minors “know” that they should be considered the sex that they were not born to biologically, that they are trans or gay, that they should be allowed to have sex at will, need to be taught how to have sex with same sex partners or opposite, that they should be allowed to have puberty blockers or sex change surgery - with or without parent permission. I did learn that minors don’t even begin to think hypothetically until age 7, that they don’t have a large world view, that they are idealistic and that they are easily pushed by peer
pressure and will do many things to be accepted as “special”. I do know that their hormones and brains don’t finish maturing until after 18. Please support this bill 1686 to protect our youth!

Lisa Akerly
Me
Frisco, TX

Children need to be protected

Tom Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

Excellent references, data and videos explaining the dangers and risks associated to treatment. This bill is the right thing.

https://www.theparadoxinstitute.com/print/pamphlets/myths-of-gender-affirming-care

Nicholas Dampf
Resident of Texas
Sanger, TX

I support this bill

Harold Watkins, Pastor
Freedom Fellowship
San Angelo, TX

I am totally against any public funding that would assist any person to change what God ordained. We are created male or female. Period!

Philip Sevilla
Self
San Antonio, TX

Voting to support this bill.

Tim Kempka
Self
Keller, TX

Texas needs to ban all forms of treatment for gender transitioning. Children CANNOT MAKE THESE DECISIONS!!! Decisions that can adversely affect them for their entire life. It is absolute insanity that a bill like this has even to be made. But now that we are here. I fully support this bill. For the future of all of our children's sake, please get this passed.

Johanna Fauerso
myself
San Antonio, TX

I object to bill HB 1686. Trans rights are human rights, and the decision on what is best for a minor should be left to parents and doctors. Texas' determination to limit bodily rights and autonomy will ultimately undermine the freedoms of everyone in this state.

David Peterson
TRI-S Technologies
Cypress, TX

The er should never be a provision for this procedure or treatment under the law. Most Americans consider this an elective and should not be covered by the government! Dave Peterson

Leigh Montgomery, Mrs.
Self
Frisco, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686! GOD SAVE CHILDREN.

Thomas Alston, Dr
Self
Texarkana, TX

I support HB 1686

D Dickerson
self
Sugar Land, TX

Children are too young to truly understand the lifelong consequences of significant medical decisions. Such as gender transition treatment, which can have permanent and damaging effects on their future.
Experimentation on children carries extreme risks: permanently halting puberty, plummeting hormone levels and surgically removing healthy organs or body parts. In other words, irreversible consequences that will have a lifelong effect.
The physical transition of gender can be hazardous and experimental, with the dangers still largely unknown. It's been found that when young people struggling with dysphoria are offered time to grow up naturally, most will not experience these issues into adulthood.
Nations which were once at the forefront of gender medical transitions are now advocating caution, questioning whether puberty blockers, hormones and surgeries in children who experience gender dysphoria is really necessary.

Ann Bleeck
Self
Dallas, TX

Support this bill!!!! Do not agree with using taxpayer funds for mutilation!

Michael Walton
Self: nonprofit
Lubbock, TX

This bill is desperately needed to stop the wicked butchery of innocent children! The people who are responsible for the so called “gender transitioning” of children are abusers and perverts. They should be fully prosecuted! Cutting off a body part doesn’t change gender! God help us if we don’t fight to protect our children!

Jennifer White, Dr
Self
Frisco, TX

The manipulation of kids gender is wrong and should be banned.

I urge you to vote yes for this bill and prohibit any gender manipulation!

Betty Anderson, President
Montgomery Co. Eagle Forum
Spring, TX

Please vote in favor of HB1686 Oliverson's bill to Ban Gender modification to minors. It's companion is SB14.

Christopher Kipp Streff, Dr
Self
Frisco, TX

This is horrific mutilazation of and child's body who has zero ability to make an informed decision besides what Tiktok is teaching them

Tamara Colbert
Grassroots Gold and self
Prosper, TX

No child should be pressured by adults to change their biological gender until they have fully developed. God never makes mistakes and any adult -especially one with a medical or psychological graduate degree, brainwashing a child that they were born in a body that is flawed adds to finishes self esteem. If you can't drink until 21 years of age or smoke/vote until 18, how in the world does a 10 or 11 or 12 year old know what gender reassignment surgery is about? This is mental abuse from disturbed people to convince a child and his/her parents to initiate a procedure that will irrevocably damage the body of a minor. I support Dr. Oliverson's bill HB 1686.

chuck reynolds
self
celina, TX

Please protect the children by supporting HB1686.

Alicia Godfrey
Self
Dallas, TX

Please support HB 1686. Permanent decisions on a child's gender shouldn't be made and NO PUBLIC MONEY or assistance should be used. Many thanks!

Michelle Hennigan
Self
Seguin, TX

Prohibit all children under the age of 18

Tressa Paavola
Self
McKinney, TX

I SUPPORT this bill. No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification.

Zach Poling, Reverend
Self
Dorchester, TX

Please do your part in protecting the innocent and precious lives among us from those who would promote thisental ilness of gender dysphoria as part of tax payer funded education.

Wendy Andrews, Dr.
Self
Cedar park, TX

Please prohibit transitioning of gender assignment to our kids!

Janice Lohmann, Dr.
Collin County Conservative Republicans
Plano, TX

I do not want public money (tax dollars) used to fund this misguided, emotionally abusive treatment of minors. Neither the child nor its parent can possibly know the true nature of a developing child.

Angelo Lomonte, Mr.
Self
Frisco, TX

I support this proposal! Too many children have irreparably harmed by allowing these improper transitions.

Maryann Wylie
Self
Plano, TX

I support this bill to prohibit

Susan Head
Self
Seguin, TX

Please help stop this insanity

Jacqueline Wasson
Self
Aubrey, TX

No one is born in the wrong body Please keep children and parents from mutilating their bodies.

Jenilee Tibbs
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR
No child is born in the wrong body. Stop the mutilation of children.

Karen Bush
Self
Keller, TX

I support this bill.

Abisoye Adejumo
Self- Chemical Engineer
Missouri City, TX

I strongly support HB 1686. Why would anyone alter a child's body? What have any parent right to turn a boy to a girl without the child full understanding. Everyone's brain fully develops in the 20s hence, how can a child know what he/she is requesting at 11 years old after being influenced by the tv and social media.

Patricia Carr
Self
Cleveland, TX

I am in favor of this bill. This subjecting children to gender changing surgeries and medications is s severe form of fhild abuse. Let them be the gender God gave them when they were born.

Jena Masquelier
Self:/ writer
Frisco, TX

FOR! We cannot allow mutilation of children

Scott Knudsen
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Support HB1686
No child should ever have their gender changed. Children are born male or female. PERIOD What they do with themselves when they are adults is up to them but to allow this to happen while they are children should be a serious punishable crime to what ever doctor preforms this mutilation to them. Leave children alone. Anyone who participates in this is seen by God and will stand His judgement.

Lois Decker
Self
Fort Wirth, TX

Young children are so susceptible to teachers who they see as authority figures and peer pressure of friends. They are not capable of choosing their gender. Please do not vote for this bill. PROTECT the innocence of our children.

Gayla Wilson, COL (R); RN
Self
Seguin, TX

Adolescence and childhood is a confusing enough time. Let them grow up before making changes to their bodies that they might or might not regret later. Changes to gender should NOT occur until adulthood. Kids trying to fit in can link with others that will accept them into their group. Children then want to remain with a group and can be swayed that they fit in because they just didn't realize they were a different sex or sexuality. My daughter had a hard time fitting in at a new school and finally made friends with a group of girls and boys. Her mood improved and she was happy to go to school. A while later she approached us that all her friends were bisexual or transgender and she is bisexual now too. There were a lot of conversations. What made her think she was? When did this start ,etc. When we moved a few months later, she came back to us and said she was wrong. She likes boys. When asked why she had thought she was bisexual, she said because all of her friends were. We support our daughter in who she is and wants to be. But we don't support changing who she is physically. That's life altering and not something you can undo. Take the time to let the hormones settle. Let all the confusion of it stinks to be a girl or a boy resolve before we let our kids derail their entire life. Please do not let children/teens undergo transgender surgery!!!

Mairi Kaska
Self
Abbott, TX

I fully support this bill.

Sabrena Vick Keathly
Self - Food Pantry Coordinator
Collinsville, TX

for

Lisa Parigi, Mrs
Myself
Rockwall, TX

Thank you for fighting for morel standards and protection of our children in our state

Elaine Wheelock
Self
McKinney, TX

I wholeheartedly am in support of this bill.Support, support, support!!!

Carole Bailey
Self
Lancaster, TX

Please Stop this insanity, children deserve to be children and deserve respect, without any intervention

Julia Kronenberger
Self
Spring, TX

I am for this bill. By God's design, no child is born in the wrong body. It is wrong to give a child the ability to make life-altering decisions about their body based on a "feeling". Please support this bill!

Brittany Gilley
self
Pasadena, TX

For

Kathryn Harris
Self
Georgetown, TX

FOR

Rebecca Clark
Self
Richmond, TX

Allowing gender modification is not the loving or caring thing to do; in fact, to the contrary. About 85% of the cases of gender dysphoria in females resolves itself through puberty. For males it's even higher; about 94%. This tells us that in order to PROTECT children we must PREVENT this type of damaging "treatment" that causes irreparable damage physically, emotionally and certainly mentally for these children who just need adults to help them walk this out until they are at an age where their bodies and minds have had a chance to fully develop and they can make a FULLY INFORMED decision. Suicide rates are significantly higher with people who have gone through these "treatments" than with those who have wrestled it out and come out on the other side, still in their same bodies. In order to bend the knee to allowing this type of harmful treatment one is either 1. misinformed, 2. delusional, 3. corrupt, or 4. intellectually incompetent. On behalf of our children I implore you to vote FOR (in favor of) HB 1686. Thank you, Rebecca Clark

Michael Szabo
Self - Educator
San Antonio, TX

Our nation, like many, has already experimented with sterilization and eugenics in the past. Those evils were sold as "compassionate" then too. We should not entertain any procedures which sterilizes our children, thereby robbing them the capacity to find meaning and purpose through the upbringing of their own children one day. This "compassionate" sterilization not only robs children of a meaningful future rooted in family, but also sets the stage for the collapse of our society on multiple levels, psychologically, sociologically, governmentally, and economically.

Those who promote the surgical alteration of children, thereby rendering them infertile under the guise of compassion, should have no solace in their beliefs; these beliefs are as evil as practices such as slavery. If anybody wishes to delude themselves into thinking sterilization has no connection to antinatalism, antihumanism, transhumanism or classic eugenics, I urge you to read some George Bernard Shaw or some of the topics referenced here. There is an arrogance in these people that cares nothing of us average folk. We must hold strong to truth, or if that's unknowable, at minimum err on the side of that which brought us here today. Every one of us is a descendant of a successful line of ancestors - think what that means in relation to the sterilization procedures we are toying with.

I'll close with this. If HB1686 will protect minors from these procedures, then I'm for it.

Ultimately I wish to see people awaken to the joys of having a family, even though there is necessarily hardship in raising children. It's difficult. Life is messy. People suffer, people die, people betray one another, etc.

What other choice do we have though? Are we so enlightened as to declare ourselves wise enough to castrate children in the name of love and compassion? Does this not seem like an overreaction to the psychological struggles our children, and society at large, might be contending with? What if instead of castration we banned smartphones, social media or the internet? Wouldn't these be more interesting to experiment with first? What if our digital reality is deranging our children and the best solution is real life play with other children? Why castration? Why sterilization?

Let's reset back to the real before we take such extreme measures and let us ensure we are maintaining options for our children's future that are consistent with the entirety of human history.

Don Smith
HB 1686
Brownwood, TX

Children should not be mutilated in Texas!! Please support this bill for the safety of our children and their families.

diana chambless
self
bullard, TX

I support this bill. No child is born in the 'wrong body'. We are learning about the irreversible and life long medical issues that accompany these procedures. These life-altering surgeries should not be performed on children.

Kar Yin Mak, Mr.
Self / Analytics Engineer
Wylie, TX

I would like to register my witness for HB 1686 by Rep. Oliverson. I completely endorse the testimony that Pastor Derrah Jackson will make to the 88th Texas State Legislature. Public money and assistance must never be used to provide puberty blockers and surgery to wrongfully change the sex of children supposedly with gender dysphoria in the State of Texas. Children who receive these chemical treatments and surgery will likely suffer from mental illness that raises the likelihood of suicide. These procedures are tantamount to child abuse. HB 1686 must be passed to stop the Radical Left from imposing gender fluidity ideology upon Texan children as part of their cultural Marxist revolution to destroy the societal fabric of Texas and America from within. Not to mention that 90% of gender dysphoria resolves itself by age 21 if nothing is done.

Paulette Armstrong
self/retired
Plano, TX

I am strongly in favor of this bill and urge that this bill is voted on and passed. No matter what is done to the body it cannot change the sex of the person and to think that it will is delusion. Many children who have had these sex transformation hormones and procedures performed come to strongly regret having taken these and had these procedures done. They find they are facing a lifetime of regret as the effects of the hormones and surgeries are irreversible. Most children grow out of their confusion about what sex they are towards the end of their teen years. Also, studies have shown that their mental or emotional issues do not go away from these type of treatments. This bill will protect children and allow them to mature and really know who they are.

Linda Ricks
Self
Midlothian, TX

I strongly support this bill! Children deserve our protection. Please do the right thing for them. Thank you!

Arthur Mueller, Mr
Self
Garland, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Margaret Shakyaver
Self
Forney, TX

Full support for Hb 1686

Susan Christenson
North Texas Conservatives
Alken, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body!!

Cindy Copeland
Self, CDE
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote to pass this critical Bill to protect the most innocent, children.

Rachel Hale
Texas Freedom Coalition
HENDERSON, TX

I strongly SUPPORT this bill and ask this committee to SUPPORT it as well. We must do no harm and protect children until they are an adult to make this decision for themselves. I do not believe people are born in the wrong body and need other treatments not gender modification. Please protect TX children and support this bill.

Jimmy Bassinger
Self
Highland Village, TX

Children are not able to make decisions like this until they are at least 18. If parents allow their children to take drugs that permanently harm them, it should be child abuse. For these two reasons, I'm in favor of this bill.

Donald Gooch
Self
Frisco, TX

FOR. I am for this bill, no one should be allowed to alter the physical body of a minor. Thank you

Jill Oliver
Self
Poolville, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686. We as Texans must protect our youngest citizens. As a middle and high school teacher for our public school system for nearly a decade I personally witnessed many students experience a myriad of emotions as they traveled through their teen years. Meeting them later as adults they sometimes expressed grief over their choices as a youth - like so many of us have in our own past. How tragic it would be if we, as a society, didn't protect them during those years when scientifically their brains are not fully developed enough for them to make rational decisions with the competency of an adult.

Roger Javens
Self
Spring, TX

For

Stephen E. Broden
Fair Park Bible Fellowship Church
Desoto, TX

Please protect our children from confusion and emotional distortion. Once these kind of decisions are made there can be permanent scarring physically and mentally. Support HB1686

Phyllis Calmes
Self
Plano, TX

I support the bill. Children do not have the mental development or life experience ti decide what sex they want to me. Many young people who went through a sex change now deeply regret it.

Christine Nichol
Self. Retired
San Antonio, TX

Please protect our children until they are old enough to make these decisions for themselves. It is well known that a majority of those that make this decision regret it & have ongoing psychological and physical health issues.

Carolyn Ogden
self Realtor
Cedar Hill, TX

I wish to register my support for HB 1686.
The actions being prohibited under this bill are wrong for children and wrong for Texans. If these actions are not stopped Texans and all victims will rue the day this was allowed to continue in our Great State of Texas.

Laura Fincher
Self
Howe, TX

I'm a parent of three children, and I don't feel that we even as parent should be able to make that kind of life changing decisions for a child that is something if that's what they want and it's available to them and they are adult and then that is between them and God. I feel God made us as we are and designed to be and we don't need gender modification surgery for little kids that don't know truly what they want and are not old enough to make that kind of life changing decision and parents shouldn't have the ability to make those decisions for the child; gender modification shouldn't be for children!

Heather Hitchcock
Self
Deer Park, TX

ABSOLUTELY NOT! This is not right. Children are not emotionally or mentally developed. THIS IS ABUSE.

Jennifer Eiman
Self
Frisco, TX

Mutilating children's bodies for reasons of gender dysphoria is wrong and immoral. No parent or child should be able to make a decision like this before their 18th birthday. This is child abuse and needs to stop.

Donna Rodgers, Mrs
Self / retired from nursing/ current associate pastor 940-782-3427
Hillsboro, TX

Please do not allow monies or support to be given for use in the mutilation of young children, Please vote for this bill to prohibit the use of public assistance or money to provide theses treatments or procedures.

Jaclyn Carrington
self
Bartonville, TX

Please pass this important HB to ban public funds being spent on gender transition.

Amanda Szabo, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against spending any state money on gender procedures or "treatments" for children.

Larry Norman
Self
San Antonio, TX

The use of public money or public assistance should not be used in any case of gender transitions or gender reassignment or gender disphoria. It should not be discussed with anyone under legal age and especially not discussed in public schools or anywhere else without parental consent.

Judy Stone
Self
Cedar park, TX

Confirm support

Mary Lou Dordan, Ms.
Tax-paying citizen of the United States of America and the Great State of Texas
Boerne, TX

Let’s bring SANITY back to our country and to our legislature! LEAVE OUR CHILDREN ALONE! Science and research has shown that gender-changing surgeries should NOT be encouraged for children under the age of 21. And, taxpayer funds should NEVER be given to this sick part of our society that is encouraging this mutilation of our precious children. Let’s get back to teaching our children reading, writing, & arithmetic. The Chinese Virus pandemic already caused so much harm to the education of our children. Let’s NOT pour more gasoline onto that fire. Let’s not allow this new “sickness” of gender-changing our children to overpower our society. While you are at it, let’s remove all the SMUT from our school libraries. It is the job of PARENTS to teach their children about sex—NOT the schools, NOT the government.

Lidwina Hall
Self
Dallas, TX

Please support HB 1686

Kate Michler
Self
Burleson, TX

I support this bill which would help protect Texas kids from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization.

Meredith Hartzog
Individual
Dickinson, TX

Please support this bill

Joy Vincent
self
Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill!

Kristen McCarty
Self- RWCK VP Legislation, SD17 Advisory Board Member
Katy, TX

Please support HB 1686 and pass this legislation. Our vulnerable children are being abused by the affirmation of a perceived body dysphoria that is being pushed onto them via propaganda tactics at the school and from social media. This abuse is being further propagated by the medical industry in which acquires a patient for life if the child transitions. This is a huge money making opportunity for these industries promoting affirmation. A child under the age of 18 cannot buy cigarettes and cannot buy alcohol. A child under the age of 16 cannot drive a car, and yet gender affirming care is allowing children at the age of three to decide what gender they might be and to start transitioning. This is child abuse and these children have no clue that they are being abused by a family member or a teacher until it is too late. It is like a cancer, the effects of cancer within you body do not show up until something is very wrong with you physically. That is why the highest rates of suicide are among those within the transitioned communities. Please Stop these corporations from using our tax money to profit off of child abuse.

Thank you,
Kristen McCarty

Carol Moore
Self
Lakeway, TX

I’m in support of HB 1686. Children are not capable of making irreparable life changing decisions. No child should be put through horrific abuse and mutilation of their bodies. Gender transitioning, gender reassignment on children is mutilation, it is criminal.

Jacquelyn Moore
retired
Cedar Hill, TX

This should absolutely be instituted to protect children from that demonic practice.

Joseph Grimes
Self
SAN ANGELO, TX

FOR the bill

Danny Forshee, Pastor
Great Hills Baptist Church
Austin, TX

Every child is created by God with the gender He intended for them to have. They are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139). I support this bill. It is right and simply makes common sense for a child to not undergo any gender modification procedure. Dr. Danny Forshee

Jeffrey Grubb
Self
Bartonville, TX

I strongly support this bill and urge all Texas Representatives to stand united in protecting our children by passing this bill.

Aaron Oliver, CPT
Self, Military Officer
Poolville, TX

I'm writing in support of HB 1686.

No child is "born into the wrong body."

So called "gender affirming care" is anything but. Instead, it amounts to unethical, immoral thwarting of God's design under the false pretense of medicine.

When performed on minors, it is nothing more than child abuse, wreaking irrevocable harm on the individual and warping Texas' social fabric.

There is no place for this barbaric practice in Texas.

Instead, Texas should fully fund counseling services for those suffering from gender dysphoria, with a focus on affirming their natural sex. The tiny percentage of people born as true hermaphrodites are already covered under existing medical practice.

Gender transition should be illegal in Texas, and providers who practice it should face criminal prosecution and have their licenses revoked.

Steven Ellis
Texas First
Dallas, TX

I support this bill.

Ronald Daniel
Self
DALLAS, TX

Pls support this bill. It is insane that someone who is passing thru puberty could make a life changing commitment and not later regretting that decision.

CECELIA ROBERTSON
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I am the proud co-owner, friend, and family member of someone who is a trans individual. I support medical care for children and adults who suffer from dysphoria and require needed care in order to correctly live in the gender they identify as. This proposed bill is discriminatory and dangerous for those who need such care, and I strongly oppose it being passed.

Joshua Hill
Self
San Angelo, TX

SUPPORT

Dorothy Bynoe
Self
Gordon, TX

In support of 1686

Liz Amrein
Myself
Spring, TX

Please please prohibit children from going through these barbaric procedures. Every child was born either male and female period end of story.

Pat Matthies
Self, Retired
Rotan, TX

We MUST stop THIS!!! What a HORRIBLE TORTURE for children who are too young to even understand it’s consequences

Jeanie Goldsberry
Self
Cedar park, TX

FOR the bill

mark porter
self
Lubbock, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Joshua Weber
self
Pflugerville, TX

Please pass HB1686!

Dede Bullock
Self
Round Rock, TX

FOR this bill.

Roger Wheelock
Self
McKinney, TX

I am absolutely for the passing of this bill!

Carolyn Hiza, Mrs
Self
Mason, TX

This bill stands for God’s order of creation, and Christs words, Let the little children come unto me. Gender modification is a lie and an abomination to God, and I stand with Him. Vote for this bill to prohibit these hideous procedures. We will all stand before God for our beliefs and actions, believe it or not.

Robert Goldsberry
Self
Cedar park, TX

FOR the bill

Pam Lee
Self
Round Rock, TX

For the bill

George Hogan, Jr
Self
Melissa, TX

I am IN SUPPORT OF prohibiting Transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and PROHIBITIONS on the use Of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.
I do SUPPORT HB1686
NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body.

Peter Hudson, Sr
none
Magnolia, TX

Please pass this bill. #1 how could you use public funds to do this crime. #2 People sometimes live in there emotions and you cannot take back surgery.

Misty Jolley
Self
Quitman, TX

Submit

Sherry Gremillion, Mrs
Self
Spring, TX

I am in full support for this bill. We must protect our children.

Donna Bell, Mrs.
Concerned grandparent
The Colony, TX

Must prohibit gender modification of minor children

Evelyn Melendez
Self
Mckinney, TX

Children are born to their God given sex from birth, so not allow for them to change their sex. Do not pass this law

Brittany Laws
Royal Roofing & Construction of Texas
Deer Park, TX

HB 1686

Julie Wiegand
self
Blanco, TX

I urge you to support HB 1686. It is imperative that you protect innocent children from these life-altering surgeries. Children are not mature enough to make these decisions, much less have an adult make it for them. Please protect our Texas children.

Gail Bjorndal
Self flight attendant
Sanger, TX

I am in FAVOR of HB 1686. I am against the transitioning of a child under the age of 18. I am also against any coverage or provision thereof.

Monica Brown, Mrs
Self self employed
Granbury, TX

For this bill. Please support preserving childhood and support regular physical development.

Yolanda B. Schumacher, Mrs.
Self
Shepherd, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of small children.
#Do No Harm

Maria Nolen
Cactus Rose Rep. Women group
El paso, TX

I support HB 1686 BY Oliverson

Chris Hoar, Mrs
Citizen of Texas
Rockwall, TX

For this bill as no child is born is born in wrong body.
Matthew 18:16
"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

Amy Cross
Self - mom and homemaker
Spring, TX

FOR the bill

Paige Remington
Self
Frisco, TX

I would like to add support for this bill. We are doing harm by medically altering children and setting them up for lifelong medical issues and sterility. Transition can wait. There is too much at stake.

Donnie Wisenbaker, SD-1 SREC COMMITTEEMAN

I am representing myself and thousands of other like minded people in Senate District 1

Sulphur Springs, TX

We have laws that were passed to protect children form sexual predators. A minor cannot give consent for any kind of sexual act. Reasoning is because they are children and have not developed mentally even though their body may have reached puberty. Children don't have the emotional tools and skills to make such a discission. Why would anyone think a child can make a discission that they are not the sex of their biological sex. It is the cruelest forms of child abuse to allow this butchering of our children in the name of compassion for a children that are having emotional problems. Please pass this bill out of committee and vote for it when it comes before the house.

John Bates

self

Frisco, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Annette DeShazo, RN

Independent Citizen

Round Rock, TX

I believe that no child is born in the wrong body. I believe that a person should be 21 years of age before this treatment could be started.

Ingrid Giral-Caanen
Self
Spring Branch, TX

Please support SB 1686
Why would anyone want to permanently mutilate and sterilize children based on a "gender dysphoria" mental disorder, social pressures and LGBTQ-12345 activism or any other distorted reason?
This is not based on science or logic. As a former laboratory technician, I live by scientific absolutes, not Frankenstein type experiments on children that cannot decide what is their favorite color from one day to another. so we will allow the adults and children to "choose" their gender when biologically and scientifically it is not possible to switch the genetic makeup of a male or female human from one gender to another. There are long term health damage that will occur for these young victims.
Including diabetes, cancer, bone loss, mental health, suicide, results of hormone treatment and surgeries are irreversible and could be fatal, painful or crippling.
Tax payer dollars should not be funding this insanity.
God created male with XY chromosomes and every single cell is male. Female with XX chromosomes. There's no scientific way you can switch that in a child like a Mr Potato Head.

Good articles

4 out of 5 children outgrow gender confusion: Psychiatrist

I found this article on MxM News--a new app without media bias or censorship.

https://mxmnews.page.link/qqXtcvcaY92JvE358

https://finaltelegraph.com/2022/12/16/american-college-of-pediatricians-transgender-conditioning-is-child-abuse/?utm_source=BS-Mailer-FT-A2&utm_medium=email&utm_content=subscriber_id:125864419&utm_campaign=%23childtwo-warmuptest-NK

*The obvious truth that persons acquire either “XY” or “XX” genetic markers before to birth and as a result are objectively, and shall always remain, either male or female, is as obvious to those who are bound to biological reality as the distinction between blue and pink.

In fact, despite the politically motivated “LGBT” agenda’s assertions to the contrary, people who have “gender dysphoria” disorder will remain, as born, either male or female, regardless of whether they play dress-up, sterilise themselves, or destroy healthy reproductive organs.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise that regrettably, 41% of people who subject themselves to this fictitious “transition” will go on to attempt suicide.

Interview with Dr Cretella in 2018.

https://tfpstudentaction.org/blog/dr-michelle-cretella-on-transgender-ideology

Dr. Cretella: Essentially, transgender ideology holds that people can be born into the wrong body: It's simply not true. We can demonstrate this by looking at twin studies. No one is born in the wrong body. So to take that lie and essentially indoctrinate all of our children from preschool forward with that lie, we are destroying their ability for reality testing.

This is cognitive and psychological abuse. I want to say just a little more about that. The reason it destroys reality....
Thank you for your consideration
Ingrid

Shelly Larkin
Self
Houston, TX

It is vitally important to protect children from life altering medical interventions that may render them sterile, and otherwise damage their bodie before the are old enough to consent to. tattoo!!

Laura McDaniel
Self
Weatherford, TX

I am for this bill to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment, or dysphoria.

Scott Nelson
Self
Spring, TX

I SUPPORT 1686. Child mutilation is not the answer to a temporary disphoria. Time to stop this gender nonsense. Ask a 3 year old “what is a woman” and they know! It’s not hard

Mary Lou O’Grady, Ms
Self. Retired school teacher
Dallas, TX

We MUST and can stop this atrocity with a resounding YES vote !!!

Ashley Hammerschmidt
Self
Spring, TX

FOR THE BILL.

Lois Gremminger
Individual
Richmond, TX

We agree no modifications of gender should be allowed. God created them as they are. I vote for this bill.

Lynda Copple
Concerned Women of America
Frisco, TX

It is Child Abuse to perform gender transitions on children under the age of 18. State money should never be used for such evil, and such procedures on young people should be illegal.

Hannah Bradford
Self
Allen, TX

FOR HB 1686

Janice Faris
Self/Retired Educator
Corinth, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Paisley Humpert
self
Austin, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1686. Healthcare for trans youth is NECESSARY and LIFE-SAVING. ALL of these anti-drag and anti-trans bills are draconian, backwards, and ignorant. They must not pass.

Geri Smith
Self/ retired
Flower Mound, TX

Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed.

Diana Wasneuski
Self
McKinney, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Kim Tomlinson
Self
Spring, TX

Please vote FOR this Bill

jerome greener
self
Austin, TX

I encourage you to support HB 1686

Wade Rushing
Self
Taylor, TX

Voting FOR

Lacy Rieke
Self
Houston, TX

MY VOTE FOR THE BILL

Brigetta Millen
Act for America
Montgonmery, TX

I am FOR HB 1686 please Vote YES! I also am the National Grassroots and Legislative Coordinator, and the Texas State Chapter Leader working for Act for America. We have 175, 000 registered members in TX and a little over a million nationally. Bills like these lead the way for the rest of the states. We will be proud to share this nationally and to all our members the great state of Texas when it passes. We are committed to American values to protecting all children. We are watching this session closely and send information regularly to our members. Thank you and God Bless Texas.

Laura Bradshaw
Self- president of nonprofit
Spring, TX

For the bill

Christian Hernandez
self/ Associate
San Antonio, TX

Transitioning kids will leave them with many negative and permanent effects. Children don't have the capacity to comprehend or consent to these long term side effects that will come about from transitioning. There is no data to support gender affirming care as the best and most effective way to treat gender dysphoria in children.

Casandra Valencia
Self
McKinney, TX

FOR THIS BILL!

Eric Bengs
Self -retired
Abilene, TX

Our children need to be protected!

Pat Paavola
Self
MCKINNEY, TX

Please vote in favor of HB1686. Taxpayers should not be paying for the mutilation, sterilization and permanent physical and psychological damage of children who cannot legally provide consent!

Martin Budinsky
Self / Self Employed
Cypress, TX

I am for this Bill , HB 1686.

Sarah Wilpitz
self
Dallas, TX

I am strongly in support of this bill (HB 1686). Thank you!

Grace Speese
Self
Farmers Branch, TX

In favor of this bill. Children and adolescents often go through phases in their developmental years, but it does not mean we should allow them to mutilate their bodies. Research shows that the brain doesn't finish developing and maturing until the mid-to-late 20's. As mature adults, we have a responsibility to protect children from permanently damaging themselves.

Lauren Goldsberry
Self
LIBERTY HILL, TX

AGAINST use of public money for this- these are children who cannot logically consent!!!!

Brittany Hammerschmidt
Self
Spring, TX

Kids should not be changing their gender.

Evelyn Montalvo, Mrs.
Myself
Richmond, TX

I am FOR this bill. I am a Registered nurse having worked 34 years and now retired. Children cannot buy cigarettes, alcohol, firearms or vote —they are not mature enough to make these devastating decisions that forever alter their bodies.

Amy Sasser
self
La Porte, TX

I am strongly FOR the passage of Texas HB1686. Our duty as responsible adults is to guide the development and growth of children, who are not capable of true discernment and informed consent at young ages. We already take steps to protect children through prohibitions on military service and voting until age 18, and take that further to outlaw things which physically affect them, such as cigarettes and alcohol, until they are 21. There is no reason that this so-called "gender-affirming care" should not follow the same pattern. No child is born in the wrong body and the choice to make drastic physical and hormonal changes should not be laid in the hands of minors.

The decision to undergo medical procedures and treatments related to gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria should be made by informed adults who are capable of weighing the risks and benefits. Minors, by our own definitions and existing restrictions, are not capable of this detailed and exacting consideration; if they were, we would allow them to smoke and drink and join the military and vote and drive, etc. We do not because we know that children may choose one thing one day and another the next, because children may follow trends and fads to fit in or become popular, and because children often cannot truly weigh the impact a decision made today will have on their futures.

Texas HB1686 is a vital piece of legislation that prioritizes the health and safety of minors in our state. It recognizes that children should not be allowed to make such important and life-altering decisions until they are capable of true discernment following informed consent. I urge all members of the legislature to support this bill and help protect the well-being of minors in our state.

Mary Cano
Personal
Cypress, TX

II don't believe they should use public money or assistance. It's NOT right, much less FAIR, for a GUY to compete in a girls sports just because he decides to LOOK like a girl. Nor should they be allowed in girls dressing/bathrooms.

KEVIN SUH
Retired
Denton, TX

vote YES on HB 1686 to prohibit gender modification of children

Thomas Wilkins
5220 Cliff Haven Drive
Dallas, TX

This bill must be passed to safeguard our children from unnecessary gender modifications. Please support passing this bill

Helen Preston, Mrs.
Kay Walton- artist
Abilene, TX

Please vote against transgender modification in children!! My dear friend’s child persuaded her mother to allow her to trans, and once done, the child omitted suicide.

Katherine Hagood
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I strongly support this bill. I've heard many speak of the tragic consequences they've had in their lives as a result of being encouraged to take medications or have procedures that alter their God given gender. Why would anyone ever try to convince a child that they should change their sex? This is inhumane! Do what you can to stop this in our great state.

Dan Rodgers
Four Square Church
Hillsboro, TX

Taxpayer money should never be used to fund any elective, body altering procedures for anyone.

JEROME YOUNG
SELF
THE WOODLANDS, TX

SUPPORT THE BILL

Steven Keeney
Concerned Parent
Deer Park, TX

"FOR" this bill.

Dawn Hoover
Self / Engrg Technician
Spring, TX

I am FOR HB 1686 and I would like my voice heard

Patricia DelBene
Church
The woodlands, TX

Please vote too safe put children from these treatments of transitioning gender reassignment or gender dysphoria this is now right there are two genders the LORD GOD made man and woman quit mutilating our children it is a sin in the eyes of the LORD

Gary Arinder
Personal
Spring, TX

I support this bill.

Vanessa Rosado
Self
McKinney, TX

As adults we're supposed to be protecting our children that's why they're called children not adults they can't comprehend their decisions, and even though they strongly feel a certain way a week or a month their feelings change. This is sick, twisted and sadistic.

Douglas Mitts, Dr.
self
Dallas, TX

Children between the ages of 0 and 25 are unable to weight the consequence of choice regarding gender dysphoria, and transitioning. I do not believe public money should be used either for puberty blockers or transition surgery. Parent need to be making these decisions, and the public should be silent on this. Most dysphoria is cleared up by age 25, and the procedures to surgically match body to dysphoria have proven very unsuccessful. I consider these forms of surgery or medicine unethical, and harmful, and contrary to the Hippocratic Oath of doctors. I believe the whole idea that we determine our gender — not matter what the age — is radically destructive to individuals, families, society, God, and objective truth. I have read research that affirms gender transitioning or reassignment by any means is destructive to the individual, their development, and health throughout their life.

Angela Robertson
Self
Dallas, TX

Support

Ann Evans, Ms
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Please vote for this bill to protect Texas children from sex, change surgeries and mutilation and permanent sterilization????

Rebecca Piller
Self, Occupation: Attorney
Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This extremely broad legislation allows legislators to override the judgment of medical providers and parents and to deny essential medical care to vulnerable youth. This healthcare can save lives, and denial of this care can have severe mental health consequences for trans youth. LGBTQ+ youth are at a heightened risk of suicide, but their risk for suicidal ideation is decreased when they are affirmed in their gender identity. If the legislators of this committee do not understand the need for gender affirming care, I am sure they nevertheless see the need to lower the risk of suicide in trans youth. We should look to the leading and major medical and mental health organizations for best practices in this situation and allow doctors to do their jobs.

Kristin Browne
Myself self-employed/sales
Colorado City, TX

I support this bill.

Robert Phillips
Self
Bulverde, TX

It is dangerous to cause a child to be allowed to make a decison that will alter the rest of their life. "Changing" a child's gender is not only against God's law but against biology and human nature. God made man and woman. You cannot change that. The chromosome that a person is born with cannot be changed, only the physical characteristics are changed and in ways that mutilate the body. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness that is not cured by changing a person physical appearance. Only help from qualified experts can help, not drugs or life altering surgeries and alterations. This barbaric form of "medicine" must be stopped.

Tisha Hancock
Self, Homeschool educator and music teacher
Spring, TX

FOR the bill! No child is born in the wrong body! Protect our children! Protect the kids who are asking questions about their own identity. Give them time to mature. Doctors take an oath to do no harm!!! To God be the glory!

Teri Weise
Self/EMS Instructor
Cypress, TX

FOR the bill!

Nancy Crook
self
Dallas, TX

As an educator of over 20 years, I have seen the positive effects of gender transitioning medications and treatments on my students who strongly did not identify with the gender to which they were born. Depression has decreased, self-confidence has increased, and they and their families have thrived when these youth have been carefully supervised and treated by trained medical professionals. I have no doubt that if these treatments had not been available, several of my incredible students would have attempted and possibly succeeded in killing themselves.

Robert Garrett
Self
Conroe, TX

Stop the insanity no mutilation of children

Brenda Thames
Self
Wimberley, TX

Stop the abuse of children!!

Brittany Badgley
Self - business owner
Round Rock, TX

FOR this bill

Earl Jackson, Mr
Self Retired
Dallas, TX

Please Please Please support HB 1686. Stop the madness. Let kids make those decisions when they reach adulthood.

Respectfully
Earl and Connie Jackson and many family members and friends who agree with me. Protect the kids from the madness.

Dottie Poston
Self
Dallas, TX

I am for this bill
Children need to be protected

Gary Keeney
Self
Deer Park, TX

No child is born in the wrong body!

Tyler Rising
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

FOR

Denise Goad
Agape Pregnancy Resource Center
Pflugerville, TX

I am voting for this bill.

Ronald Rife
Myself
Spring, TX

I am personally FOR this bill. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Kenley Limpach
Self - mom
Prosper, TX

FOR this bill. Children are too young to make life altering decisions to their bodies. Their brains are not fully developed until after childhood, so they should not make that decision too soon.

Wendy Calhoun
Self/teacher
Lake Jackson, TX

Support the bill. We must protect children!

Stephanie Frerich
Self
Denton, TX

Please prohibit anyone under the age 18 transitioning. If you can't vote or smoke till you are above the age if 18, life changing surgery should be as well.

Kayla Hinson
Self, stay at home mom
Deer Park, TX

FOR

Julie Arinder, Ms
Personal
Spring, TX

I support this bill.

Fred Fontana
Selfn
Spring, TX

No child should have any transition procedure or treatment related to gender change, transitioning or dusphobia. No public funds should be used

Sierra Betancourt
Self
Iola, TX

For

Lynda Roundtree
Self
Lucas, TX

No child should be have procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. There should be no use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. Children should receive counseling and non-invasive treatment or help to deal with these issues until they are over 18+.

Janet Richards, Mrs.
self - editor
Buda, TX

I am totally FOR PROHIBITING use of public money or public assistance for gender modification or treatment to children. I do not support the idea of gender modification for children and I do not want my taxpayer dollars to be used for such purposes.

Charles Grindon
Self
Houston, TX

I am For this Bill and the related Senate Bill 14

As a parent and grand-parent I am FOR protecting children from ALL forms of Gender Modification. Rather than helping children these Gender Modification procedures will hurt children both physically and psychologically....not just for a few months, but for their entire lives. Texas should stand strong to protect our children, and should ban these procedures in Texas

Austin Bradshaw
Self
Spring, TX

FOR this bill

Nikki Sopchak
self
Granbury, TX

I am in support of this bill. No child is born in the wrong body, promoting such nonsensical ideas is harmful and unscientific as well as being psychologically abusive to children. These procedures are cruel inhumane and unscientific and should not only be banned but those who promote and participate in this poisoning and butchering of children should be incarcerated for child abuse.

Rosemary Smith
Self
Hillsboro, TX

Please protect our children from sex change mutilation. If the time they become an adult, let them then make that choice. Our prayers are with you.

Thais Beckner
Self
Spring, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! I support this bill.

Gretchen Schuttger
Self Registered Nurse
Gilmer, TX

I am for this bill. Minors should not subjected to any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning or reassignment. As a medical professional this is clearly a situation of permitting and financing harm to be done on a vulnerable and immature population.

Linda McBee
Self
Chico, TX

FOR
God formed us in our mothers womb exactly how He intended for us to be. We have no right to make such decisions.

Rick Palmer, Mr
Self
Cypress, TX

Vote for the Bill because I support it fully.

Rachel Larchar
Self
Spring, TX

FOR the bill!!!!

Judy Schmid, Patriot
Self
Richmond, TX

Please please vote YES for HB 1686!!!!
SAVE OUR CHILDREN!!!!!! ??????
I am a great grandmother and have been working for 15 years to save our country! Never thought I would be having to ask to save our children.

Joan Bain
self - attorney
Houston, TX

For the bill - gender modification of minors is child abuse.

Jean Crisp
CWA
Houston, TX

Protect our children. Pass this bill please.

Gena Kelly
Self
CYPRESS, TX

FOR THIS BILL!!!

Shannon Mamaloukas
Self
Cypress, TX

FOR THIS BILL

TOM COBB
self
Colleyville, TX

I strongly support HB 1686 that seeks to end the abhorrent procedures and treatments designed to modify a persons God given gender. And equally certain, no public money or public assistance should ever be used to provide these procedures and treatments. Gender dysphoria is not a physical issue but a spiritual and mental health issue.

Lenora Greene
self, parents
Austin, TX

Please vote YES on this bill to restrict gender modification under the age of 18. Our job as adults is to protect children. We protect them from driving too early, drinking too early, registering for the draft too early. Let them progress through puberty before they can go through gender modification. Thank you.

Terry Gooch
Self
Little Elm, TX

The answer to a young person who May experience temporary confusion concerning sex and other puberty related challenges is NOT to carve up their bodies, so when they change their mind or have changing feelings there is no way to reverse this horrible decision. To NOT enslave these precious young people to being a lifelong patient of these medical monsters posing as doctors. Please deliver these children from the groomers and psychopaths who could care less for these kids actual wellbeing.

Cynthia Fore
self
Conroe, TX

vote FOR the bill

Denise Ringer, Mrs
Self
Dallas, TX

I believe there should be no gender modification procedures made on any children under the age of 18 unless there is a complete medical necessity for it. No public assistance should be made available unless it is completely medical necessary.
It is against the law to get a tattoo before the age of 18 so why should it be legal to have permanent gender charges up until 18 as well?

Kelly Ashmore
Self
Sherman, TX

FOR

Pamela Weiss
Self
Wylie, TX

I am FOR this bill.
No child is born in the wrong body.
FOR THIS BILL.

Billie Kyle Fore
self
Conroe, TX

Vote FOR the bill

Rick Palmer, Mr
Self
Cypress, TX

The use of any public money for these procedures should be banned and any practice relating to gender reassignment should be illegal and made a felony if done on a person under the age of consent of 18 years old. Anyone committing these procedures on a child under 18 should be convicted of a felony for child abuse and medical torture.

Melissa Payne
Self
Katy, TX

Please step up to protect the children from life altering and irreparable damage by passing this bill. Stop the child abuse!

Susan Moore
Self
Dallas, TX

I am against this bill. I am a mother of a transgender teen. Although they were biologically male, from the time they could walk and talk, they had a clear preference for all things stereotypically female. As the years progressed, their knowledge that they were not a boy only grew stronger.

My teen's father is a minister. My faith is the bedrock of my life. We fully believe that our child was created in God's image just like we were. All we want to do is support our child in the way that their interdisciplinary team (doctors, psychologists, social workers) as well as every major medical organization including the AAP says gives our child the greatest chance of survival. Their gender-affirming care has been lifesaving.

I am begging you to vote no on HB 1686. Our Texas politicians have no right to determine what happens between our children, their doctors, and their psychologists. Let our children live and their doctors provide lifesaving care. Vote NO on HB 1686.

Susan M Ruvalcaba
Self
Brownsville, TX

In Favor

Joe Smith
Self / transportation
Baird, TX

I support HB 1686. Children should not be mutilated in Texas.

Harold McBee
Self
Chico, TX

FOR
I firmly believe God does not make mistakes only man defying his will does!

Sarah Degner
Self - emergency room nurse
Bynum, TX

Stand up for our children & their God given identity/ they don’t even know what they want to eat for breakfast much less make a decision of this nature to mutilate their bodies forever? This shouldn’t even be a choice - as a taxpayer I will not be contributing money to confuse and bring chaos into the lives of children or adults for these so called procedures/ in the name of Jesus I bind these transgressions in Texas in Jesus name and loose God given identity to these children and political leaders who do not know who they are in Christ Jesus. I forbid my Christian values and hard earned money to be violated.

Elise Groenemann
Self
Spring, TX

FOR this bill

Lawrence Tanaka
Self
Spring, TX

No child is born in the wrong gender body. Small children are brainwashed into believing they were if they tend to like things that are generally associated with the opposite gender. Children are easily manipulated into believing something that is not true. It is the responsibility of sane adults to provide moral and civil guidance to children so that they become honest, upright, productive citizens of society. We don't need to promote an atmosphere of self-doubt, low self-worth or esteem. It is not healthy! We are heading toward a mental health crisis with rampant crime and total disregard of morals.

Michele Campbell
Self
Lindale, TX

I am the mother of an adult transgender child. I love and support her. However, I believe it is heinous to perform any type of transitioning surgery on a child under the legal age of consent.

Melissa Steele, Mrs
Self, RN Nurse sonographer
Cedar Park, TX

Stop mutilation of children’s bodies. Adolescents frequently, undergo questions about their identity, which change over time. Don’t make something permanent that may be transitory!

Laura Carabajal
self/grandma
Iola, TX

We must protect all children from these life altering procedures. God will not count us blameless.

Warren Jantz
Self
Helotes, TX

Please prohibit the transitioning of children and the use of public moneys for something that genetically can not be changed!

Edna Core, Mrs
self
Abilene, TX

For!

Jaime Shanahan
Self
Woodway, TX

We need to save our children from the mutilation!!

Lisa Chopp, Spring
Self /citizen
Spring, TX

Support this bill.

ElmerHB1686 Johnson
Concerned Texas Resident
ROSENBERG, TX

I agree with this bill & it's passage.

Josue Valdez, Mr.
Self.
Brownsville, TX

I strongly support HB 1686, PERIOD.

Brooke Groenemann
Self
Shenandoah, TX

For

Marjorie Raemsch
Myself
Austin, TX

I certify that I,Marjorie Raemsch, am for the prohibition of gender transitioning in the State of Texas.

Charlotte Folson, Ms
Self/insurance agent for medicare plans.
San Antonio, TX

Please vote for house bill 1686
To ban genital mutilation in minors..

Steven Fuchs
Texas
Spring, TX

I am for HB1686

Tyler Reece
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill.

Norma Walz
Self
Round Rock, TX

We cannot play with Mother Nature just to change genders on unborn babies. It’s unnatural and it’s just not right, nor is it right to use tax payers money for this self indulging and selfish entitled request.
Be content you were able to get pregnant and be blessed with a baby. This is wrong.

Vivian Huynh
self, student
Austin, TX

When reading about the impacts of transgender youth that taken estrogen and testosterone to improve their mental health, these procedures are lifesaving. Countless medical professionals all over the world, ESPECIALLY those that work with children, say that the supplemental procedures that help transgender youth improve their quality of life DRAMATICALLY, and even save their lives. Although the committee writing this bill may not understand what it's like to feel uncomfortable in your own body 100 percent of the time, there are people that experience this 24/7, and by giving them access to transgender surgeries and supplemental procedures, the youth's lives are being saved. They can live freely and comfortably in their body and express themselves as they like. Transgender youth who have already undergone these procedures NEED additional hormones to supplement them and to live, and this bill will effectively block necessary medical procedures from happening for these youth. You are NOT helping youth; you are killing and harming youth with this bill.

Jo Markham
Self, Executive Director, Agape Pregnancy Resource Center
Lago Vista, TX

Please protect the children of Texas from gender mutilation!

Deborah Krause
Abilene Bible church
Abilene, TX

FOR

Craig Rowland
Self
Abilene, TX

Supporting HB 1686.

Melanie Barrios Jones
Self
Frisco, TX

I don’t deny that gender dysphoria is real. Additionally while I don’t have a reality with transgenderism, I do have a heart for it. These are complicated issues that should not be taken lightly, discussed lightly or acted upon in haste. It is a known fact that the human brain doesn’t fully develop until age 25 and the last part to develop is the ability to anticipate consequences. That last part is really what I would love all of the legislators to focus on - the ability to anticipate consequences is the last part of full brain development. This is the reason why we, the collective we - parents, legislators, teachers and administrators need to be vigilant when it comes to making good decisions for our children. Our founding fathers did a phenomenal job anticipating what the needs of this nation were going to be, which is why we are such a strong country today. We are the youngest, yet the most successful. We are the ones the world looks to for everything, including nations, like Japan, who have almost verbatim, copied our United States Constitution as their foundational document. Equally so, Texas leads from the front, and the rest of the states look to us as an example of what to do, and what not to do. We need to protect all of our children, and in no way, shape or form, can we allow them to make permanent changes to their bodies before the age of 18. Please think as our founding fathers would have had they been in this situation, and vote to protect our children. Thank you.

Linda Lorber
Self
Van alstyne, TX

Stop the mutilation surgeries

Lynn McConnell
Self/Retired
Austin, TX

PLEASE! Stay out of making medical laws, especially when you DO NOT KNOW ALL THE FACTS! Parents & children should be able to make medical decisions for themselves & for the ones that they love, and doctors should be able to treat their patients - WITHOUT interference from unknowing politicians.
If you are indeed concerned about children, why not fix the foster system in Texas.

Karen Bell
photographer/self
Tomball, TX

For the bill

Adrianne Kerr
Self
Lufkin, TX

Children under the age of 18 SHOULD NOT be mutilated and definitely not with my tax money.

Mary Lou Watkins
Freedom Fellowship
San Angelo, TX

I am against this bill

Sheila King
Self
Sugar Land, TX

No one is born in the wrong body! Egg & sperm are still producing as they were designed to from the beginning of creation.

Sharon Jones
Self-Business Owner
The Colony, TX

I am FOR this bill. It is time we adults protect our children!

Angela Smith
Self-Product Consultant
Sadler, TX

I believe children should be given help for gender issues in the form of helping them to accept and love themselves the way they are. They should not be affirmed in a gender they are not biologically, not should public money be used to do this or to do any any kind of transitioning. Thank you.

Joyce Jordan
Self
Dallas, TX

Thank you and your team for sponsoring and pushing this bill forward to protect the children.

Lynn McConnell
Self/Retired
Austin, TX

If you protect trans youth, you are saving lives and keeping government out of private medical decisions.

kayla miles
self
dallas, TX

Y'all means ALL! You have a duty to represent and protect ALL children. You are NOT a licensed physician and are unqualified to decide what care is inappropriate. Stop the hate and discrimination targeting children you don't understand.

Deborah Pate
None
Richmond, TX

Pass this bill. Child mutilation is a crime.

Elaine Cline
Self - Christian
Hillsboro, TX

I am in support of this bill. Please protect our children.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs.
Cooke County Republicans
Gainesville, TX

I urge you to pass HB 1686. These procedures must be stopped. We must no longer reward the big pharma and doctors promoting these life changing treatments and surgeries. They destroy lives and can not be reversed in many instances. It is despicable that there is even a conversation about such. Please influence others also to ban these practices. Thank you.

Justin Harris
Self
Seguin, TX

Children should not be subjected to gender affirming procedures or treatments.

Greg Jubenville
Self
Plano, TX

Please prohibit treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria for children and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments

Kay Schwendeman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

No taxpayer should pay one dime for this nazi crap. Children's gender is given at birth in the eyes of God and any gender transitioning is sinful

Grant Jensen Jr
Self
Houston, TX

YES on HB 1686 ...

Thank you for legislating for the protection of our children ...

Robert Walker
Those afraid to speak up.
Rosenberg, TX

We must pass this bill to protect innocent children!!! These are acts of mutilation against children. Gender reassignment surgery on children is the highest level of child abuse. If ANYTHING, children with gender dysphoria should receive psychological help until they are 18, and if they still believe they are a different gender at 18, they can have the reassignment at that time. There's an overwhelming number of transitioned people who would change their decision if they could. BUT THEY CAN'T. Suicide rates among transitioned people far outweighs those who haven't transitioned. On another note, there should be a bill REQUIRING parents to undergo psychiatric evaluation if they support transitioning surgery for their adolescent child. This bill MUST be passed to preserve the future of humanity, and the most innocent of us all. Our children. If this bill is not passed, we will go down a path of destruction that will yield generations of harm and destruction.

Rachael McCord
Self stay @ home mom
Flower Mound, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686 for the protection of our children. Vote for HB 1686. Thank you.

Heather Chapple
None
Weatherford, TX

In order to remain in a civilized, ordered, moral society, which values and protects children… we MUST prohibit the mental illness enabling of gender confusion and procedures.

Rhiannon Valle
Myself
Crossroads, TX

Children need to be protected. They are the most vulnerable in our society. We have a moral obligation to protect and prevent them from having their bodies surgically altered before they are at an age to truly decide and understand the full consequences of these actions. Children need to be treated like children and not as adults. They have a right to a childhood free from adults trying to persuade them into changing their bodies before they are mentally fully developed. Let our children be!!

Lisa Smith
Self
Plano, TX

I am in support of this bill. There should be no discussion on allowing gender modification for our children. This is child abuse. Children are not fully developed, mentally, or physically, and there should be no allowance of such life altering decisions for their bodies. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness, how about we start with mental health care on that issue. I am in support of any bill that prohibits a physician from performing gender, transition surgeries, or administering puberty blockers to minors. And also prohibiting the provision of insurance, and requiring the Texas medical board to rescind the license of a physician who participates in these procedures. This includes physicians performing a sterilization surgery, a mastectomy,, or administering doses of testosterone or estrogen, or anything gender modifying related to any minor.

Molly Maddux
Self/ TTP
Euless, TX

Thanks for your authoring this bill. Now to get it passes for the hood of our state and children.

Judy Jordan, Mrs.
Self/mental therapist
Paris, TX

I am completely 100% AGAINST this bill HB 1686. The use of public assistance for these procedures for children or to anyone is reckless and unnecessary and will cause great harm

Doug Albracht
Myself
Amarillo, TX

Hello Mr. Price,

As a physician here in Amarillo, I am adamantly opposed to any permanent surgical procedures to change genders. It is my belief that God does not make mistakes. A biblical worldview tells us that gender dysphoria is a mental derangement. It is not a body derangement. Please support HP 1686. Your constituents are watching your actions. I know you’re a big Advocate for mental health. I do believe that this is a mental health problem that can be addressed from a medical and spiritual standpoint. Please do the right thing and support HB 1686!

Dr. Douglas Albracht

Desharie Derrick
Self-nurse
Whitney, TX

I am FOR housebill 1686!

Blanca Fogleman
Self
Sugarland, TX

I am for this bill that stops children from being given blockers to begin to transition them from the gender they are born with… boys to girls and girls to boys. God created man and woman. There are 2 genders.

Jerry Wilt
Myself
Katy, TX

Gender modification must be BANNED!

Shannon Clay, Mrs
Self
Frisco, TX

We need to support this bill

John Patterson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

This horrific act that parents put children through is a choice and should not be assisted with public money.

JoAnn Livingston, Mrs
Liberty in Action, Kerrville
Kerrville, TX

Please vote AGAINST this bill! It is not for the State of Texas to make such a life altering decision concerning the mental and/or emotional health of children/young adults. It is not the members of this body who will deal with the after affects. It is the family! If a person of legal age makes the decision, it will rest on them to deal with the results. Young children/adults should not even be dealing with such thoughts! Please! Let our children be children without the guidance of adults who should know better, but instead are more interested in pushing their agenda on others!

Laura Hammer
Self
Spring, TX

I support this bill!

Rachel York
self Massage Therapist
Cisco, TX

This bill must pass! #DoNoHarm #ProtectOurChildren

Judy Sims
Self and my grandchildren
Waco, TX

We need to protect our children from bodily mutilation.

Craig Henderson, Dr.
Self, psychologist and faith leader
Huntsville, TX

My name is Craig Henderson. I am a psychologist and faith leader in Huntsville, TX. I am here representing myself.

Why does an identity status that comprises 1.6% of the US population render such influence that legislators here and around the country believe they must take drastic steps to cease its use and put professional lives in jeopardy of those who practice it? And that these actions are taken in the face of accepted science and standards of care adopted over decades by groups such as the American Medical Association, the American Association of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association? I speak here, of course, of the medical practice of gender affirming care. Why does this carry such weight with us as a people? I think it is for two reasons: (1) lives are literally at stake, and (2) the values we hold the dearest compel certain actions.

As others have stated here: the kind of medical care that HB1686 seeks to prohibit for youth is literally life-saving. The most recent data published in the most prestigious medical journals indicate that gender-affirming care reduces suicide risk by as much as 73% and suicide attempts by 40%. I appreciate the hard work you put into what you are doing right now, and I appreciate you taking the time to listen to me. What you do is hard. I would guess you do it because of the care you feel toward your constituents. None of you signed up for this job saying, “No, you know what? I want to make the mental health of my constituents WORSE.” Yet, that is indeed what will happen if you vote to pass this bill.

Regarding values, I would speculate that many of you here are considering these questions as people of faith, most likely the Christian faith. So, I ask you, what are the principles of your faith that you desire to uphold? Many of you know what Jesus replied when he was asked what is the greatest command: that is right, “love the Lord your God with your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.” As Luke tells the story, the lawyer who posed the question craftily responds, “Yes, Teacher, but who is my neighbor?” Can you remember what happens next? Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. You know the story, I will not retell it, but I will restate Jesus’ conclusion: “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor of the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” To which the lawyer replied, “The one who showed him mercy.” Esteemed members of the committee, your neighbors are the transgender youth overwhelmed by gender dysphoria and looking for the relief research shows comes from gender affirming treatments. Your neighbors are the members of their families who sit on waitlists months in length and drive considerable distances regularly because they see the hope their children experience. Your neighbors are the doctors who can with the backing of science recommend care that can bring hope to families that are suffering. I will repeat: neighbors show mercy.

Shirley Bazay, Ms
Self sales
Frisco, TX

I am for this legislation. Please protect our children from this evil.

Patrick Fant
self
Houston, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. patrick fant

Laura Ward
Self, retired
Lucas, TX

I am for this bill. No one is born in the wrong body. “Heaven Can Wait” was not a documentary.

Claudia Belanger, Ms
Self
Katy, TX

I am now 70 years old. When I was a child, I wanted to be a boy, I dress like a boy and played sports with boys. I didn't like anything girly. When I turned 143 maybe 14, I had a change of heart and did a 180 degree change. My classmates teased me that I was a new kid in school as they didn't recognize me. Life altering procedures should not be performed on anyone under the age of 21.

Jennifer Woodall
Ector county precinct chair 101
Odessa, TX

Vote yes! Our children need this protection!

Jeana Boatright
Self
Marble falls, TX

I am absolutely for protecting Texas children from gender
Ideology , medical treatment for gender reassignment , treatment to delay maturity in any way. We must protect our innocent children

Shirley Bazay
Self. Sales
Frisco, TX

No do not allow children to be subjected to these procedures

Joel Johnson
Self
Lewisville, TX

I am strongly FOR this bill. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and should be treated as such. The solution is not to permanently destroy sexual organs to affirm their mental illness. An adult deciding to have gender transition surgery is one thing, children should absolutely not be allowed to make this decision or have someone make it on their behalf.

Julie Fry
Self
Cypress, TX

The treatments on children for gender reassignment or transitioning is extremely harmful for a growing child. Children are not ready to make a decision which will affect their entire life and definitely not one with such consequences. No adult should be able to make such a life altering decision for a child when the child will have to live with the consequences for a lifetime.
Further, no tax payer should be funding this procedures or treatments under any circumstance.

Susan Grindon, Citizen
self
Houston, TX

CHILDREN THAT CANNOT MAKE DECISIONS TO SMOKE, DRINK, DRIVE OR VOTE SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TREATMENTS FOR GENDER TRANSITIONING, GENDER REASSIGNMENT OR GENDER DYSPHORIA AND ON THE USE OF PUBLIC MONEY TO DO SO. i DO HOWEVER, THINK THAT GENDER DYSPHORIA IS AN ILLNESS AND SHOULD BE TREATED PRIVATELY AND FUNDED PRIVATELY.

Alexander Harris
none
Spring, TX

This MUST be stopped and taxpayers dollars CANNOT be used! I vote in FAVOR of this bill.

Larry Leitzell, Mr.
Self - Father and IT Professional
Round Rock, TX

I fully support HB 1686. Gender modification has serious immediate health risks not to mention longer-term risks that are, at this stage, relatively unknown. Putting a decision such as this into the hands of a child who doesn't know any better is negligent and irresponsible for any parent or governing authority. Using tax payer/public money to do so should be unlawful

William Faour
Self, tutor
Houston, TX

This bill is a restriction on bodily autonomy and overall freedom. It's not about protecting children at all. The procedures in question are entirely safe and reversible, and these restrictions are part of a greater movement in the country to ban all expressions and public presence of LGBTQ+ people. Gender dysphoria is recognized by the World Health Organization. If this bill were about protecting children, there would be efforts to ban child marriage in Texas, but children 16-18 can still wed with their parents' permission, and children below 16 can wed with a court order. This bill is only targeting transgender people in a manner similar to how the Nazis targeted transgender people in the early days of the Holocaust. Higher German courts have since established that denying these facts is a form of Holocaust denial.

Protecting children means learning history, understanding the greater scope of these provisions, and granting them the ability to continue making these safe decisions about themselves and their futures.

Moreover, prohibiting public funding on these procedures is another form of authoritarianism and restricting freedom. Many leaders of churches and other houses of worship in Texas are tax-exempt, meaning we as a populace are paying for them. If worship is a necessary part of life for many, then why should we stop public funding of treatment for an actual medical problem recognized by the world's leading doctors and scientists, one that the procedures this provision targets impact? Why are we targeting public funding for gender-affirming care if the state needs more money when, after Uvalde, we are funding cops more than ever before? This bill is an extreme over-reach granting far too much authority to the government to restrict our personal rights, and the argument that it is in any way protecting children or saving us money is bad-faith and obfuscating its true intentions of persecution.

Aly Hartmann
NWARW
Pflugerville, TX

Support bill HB1686. Children should be protected from making life altering decisions involving irreversible medical procedures at a young age (under 18).

Cindi Davison
Self. Retired
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686. Our children must be protected. No transitioning of children should ever be allowed and parents are not being informed. Emails have been discovered where parents are being ignored. The state does NOT own our children. Please support this bill.

Cindy Kelley
Self
Houston, TX

I am in favor of supporting this bill

Lawrence Kronenberger
Self
Spring, TX

I support this bill. These procedures and treatments should not be provided to minors without parental consent.

Judy Jordan, Mrs
Self/mental therapist
Paris, TX

I am in support of bill HB 1686

Brandy Dail
CWA
ALLEN, TX

When it comes to procedures and drugs used on children relating to gender confusion, these types of mutilation's to a child's body should be prohibited. There is more evidence that it does more harm long term than good. More and more people who transitioned as a child want to transition back as an adult but you can't replace something that has been removed. When someone is confused about their sexual identify it is not based on reality but a feeling. Feelings in all humans change, but especially in children. We need to protect our children from such harm and guide our children in healthier ways, not pump them full of drugs and cut off their body parts based off of a feeling. Additionally, parents have the right to know what is being introduced or discussed with their children who are confused. Other therapies need to be considered first. Any type of hormone alternating drugs or mutilation's of a child's body (that are permament) should be deemed child abuse and these forms of abuse need to be banned for anyone under the age of 18.

Carrie Norton
Self, bookkeeper
West, TX

I support HB 1686

William Gregory, Dr.
Self
Santa Fe, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Larry Fritts, Prec.Chair 2E
Constituents of 2E prec
Rockwall, TX

Pls support our children! Pls support this bill

Carolyn Gray
Self retired
Hillsboro, TX

Protect our children from the procedures & using public money to pay for the procedures.

Mattie Sweeney, Mrs
Self
Crowley, TX

I am for this bill! No one is born in the wrong body. Transgender is a made up term to replace the term body dysphoria. I am completely against using public tax dollars to pay for any programs that enable those with body dysphoria to medically change their bodies, especially for minors!!! These people need counseling NOT medical procedures and hormones of their biological opposite sex.

Michelle James
Self, retired
Johnson City, TX

Absolutely opposed, cruelty and irresponsibility towards children who are not old enough to make a decision on something as extreme and irreversible as these procedures!!!

Janet Warren
Self, retired
Round Rock, TX

FOR THE BILL

Belinda Morris
Self , retired educator
Canyon, TX

I support this bill. Parents and families must be in control of their child's health issues.

Silvia Williams
self
Sherman, TX

I am registering FOR the support of this bill. NO child is born in the wrong body. I support you in prohibiting medicalization of minor children and stand with you in reminding the healthcare establishment that they #DoNoHarm to our children.

McKenna May
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Children should be allowed to have equal and protected access to gender affirming care, especially (but not limited to) non-permanent options like puberty blockers. That way, they don't feel the pressure to make permanent decisions, but have the freedom to explore who they are and how they want to present their truest self to the world. Body Dysmorphia is not a choice and can be devastating. If kids don't have the time, resources, and support to feel at home in their body, how can we expect them to thrive in their communities? Gender affirming care, and general support for trans and gender non conforming kids, is suicide prevention. When legislators pass policies that make kids feel trapped, isolated, and shunned by their communities, how we can be shocked when they end up seriously depressed or suicidal? This bill is performative, hateful, and doesn't have kids' best interest in mind. Instead, it is just pandering to adults who are scared of what they don't understand.

Les Chapman, Lt Col (Ret)
Self
Rockwall, TX

Please protect our children from irreversible surgeries.

Linda Kneeland
Self
Buda, TX

Pass this bill for the sake of our kids.

Cam Ohlemacher, Pastor
Freedom Fellowship Church
San Angelo, TX

I opposes this as God chooses if a child should be a boy or girl not us!!

Don Brown
Self
Austin, TX

Vote is For HB1686 which is prohibiting the use of public funding for gender modification and transitioning treatment per Sec.A161.702.AA PROHIBITED PROVISION OF GENDER TRANSITIONING
OR GENDER REASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES AND TREATMENTS TO CERTAIN CHILDREN

Staton Perry
Self and sales
Round rock, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Emily Meo
self, game developer
Austin, TX

Hello,

I am not trans myself, but I have several friends and colleagues who are trans, and every day I hear them worry about whether it's safe for them to stay in Texas or not. Bills like HB1686 are a big reason why they consider leaving; this government overreach into the medical decisions of trans children and their parents, based on nothing but anecdotes, willful misunderstandings, and bigotry. My friends are trans adults, but they look at the way that trans children are talked about by elected officials, and they wonder how long it'll be before the rhetoric leads to violence against the Texas trans community, or how long it'll be before a new bill is introduced that targets trans adults and their medical care directly.

I love my trans friends, and I hate what you're doing. Heightening my disgust is that fact that you're wasting valuable session time on the private medical decisions involving a tiny percentage of children, when the number one threat to children's physical safety is guns, and the state's foster care system is in shambles. Shame on you for letting your discomfort around gender nonconformity take precedence over the real material harms being done to children across the state.

Disrespectfully,

Emily Meo

susan white
Self
Katy, TX

Anatomical mutilation is an abomination at ANY age and especially horrific when perpetrated upon minors. No public moneys should ever be directed for such a procedure. I support this bill!

Beth Fuller
Self
Bells, TX

There is no reason why someone who is determined to change their gender can not wait until they are 18 years old to do so. We change our minds on things so often, especially when we are young and inexperienced. Finally, no public money should assist with this. People with life threatening illnesses do not receive public funds, why should this?

Theresa Haag
Self retired
Spring, TX

I support this bill.

Sabrina Adamo-Lomonte
Self
Frisco, TX

I support it.

Mercedes Obeso
Self
El Paso, TX

Gender treatment of any king for children should be unthinkable. For goodness sake, they are CHILDREN.

Thomas Couch
Self
Mckinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Surgeries transforming one’s gender has irrecoverable neuropsychological damaging affects. This oftentimes leads to constant psychological issues and unfortunately suicidal tendencies. Most people after 5 years wish they could go back to their original gender.

Gary Laughlin
self - software engineer
Princeton, TX

I am in support of this bill, anything less is child abuse and is unconscionable. Minors are not allowed to mutilate themselves, Doctors should be held liable for such behavior. They take an oath, 'First do no harm.'

ANNE NEWMAN
Self
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Please vote House Bill 1686 out of committee as soon as possible to protect from child abuse and sexual mutilation. No child is born in the wrong body.
You should also protect children from indoctrination and gender identity ideology and from teachers who will hide what they're doing in the classroom from parents. No teachers should be allowed to encourage a child to identify as the opposite sex.

William Nance
self, retired
Bells, TX

I am FOR this bill

Anna Ashton
Self
Pflugerville, TX

Ban Gender Modification. Child Modification!

Theresa Brittain
Self
McKinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification. #do no harm. I vote FOR this bill and any others that prohibit these surgeries against children. It’s child abuse!!!

Terry Kosobud
Retired
Austin, TX

Please vote "NO" on HB 1686. Government has absolutely no responsibility limiting health care for individuals. Healthcare is a fundamental right of all individuals. Healthcare is an issue between a doctor and their patient and should never involve government.

Sharon Swindle, Ms.
Self
Aledo, TX

I am in favor of HB1686.

Lamar Lawson
Self
Windcrest, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. We need to protect children.

David Ronquillo
Self
Spring Branch, TX

I urge the passage of HB 1686. Gender transition for children under the age of 18 is simply outrageous. These children under age 18 aren't able to vote, need parental permission to join the military, and aren't old enough to drink yet we allow them to make a life-altering change simply because they "feel" they are a different sex? That's outrageous and anyone engaging in such transitions should be guilty of child abuse. I urge the passage of HB 1686.

Megan Allen
self
Bastrop, TX

Gender affirming health care saves lives for both children and adults. I do NOT support Texans not having access to gender affirming care.

Anna Dean
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill, because it protects those who cannot, nor have the capacity to, protect themselves, children. Infancy and early childhood are filled with enough stimulus without adding questionable, subjective “advanced behavior” questions! Where is the LEGITIMATE documentation supporting this peripheral course of action? There is no form of taxpayer support for this “cause of the moment.”

Linda Hudson
Self
CARROLLTON, TX

I am completely opposed to gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and all related procedures and treatments for children under the age of 18 and/or using public money or public assistance to provide those same procedures and treatments.

Michael Ruggiero, Mr.
Self
Katy, TX

FOR this bill.

Stop the genital mutilation on children.

Stop using our tax dollars for their special wants.

Mel Jones, Mr
Self
Leander, TX

Please represent me and many Texans and do not allow reversal of biological male and female sex procedures be paid for by public money or public assistance. Our state should fall into funding or supporting gender reassignment. The citizens of Texas and myself do not support it. We say No.

Sandra Salstrom
Self, professor (adj)
Houston, TX

We are not allowed to vote, consent to sex, drink, or join the military until certain ages. How much more does this apply to cutting off or changing important parts of your body or administering, castrating or other effectual hormones meant to change one’s natural system.

Children must not be allowed to decide or be influenced by others to do anything of the sort. Such decisions should wait until the time when one’s brain has fully developed and they’ve reached the age of majority — age 21.

Ruth York, (1) VP; (2) Interim Chair
(1) Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; (2) Texas Family Defense Committee; (3) self (Direct sales)
CISCO, TX

We support HB 1686. Children lack maturity, wisdom and foresight to make irreversible, life-altering decisions such as deforming their bodies in an attempt to "change" their sex (which is impossible). The result is a disfigured, neutered, and broken individual. Adults should protect every child from such predation by "woke" medical and mental professionals.

This also applies to the pathway drugs and psychology leading to this devastating confusion and medical butchery. All are unconscionable.

Please protect the kids. Vote "Yes" on HB 1686.

Angela Singletary, Honorable
self
Balch Springs, TX

I support HB1686. Public funds should never be used to fund chemical castration or mutilation of minors.

Brian King
Self
Watauga, TX

I support this bill. The children must be protected from ignorant or mentally unstable adults. Minors can not consent to life altering procedures and must be protected

Kim Brinkley
Self
Aubrey, TX

I would like to express my desire to support HB1686 for a ban on child gender modification. It is my belief that no child is born in the wrong body, and we should seek to protect them from a unnecessary medication and surgical procedures which would alter their birth gender.

Eris Glynn
self
Kyle, TX

The decision regarding a transgender child's health and wellbeing are the domain of that child's self, family, and doctors - not legislators with no medical training or knowledge about what is actually best for them. Trans kids deserve the same things cis kids do - to feel comfortable in their bodies, to grow up with their peers, and to receive any and all help they need to be happy and healthy. Denying children the ability to seek that help is detrimental to their wellbeing, and it is unimaginably cruel to do so.

Sharon Lawson
Self, Retired Minister and Licensed Child Care Center
PASADENA, TX

I urge you MOST STRONGLY to pass this bill. Young children do not yet have sufficient brain development and life experience to be able to possess the depth of wisdom needed to make such Irreparable and irreversible life decisions! They are easily swayed by transient whims and interests!

Amanda Butler
self - Regional shift lead
Fort Worth, TX

House bill 1686, in the way it is structured, is unacceptable.
Children need support and to be able to live their lives as their true selves. Please please vote no on this issue. Even treatment for gender dysphoria means children wont get the help they need for things.

Aaron Power, Mr.
Self - Sales
Denton, TX

This is absolutely necessary. We must protect our children.

Jerry Fisher
SREC SD2
Rockwall, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. These minors have no idea what they are doing and they are too young to make this decision. I agree with Governor Abbott it is child abuse. Thank you for voting for this bill.

Cheryl Camerer, RN
Self RN
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body or is the wrong gender. They are being manipulated by adults with agendas that are harmful to all of humanity. Minor children should NEVER be given puberty blocking drugs or hormones to transition them to the opposite sex. Gender reassignment surgery on minor children is child abuse and just like any other form of child abuse, the damage cannot be undone.

Joe Humphrey, Citizen
The silent majority
Frisco, TX

In no way should tax payers be paying for gender modification for any person even more so for a child. Any parent that attempts to do this to their child should be arrested and prosecuted for child abuse and their child should be removed from their home.

Kathleen Leary
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB1686. Activists are not the majority! Do the right thing for our society!

Kelly Pierce
Salon owner /stylist
Victiria, TX

As a constituent I am against this action

Nicole Frette
Individual
Cedar Hill, TX

I support this Bill.

Brian McAuliffe
self
San Marcos, TX

I support HB 1686. Please protect children.

Sandra Johnson
self/retired
Boerne, TX

We need to protect our children. God made them who they are and the government should not encourage gender changes/transitions etc. Government funds should not be appropriated for such procedures as well.

Michele Sears
Self
Rockwall, TX

Support

Maggie Armendariz
N/a
Austin, TX

I am testifying against HB1686. I am an after school arts educator for elementary age children. I have students who are transgender. Bills like these are harmful. Access for trans youth to health services that affirm their gender identity is crucial for a child's development and mental health. I see first hand in the classroom how important it is for children be able to express themselves and their identities. Taking this away from them is criminal, immoral, and unjustifiable. Using children to justify this unlawful invasion of peoples rights is cowardly. Children will die because of bills like this.The job of this governing body is to protect the rights of its citizens. This is protecting no one.

Dawn Zaboski
Self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body and these procedures and treatments should not be permitted for children.

Megan Behrens
self
coupland, TX

please vote to
ban gender modification to minors

Sharon Henson
Republican Party of Rockwall County
Rockwall, TX

We the Republican Party of Rockwall County fully support the protection of minor children as provided in HB 1686. The gender modification of Minors is nothing short of child abuse. Children should learn how to make choices, but certainly not be taught that there is something wrong with them that needs a permanent fix. The problem is not physical, but is a very real issue with basis in mental, spiritual emotional health.
Florida passed a bill protecting children. Texas needs to also.
Please support HB 1686.

Rebecca George
Self
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Is it any wonder why we have an explosion of mental illness in our country. Please vote for this bill and against child abuse. Vote FOR HB 1686 to save our children from permanent damage.

Michael Conway
Self
Crossroads, TX

Thoroughly support this bill. Must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Charlotte Palmer, Ms
Texas Child Gender Modification to minors
Cypress, TX

Save our children

Deborah Smith, Mrs
Self/homemaker
Lago Vista, TX

I am FOR this bill which would prohibit gender transitioning

Adrian Vann
Self
Dallas, TX

Gender transitioning of children is experimental medicine that other countries have even restricted.

I'd like to present what transgender science is showing these highly experimental treatments are doing to adolescents.

Finland, Sweden, and the UK are all putting major restrictions on puberty blockers for children / teens with gender dysphoria

"Finnish medical guidelines are now opposed to most puberty blocking and adolescent transitioning, except in the most severe cases and, then, only in a research setting."

"Cross-sex identification in childhood, even in extreme cases, generally disappears during puberty. However, in some cases, it persists or even intensifies. Gender dysphoria may also emerge or intensify at the onset of puberty. There is considerable variation in the timing of the onset of puberty in both sexes. The first-line treatment for gender dysphoria is psychosocial support and, as necessary, psychotherapy and treatment of possible comorbid psychiatric disorders."

https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/fins-turn-against-puberty-blockers-for-gender-dysphoria/?fbclid=IwAR3waPvYVlGFFBZAomiKvJ9iCvnzHVxgcN3j6YNjjdhh_9VgLeEY3QOihp0

Michael Cox
Self real estate investor
Carrollton, TX

I Support the bill

Karen Cress, Mrs
Self Winery Owner
Spring, TX

I am FOR this Bill

Sharon Tryon, Mrs
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill it is common sense the children cannot smoke until they're 21 or drink till they're 21 yet they're able to do something like this not knowing yet who they are or who they will become. This is so wrong it's only destroying young people! Also nobody should pay for this except for the person doing it. It is not a required life-saving surgery or medication!!!

Beverly Bettis, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

We should be nourishing and protecting our children in their growing up years! In no way, should we subject them to gender altering procedures!!!! They do not have the maturity to make such decisions and are left with permanent consequences! Please use your influence to protect our vulnerable children!!!

Joshua Aguilar
self
mckinney, TX

IN SUPPORT OF prohibiting Transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and PROHIBITIONS on the use Of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Katie Garcia
Self, Director
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification. #do no harm. I vote FOR this bill and any others that prohibit these surgeries against children. It's child abuse!!!

Lori Kreitman
Self CPA
Plano, TX

FOR this bill. NO child is born into the wrong body!

Dawn Orand
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please protect our children from transgender bullies who will permanently damage our innocent children pushing dangerous drugs and surgeries without parental supervision. Protect our schools as places where children learn academic lessons only. Please allow parents to raise children without any sex instruction that confuses and upsets them

Dena Parker
Self
Round Rock, TX

Support HB 1686

Betty Houchin
Gann Medford Real Estate Inc
Cushing, TX

Please note my full support for bill HB 1686

Maria L Schroeder
Self
Fair Oaks, TX

I support HB 1686. Public funds/assistance SHOULD NOT be used to provide treatment/procedures for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria for certain children.

Kathy Davenport
Self
Fort Worth, TX

We MUST support this bill. Children's sec are determined at birth by their genitalia NOT by reassignment. Protect our children. Choices like this should NEVER be permitted on ANYONE that is not an adult and fully understand the long term consequences. PASS THIS BILL!

Brandy Siegmund, Mom
Self
Euless, TX

I am absolutely against this mutilation of children that are too young to decide such serious acts upon themselves. This goes against Gods grain of humanity and needs to be stopped!!!This is physical, mental and emotional abuse that cannot be reversed. The parents should be put in prison for this crime. They are not the parents children, they are Gods children. God sends them to be stewarded well and cared for until they are adults just like Jesus was sent. Once these kids get old enough to wake up and figure out what they have done to themselves it's too late to go back. After hormone blockers then surgery no other doctor will touch that child to treat because they cannot be liable after that reversal. It's sick and twisted and evil. We must Save Our Kids!!!!!!!!

Jamie Haynes
Texans Wake Up
Canyon, TX

FOR - ?? I SUPPORT HB1686

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Heidi Holcomb
Self
Houston, TX

I fully support this measure. No public money should be used to mutilate minor children. Stop gender modification and transition of minors. Stop the sterilization of minors with harmful medications and surgical procedures. Children cannot consent to life altering medical decisions. Stop the parents who are committing child abuse by allowing experimental medication and surgeries of children.

Angela Ayala
Myself
Pasadena, TX

NOW

Beverly Duréus, Dr.; Esq.
Self/Attorney/Law Professor/Ordained Minister
Cedar Hill, TX

I am in favor of this legislation and am responding as a Christian Attorney/Minister as a voice for minors that may not have adults to properly represent their interests. Thank you for your serious consideration to pass this legislation.

william grasham
individual voter
richmond, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Children are a gift from God. Children are not capable of understanding the impact of gender altering surgery and should not be allowed to be manipulated into choosing a gender altering surgery that is irreversible until they are at least 18 years of age. Many children who have had this surgery now regret it. Gender altering surgery on a child should be outlawed and should be considered child abuse. Doctors and those recommending or performing such surgery should be liable for damages and should permanently lose their license to practice in Texas.

Gina Verlander
Self
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our youth.

Jamie Allen, Mrs.
Self - Child Care
Amarillo, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Under no circumstances should Texas allow ANY kind of gender treatment for minors!

Kay Richardson
Disabled
Cleveland, TX

For the bill

Ashlyn Capps
Self
Mesquite, TX

More effort needs to be paid towards psychotherapy rather than permanently altering children’s bodies and creating life long health issues. If you can site long term studies on these medications, that would be one thing. You can’t through because there are none.

HM ((MYKL) SPENCER, LTC, US Army, Retired
TASE-ISC LLC / Company, Household, and Self.
Seguin, TX

Please change the wording from "certain children" and use simply "children," and specify the age of majority by which Texas recognizes their legal right to make such decisions for themselves.
From:
HM Spencer
Seguin

Caroline Chase
Self; retired educator
Austin, TX

As a gay woman and former educator for over 30 years, I have observed adolescents extensively as they grapple with the changes that puberty brings and the struggle we all endure during that time of our lives. I struggled through puberty as well. Instead of being given the message that I was born in the wrong body, I was supported through these changes to my body by my family, both immediate and extended, as well as teachers and mentors. The human brain is not fully developed until about 25 years old. We need to let kids move through all of their developmental stages unscathed but with lots of support until they can make fully informed decisions on their own. Provide therapy for mental health co-morbidities. Provide assurance that their bodies are perfect as they are. Provide unconditional love. Provide support and factual information to parents. Pay attention to the stance other countries are taking on this topic after looking at the research which is in short supply as the incidences of Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria have surged so quickly over the past 10 years (a 4000+% increase among girls). There is a social contagion occurring here as there have been social contagions for every generation. This one, though, leaves young people with debilitating conditions, possible sterilization, the lack of the ability to reach orgasm, etc. Children cannot consent to eradicating functions of their bodies they haven’t even experienced yet.

Mary Childress
Concerned Citizen of the State of Texas!
Howe, TX

Children’s should not be allowed to have gender changing surgeries. They are not mature enough to comprehend what/who they them will be as adults. Even young adults change their minds in what they want to do with their lives. Gender changing surgery is a drastic life altering surgery!

Debra Manning
Self - builder
Waxahachie, TX

For this bill. We must protect the children.

Debra Havranek
Myself
Allen, TX

I support this bill and wanting it to be passed and not ignored.

Laura Bistline
Myself
Austin, TX

I am totally against gender mutilation, and sexual transformation upon the bodies of children. This bill is the polar opposite of the expression of true parental love and care. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and the wherewithal and ability to raise children to know the nature of God, their true identity, and purpose will present itself.

Michael Brittain
Self - Business Development
McKinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification. #do no harm. I vote FOR this bill and any others that prohibit these surgeries against children. It’s child abuse!!!

Sharon Williams
self grandparent
Abilene, TX

These procedures should never be done on children. When they are at least 21 years old then they can make those life style changing decisions for themselves. Never should tax payers dollars be used for such procedures.

Liz Bond
Self-Retired
Ingram, TX

I can’t believe there is even a discussion on this.
Absolutely against these procedures and especially with taxpayer monies.

Nancy Gray
North Texas Conservatives
Sanger, TX

As a Texas resident I strongly insist that you vote in on the bill HB1686.
Thank you

Melinda Stone
Individual
Dallas, TX

So glad for this bill to protect innocent children from mutilation!

Rosaida Bedsole
Self retired
Dallas, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification. #do no harm. I vote FOR this bill and any others that prohibit these surgeries against children. It’s child abuse!!! Please don’t do that to our children.

Ryan Davis
Myself
Denison, TX

I am in support of HB 1686.

I grew up in Lake Elsinore California and have seen first hand girls who took testosterone in elementary school only to regret that decision and make an attempt to rid their body of the foreign hormones that have already taken a toll on their body's natural developmental process.

The Kids in California I grew up with didn't get any help from their state. But The state of Texas can act and must act to protect Texas kids.

Allowing a teenage girl to cut off her healthy breasts and a young boy to cut off his penis is barbaric. These children struggle with gender dysphoria and need emotional and mental support. We should not allow individuals to make life/body altering decisions that can not be reversed when those decisions stem directly from an individual's mental illness.

Thank you.

Dillon Lewis
Self
Cedar creek, TX

Children should never have these disgusting procedures done. No tax dollars should aide lunacy. The gay agenda needs to be stopped.

Renia Monreal
Self
Houston, TX

I don't agree on any kind reassign of gender! Either you are born as girl or boy! I will not pay out my tax money for that!

Charles Staples
Self/IT Director
Tioga, TX

The age of consent in Texas in most cases is 18, and concerning firearms or drinking 21. We have laws protecting our children from themselves and others harming them. Why then do we want to allow anyone under the age of 18 to consent to a procedure that will permanently change their bodies? Even Tattoos, which are somewhat reversible, are prohibited before the age of 18 - shouldn't mutilation (physical or chemical) be prohibited as well?

I am FOR this legislation - we need to protect our children.

Darla Rostyne
Self
Denison, TX

I am in support of this bill!

Rachel Redus, Team Manager
Self
Pearland, TX

When I was a little girl, I thought it would be pretty cool to be a boy so that I could not have to wear a shirt while working outside and stand up to go to the bathroom. If my parents had acted on that natural tomboy ‘feeling’ I had as a child, and they decided it would be best to turn me into a boy, I would have a completely different, and devastating life. Children lack the mental capacity to make life altering decisions, like deciding to start hormone therapy or have a sex change. Allowing this is allowing and supporting child abuse. God does not make mistakes. If someone at 18+ years old says they want to change their sex, then that’s their decision as an ADULT, but that does not mean that my taxpayer money should go toward that surgery or medical care. That’s like me saying taxpayers should pay for plastic surgery if I wanted it.
It’s extremely disturbing that we have to even have a bill drafter about this. I support HB 1686.

Ruth Wilson
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

Please, please protect these children.

Barbara Goins
self
Lufkin, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Weston Jones
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to speak against this bill. Trans children should not be denied this life saving care. Gender affirming care is lifesaving and this is a coordinated attack to eradicate an already oppressed minority. This is denying vital healthcare to children. Passing this bill will kill trans kids.

Jody Fulton
Self / Business Owner
Lavon, TX

As the aunt of a young lady that now looks like a boy because she thought she was a boy at 13 please stop giving these kids life changing medications until they are adults and can determine if what they are going through is a phase just like almost all children go through. Once you make these major changes there is no going back. Lets start talking to our kids and stop mutilating them.
Our kids don't know what they want at that age. Passing this Bill will be a start to saving our youth.

Natalie Weimer
Self, Property Management
Fort Worth, TX

Vote NO on HB1686

Bill Kinney
self
Houston, TX

I support this bill because our kids should not be held hostage by the culturally insane.

John Aquino
Human Rights Campaign Austin
Austin, TX

Hello, my name is John Aquino, I am calling from (city in Texas) and my zip code is 78745. I am calling to strongly oppose HB 1686. I oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Dymphna Ferrel, Ms
Self
Fort Worth, TX

FOR the bill. Stop child mutilation, it is abuse.

michael buchanan
self
LUBBOCK, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Penny Verkleir, Mrs
Self
Denison, TX

Please vote FOR this bill!

Kathryn Martin
Self, Retired
Mason, TX

Vote FOR HB1686 to BAN transgender health care for minors. They are too young to make a permanent decision like that.

Ian George
Self
Houston, TX

Children are a gift from God. There is no mistake in their gender at birth. Any sort of “transition” to another gender should be discouraged and not funded

Matt Fogle
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB1686.

VANESSA WENNEKER
self
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686! Stop indoctrinating our children and taking advantage of their innocence! These gender mutilating medications and procedures are irreversible! Teach these kids to love themselves exactly how God created them!!

Elise Grusendorf
self, homemaker
Austin, TX

I strongly support this ban. Gender modification should not be publicly funded. It is elective surgery. Nevermind that children (those under 18) should not even be contemplating this procedure.

Chanel Sneed
Self
LAKESIDE, TX

For the bill

Rhody Lynn Kennedy
Self
Rockwall, TX

II fully Support HB 1686! Save our Children! Please I’m asking for you to support this Bill to the fullest!

Lynda Joan Somma
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686 for the protection of children now and for the future of their wellbeing as healthy and contributing adults in our society and culture. The mutilation of children's bodies and drug intervention to change their hormones to what their bodies are not designed to be is cruelty. Therefore, this bill needs to pass as written.

Cathy Cocco
Self / Technical Marketing
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686. Please don't let the Medical money industry and the sick people who want to harm children stay in Texas.

Gwen Withrow
self and State Republican Party SREC SD4
Montgomery, TX

I am for this bill. We have to protect children from these procedures which in most cases cannot be undone. We do not need children making these decisions. Please for to protect children by voting for this bill

Jana McDaniel
Self
Howe, TX

I am against the mutilation of children. These procedures should not be allowed on minors . No public money or public assistance should be used .

Sue Ellen Bhayani, RN
Self, Inpatient Case Manager, RN
Sugar Land, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Please prohibit gender modification of minor children. Thank you.

Angela Hudson
Self
The Colony, TX

Please pass this bill as is.

Sara Gore
Self - IT Manager
AUSTIN, TX

Texas has been tanking in national healthcare ratings, and guess what--trans healthcare is healthcare! Allowing children to access gender affirming health care is a suicide intervention.

Maryann Bettencourt
MYSELF
Austin, TX

I VOTE AGAINST ANY PARENT OR DOCTOR CHANGING THE GENDER OR MODIFICATION OF ANY CHILD BEFORE 18!!!! ANY MODIFICATION OF A CHILD IS CHILD ABUSE!

Paul Yamarick
self
Moulton, TX

I am in favor of HB1686. The bill addresses the need for parental control along with the consideration for state protection of children.

Alison Johnson
Self Project Scheduler
Sugar Land, TX

SUPPORT HB 1686.

W. Mary Truman
Self
Richmond, TX

Humans brains aren't full developed until after puberty and closer to 30 yrs old. Decisions regarding such drastic physical alterations should not be made by children, because of this, nor their parents until the person reaches at least 18 yrs old. These changes/modifications are irreversible and/or have the potential for long term medical and emotional permanent consequences. Time and maturation is imperative in the decision for such drastic measures. Please give these children the time they need, whether they recognize this or not.

Wayne Davison
Yourself
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686. We must protect our children from drag queen shows, gender modifications and pornography. No tax dollars should be spent for any of these issues.

Scheryl Woodard
Self
Plano, TX

I am For This bill. #Do Not Harm !!!

Susan Minnich
Self
Hudson Oaks, TX

I am in support of HB 1686 because children need protection from sex change surgeries, mutilation, and permanent sterilization. Texas must protect their kids. We are to be an example to our country. Let's do it well!

Judy Garcia
Self
EULESS, TX

This is definitely something that should not be allow period . If a minor can't vote until they are 18 or driver until they are at least 16 or buy alcohol at 21 why are we allowing children especially around five years old . This is immoral period and it only going to cause more potential damage in the future of the child. God makes no mistakes but we have society wanting to Become pagan Gods for them self. Self is nothing but of the enemy the enemy operates in confusion

Ralph Green, Pastor
ChristCentral Baptist Church
Corpus Christi, TX

I want to express my support for this critical bill to prevent gender reassignments of children in Texas. To allow this kind of mutilation to take place on naive and impressionable children and teenagers is unconscionable. Jesus issued a strong warning to anyone causing a child to sin in Matthew 18:6 "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." As public servants who serve Almighty God as state legislators, you have great accountability to the Lord. Please vote to affirm the passage of this bill. Sincerely, Pastor Ralph Green

Kathy McMillan
Self
Kerrville, TX

Our young kids are being harmed by allowing these surgeries. Must cease and desist

George Avellano
Self
Corinth, TX

To the Committee on Public Health,
I strongly SUPPORT HB 1686. Ban “gender modification” procedures and treatments on children and young adults.
A person under the age of 26 has not fully developed physically and mentally. As such, that person is not capable of making a rational decision for a lifetime alteration of his or her body. This is a profit-based industry that needs to be shut down. By no means should any government agency be charging taxpayers for these radical mutilations of young people. Government is not formed to pay for cosmetic surgery.

Jan Watters
Palo pinto county conservatives
Gordon, TX

Please vote no to gender modification

Krista Queen
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

I am a parent of one child and God willing will be a parent of more. I don’t feel that as parent anyone should encourage a child to make sure a life changing decision which will effect them for their entire life.

I do know that the dysphoria with gender is an identity crisis and should be treated as one.

I believe that parents should be able to get their child therapy if they are struggling to love themselves as they were born.

These are children. They are too young and their brain hasn’t even fully developed to make such a life changing decision on their body.

Brian Birmingham
Autistic adult
DALLAS, TX

No child, no minor can meaningfully practice informed consent with respect to being given drugs that will chemically castrate and sterilize them.

Nicholas LaGuire
Self/Finance
Frisco, TX

I support this bill and encourage you to vote FOR its passage.

Ginger Kral
Self
Cedar Park, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Christie Slape, Mrs.
self, Professional Organizer
Round Rock, TX

I am FOR this bill.
Children with rapid onset gender dysphoria are being coerced by the medical community to harm their bodies in irreversible ways. This, in my opinion, is child abuse. The gender confusion that exists today is a social contagion. These children need psychological counseling, not medical procedures and hormones. Parents who are allowing their minor children to have these procedures done are acting out of fear, not facts.

Joni Smith
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please protect our young children from the devastating effects of gender transition drugs and reassignment surgeries. Over 90 percent of those seeking transitioning suffer from body dysmorphia, depression, sexual trauma, and a variety of other mental diseases and disorders. The social contagion that is also happening among our youth is going to just increase suicide and more after the regret of something they can never recover and transition fully back from. By supporting transition these children will suffer from a variety of medical issues caused by the hormones that go against their biological sex and cause them to suffer from ailments worse than dysmorphia. Many regret their decisions after their brains have fully developed in their early twenties and will live with mutilation and regret even if they quit the hormone therapy in detransitioning. We must protect our children. Please support this bill and stop the madness.

Cynthia Kinney
Kinney Design
Houston, TX

I support this bill because our kids should not be held hostage by the culturally insane.

Cassandra Crowe
Self
Conroe, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686.

Heather LaGuire
Self/Homemaker
Frisco, TX

I support this bill and encourage you to vote FOR its passage.

Deborah Anderson
Self
Waco, TX

Gender modification should be a crime!

Michelle Lewis
Self
Cedar Creek, TX

I am For this bill! Children are not ready to make life altering decisions about their body.

Regina Gresham, Mrs
Self
Pearland, TX

Bill 1686 wii protect children from being sexually changed before their minds are mature enough to make those decisions. I full support this bill.

Jim Kovaric
self
Austin, TX

I highly support This bill. Protecting children from such rash and permanent actions is imperative. If this does not pass then the definition of child abuse is weakened. We have sexual harassment laws that do not allow for the claim of "consensual sex" if one is a subordinate to the other, meaning the subordinate will always feel pressure to abide by the "superior". How can anyone believe that a child is independent enough in order to not feel pressured into these procedures. Do people who appose this bill also appose the criminalization of the ministers/priests that had relations with young boys, because those children were also "adult enough" to "agree" to be treated that way?

Janice Gregory, Ms
Braes Republican Women
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

Frances White
Self/retired
Rockwall, TX

For

Jon Penton
self, manufacturing operator and photographer
Denison, TX

As the father of my 5 year old son in North Texas, I am strongly in FAVOR of this bill. It is insane that we have to draw up additional legislation against child abuse, but here we are. It is child abuse to surgically modify a child’s body to affirm gender dysphoria, a society who values human life recognizes this readily and organizes their laws to reflect these values. Let the next step in fighting this mental illness be to provide humane solutions in place of banning
gender-affirming solutions, and looking into how and why this phenomenon seems to be spreading.

Thank you,
Jon Penton

Eric Clemmons
self
Lakeway, TX

The Texas government has gone from a small government for the people to intruding on my rights as a parent, the rights of my children, and our ability to talk with doctors and make the best decisions for our situation with regards to health, happiness, and livelihood.

Medical treatments should be between the Family and the Doctors without the state dictating what's right or wrong & violating our freedoms.

Lorenzo Beas
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill is Harmful and puts our state on a very dangerous course of denying baesic civil liberties to individuals based on gender identity. We have many many challenges to our well-being as Texans I strongly urge you to oppose this bill so w as a state focus on real issues that affect real Texans rather than letting partisan opinions mandate the lives and health care access of millions of Texans

William Rickertsen
Self retired
Corpus Christi, TX

We support this bill. It is down right stupid to think otherwise. Thank you

Laura Davis
Self
Leander, TX

My child started her menstruation very early and it traumatized her. She had a very hard time accepting her physically mature status. She was very overwhelmed and had extreme anxiety. During this time she hating being a girl and said her life was over. She cried she wanted to be a boy; Felt their life was easier. I can not even imagine there are parents that do not understand the changes our little ones go through. My daughter is fine now but what if I'd affirmed her feelings?? No child should have to physically change to feel good about themselves. We live in a society now where men openly wear dresses. A child doesn't need permanent changes to be ok. Give them the time to find themselves PLEASE. I do not support physically changing a minors gender. EVER. Leave that to them to decide as an adult.

Roy Getting
self retired
Irving, TX

Children have no idea what sex is until they are older. Even then hormones tend to confuse them. Gender modification should not be available definitely for people younger than 18. It may even need to be over 30 to give young people time to realize God created men and women. All others are made up from dysphoria. Vote for this legislation for our young people's sake!!

Hayden Quren
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

I am a parent of one child and God willing will be a parent of more. I don't feel that as parent anyone should encourage a child to make sure a life changing decision which will effect them for their entire life.

I do know that the dysphoria with gender is an identity crisis and should be treated as one.

I believe that parents should be able to get their child therapy if they are struggling to love themselves as they were born.

These are children. They are too young and their brain hasn't even fully developed to make such a life changing decision on their body.

Dore Sulistyo
Self Homemaker/Former Teacher
Katy, TX

No tax money should be used for the purpose of contributing to the chaotic confusion, delinquency and chemical/surgical mutilation of any individual - most especially of an vulnerable minor child, and any such procedures must certainly be prohibited under severe penalty of law.

Kathy Young
self- disabled from vaccine injury
Friendswood, TX

You cannot change your gender. Our children are under constant attack trying to confuse them. Children have enough to deal with without being made to question their gender. There are so many who attempted to change their gender at an early age that regret it. Very sad stories. So many of them. Puberty blockers are NOT safe. We need to protect our children and let them grow up before they make a life changing decision. There are many who tried to "change their gender" who are now suffering permanent medical disabilities. This is INSANE. Children are not mentally developed enough to make these decisions. That is why there are many other laws that we have to protect them. We don't let children drink, drive, go to war, etc.

David Schorlemer
Self
Midland, TX

I support this bill. For the love of our humanity, stop this insanity.

Patricia Davis, Mrs
Self
Dayton, TX

I urgently and sincerely, with respect, request that the committee vote to pass this bill…please, let's not allow this diabolical agenda, of child mutilation/gender change to have any voice or consideration whatsoever for the State of Texas… and certainly not at Taxpayers expense! Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard!
Patricia J. Davis

Joseph Grimes
Self
SAN ANGELO, TX

I am AGAINST this

Diana Escamilla
self
Red Oak, TX

I Support HB 1686

Paul Elliott, Dr.
Self
Mesquite, TX

We MUST NOT allow ANY gender modification treatments of minors for ANY reason in the State of Texas!!

Antoinette Grasham
Individual voter
Ruchmond, TX

I want to protect children who are not able to make such a life altering decision until they are an adult . I agree with the limitations in this bill. I think that violations should count as child abuse and should have stiff penalties

Shirley Raven, Ms
Self retired
Richardson, TX

I support this bill.

Nancy Pace
Self- Rv park manager
Kenedy, TX

Please support the stop mutilating our children and do not allow using public funds for this brutality. Thanks for all your hard work! Support HB 1686

Martha Rasco, Austin
Self / Calligrapher
Austin, TX

I stand FOR this bill to be passed so that children will never be subject to these gender procedures. Please, please vote to protect the most vulnerable among us. . .our children.

Brittany Jenkins
Your mom
San Antonio, TX

I disagree with transgender procedures on children and I disagree with you idiots outlawing abortion. Get a reasonable person to make decision.

ELIZABETH CASTIGLIONI
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill and urge we protect our children

Susannah Schorlemer
Self
Midland, TX

I support this bill.

Morene Podlaski
Self
Frisco, TX

For

William Schorlemer
Self
Midland, TX

I support this bill.

Betty Cooke, Mrs.
Self
Richmond, TX

Public money should not be used for this. Actually gender is set by God. He doesn’t make a mistake.

Louisa Schorlemer
Self
Midland, TX

I support this bill.

Diane Johnson, Miss
Myself and many like-minded friends.
Austin, TX

Psalm 139:13-18 says that God very intentionally designed and formed everything about us individually and recorded it in His book, etc.. There are also many medical and psychological reports, and testimonials of the devastating ravages of gender altering procedures. A minor is not mature enough to begin to evaluate and understand the devastating long-term ramifications of such procedures. Therefore, I beg you to vote for HB 1686. Thank you!

John Francis
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am Against this

Larry Podlaski
Person above
Frisco, TX

I support the bill- no procedures

Carolyn Heckel
Self
Royse City, TX

FOR THE BILL

Linda Monroe
Self retired
Houston, TX

Please prohibit this terrible gender transitioning in children!

Carolyn Ladymon, Ms.
Myself
Garland, TX

Please support this bill for our children!

Cameron Schafer
self - salesman
Austin, TX

Voting against child gender modification. This life altering decision shouldn't be made by a child or for a child.

Estella McKee
Self
Raymondville, TX

I Vote and I support HB 1686

Wendy Hardin
Self
Keller, TX

I am for HB 1686- which will prevent abusing and harming children’s bodies. I am against this movement known as trans and HB 1686 will prevent young children from greeting harmed.

Joy Martin
Self, Homemaker & Homeschooling mother
Pinehurst, TX

I wish to express my support FOR HB 1686, which is needed to protect children in Texas from medical abuse by those with an aggressive transgender agenda.

Kenneth Sauter
Self
Garland, TX

Gender transition must be forbidden for children. It should be forbidden until age 25.

John Respess
Self, retired engineer.
Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill (HB 1686) and encourage you to keep it moving forward until it becomes law.
Thank you.

Patricia Larsen
Self /Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I am for prohibition of gender modification and monies for any of those transformations and procedures.
Patricia Larsen

Bianca Gonzalez
Self
Irving, TX

This is blasphemy!!!! This is demonic! This must be stopped, the woke ideology must end.

Dana LaRue
Self
Plano, TX

FOR this!

Lynee Pearson, Ms
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB 1686. Doctors should not be performing procedures, or giving drugs, to any minor who is not able to understand their own health care options!

Deborah M Wall
Self
San Antonio, TX

My name is Deborah M Wall, I live in Bexar County Texas. Thankyou for the opportunity to respond to this bill.
Much of the 'treatment process' for transgenders is not studied, vetted, nor researched adequately to even be called treatment. This condition is not life threatening, taxpayers should not be forced to pay for a condition that has not been debated and peer reviewed in the medical community. To have tax payers pay for unnecessary life changing surgery is to require us to acquiesce to the demands of those better served with mental health interventions- especially minors.
Thankyou.

Caryl Ayala
Concerned Parents of Texas
New Braunfels, TX

We are in favor of HB 1686. Please pass it through. Protect minors and leave adult decisions to adults.

Florence Phoon
Self
Allen, TX

We need to put an end to the practice of child mutilation under the false pretense of correcting their gender.

Elizabeth Boykin
Self
College Station, TX

I am vehemently opposed to any gender modification of children and the use of public funding to do so.

Victoria Jolley
Self - retired
Rockwall, TX

Please Support this bill

Amelia Buide
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support this bill because I strongly feel that any treatment, whether pharmacological, surgical, or otherwise (permanent or semi-permanent), should not be permitted for any minor child of any age, race, or creed until they themselves are an independent, self sufficient adult who can afford to pay for such treatment themselves. In addition, I strongly feel that no public funds should ever be provided for such treatments.

Annette Christopher, Mrs
Self/ unemployed
Austin, TX

I support this bill! I do not support using public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Melba Jeffus
Republican
Rockwall, TX

A person should be over 18 to submit to this procedure. It is a form of child abide for parents to do this to a child.

Christopher Millunzi
Self, retired
Katy, TX

Please PASS HB 1686 for the sake of children, parents, and the Great State of Texas. I and many of my friends know the practice of mutilating children must be stopped and certainly must not be public funded.

Mark Bates
Self - sales
McKinney, TX

I am against Texans under 18 getting gender transition surgery or puberty blockers.

Maya Trevino
Self
Austin, TX

This bill would have disastrous effects on the health, safety, and well-being of children in the state of Texas. This bill is a clear attack on the bodily autonomy of all people in the State of Texas. I do not support lawmakers trying to prohibit what people can and cannot do with their bodies. If passed, this bill will kill children. As it is, being a trans person is difficult in the state of Texas and, by going out of their way to prohibit gender affirming care to our children, lawmakers will have the blood of Texas' youth on their hands if this bill is passed. I do not support this clear attack on the bodily autonomy of our trans community.

Kassadee Rodriguez
Self
San Angelo, TX

I am against this

Gabriela Stephens
Self
Prosper, TX

I am definitely against allowing gender changes and especially using public funds. I am a born & Raised Texan that has always been proud to be a Texan. The thought of this even being considered makes me disappointed in our officials. Please let Texas stay a Moral, God Believing State.

Jennifer White
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am FOR this bill. We can NOT allow doctors to change the gender of any child. We need to STOP doctors from performing these procedures on children because it is child abuse!
There are so many issues, concerns and regrets once a procedure is started or completed for a child who is too young to truly know how it will effect their body. If a full grown adult wants to proceed with these types of procedures, fine. Let them but let them as a full grown adult but not children under 18. There are stories after stories of people who regret having taken puberty blockers or who have procedures done in their teenage years that never understood the full gravity of these types of drugs and procedures will do to their bodies and these mistakes are irreversible. They can't UNDO the DAMAGE! STOP these doctors and parents from harming their children!

Daniel Escamilla
Self
San Benito, TX

I Support HB 1686

Lisa Chantel Fruhling
Self
Austin, TX

Please support HB 1686

David Capper
Self; Physician
Benbrook, TX

In support of HB 1686

I am a physician, from a nearly 40-year career practicing medicine, and a father, grandfather, and a concerned citizen.
The basis of my testimony is straight-forward and based on biology, not sociology or social engineering. With exception of very rare genetic and morphologic disorders of embryology, the animal world, including humanity, is simply divided into two biological sexes, male and female. This distinction is determined in the organism's chromosomes beginning with the first cell- the fertilized ovum. From that cellular/ chromosomal/ genetic origin, every single cell throughout the lifetime of that being has the same chromosomal/ genetic makeup, with the exception of mutations. Even with mutations, the cells and chromosomes do not mutate from what is distinctly female or male- the presence of an X-X or an X-Y paired chromosomes; hence, biological sex is immutable.
The biological impact of growth and development stemming from the chromosomal (genetic) determinants are also distinct, expressing physical (phenotypic) and biological developments aligned with that sex. Even when the hormonal drivers are arrested, and non-biological hormones supplemented, as in with the administration of puberty blockers, the basic differences are not reversed; rather, sex hormone-responsive tissues are stimulated, such as the obvious growth of breast tissue. Men who are given female hormones do not otherwise become physiological, anatomic, females, such as growing a clitoris or a vagina or have widened hips or diminished bone mass and muscle mass, among the myriad of differences. It is impossible to change the sex of any animal, including humans, regardless of manipulation of hormones or surgery. Even Richard Dawkins, famed British biologist, in an interview with Piers Morgan, referenced the contemporary attacks on biology as "errant nonsense."
I wish to point out some facts, borrowing from Michelle Cretella, MD, the executive director of the American College of Pediatrics:
1 Twin studies prove no one is born "trapped in the body of the wrong sex"
2 Gender identity is malleable, especially in young children
3 Puberty blockers for gender dysphoria have not been proven safe
4 There are no cases in the scientific literature of gender-dysphoric children discontinuing blockers
5.Cross-sex hormones are associated with dangerous health risks
6.Neuroscience shows that adolescents lack the adult capacity needed for risk assessment
7 There is no proof that affirmation prevents suicide in children
8 Transition-affirming protocol has not solved the problem of transgender suicide
Gender theory is merely that, theory. There is absolutely no consensus among physicians and mental health professionals that the current mantra which places gender as the quintessential characteristic by which all others must be subservient, is scientifically sound. We need to be honorable and pass this legislation, as have other states & European countries.

Richard Heizer
Self
Weatherford, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686; I never thought we would be mutilating children (or anyone for that matter) to change their God-given bodies for the sake of their human "desires". I am ashamed of the medical profession that supports such actions just to increase their own "money streams". Please allow this bill to get a full-house review and vote and remove this from Texas. I want to know which of our representatives support such activity!

Shelley Montgomery
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Against using public money or public assistance to provide any gender reassignment treatment.

Jill Adolph
Self
Spring, TX

We must protect the health and well-being of children whose minds and bodies have not fully developed in order to understand their bodies and its needs. Other countries are ending this practice because they have already experimented on their population and have learned how detrimental it is to so many. Why are we not learning from their mistakes? The majority of people change their mind to transition once they enter adulthood. These are devastating medical practices that are permanent and debilitating. Not only should we protect the children by limiting what their doctors can do due to the patients age but such mutilation by doctors should be illegal. Only in global tribal communities have such mutilation existed for generations and our culture used to fight against such atrocities. Now we are blanketing them under “transgender rights” and being absolute fools to even consider allowing such practices. It’s not even logical or loving to submit our children to such horrifying acts.

Retha Franklin
US COURT SECURITY CONCEPTS, LLC
SAN ANGELO, TX

Agree

John Brenneis, Mr.
Catholic War Veterans
Lubbock, TX

There are only two sex. Male and female. Both are God given. Anything else is listening to the devil.

Christian Gabaldon
Self, student
San Angelo, TX

I am against this.

James Brannon
Self
Montgomery, TX

Please support HB 1686

Weldon Kennedy
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I completely oppose such a measure.

Deborah M Wall, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

My name is Deborah Wall, I am a resident of Bexar County Texas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinion on this bill.
Public funds should not be used for any transition medical procedure on a minor. The public has not been shown adequate data that this irresponsible medical procedure will cause any long term benefit to the child. A moratorium needs to be placed on this mass psychosis event to thoroughly access the child's condition and eliminate harmful social stimuli.
Thank you

Marissa Delgado
Self
Cedar Creek, TX

I support this bill 100% and pray for protection of our children

Liza Webb-McMichael
Myself
Austin, TX

For this Bill.

Robert McGee, Mr.
Self
Conroe, TX

I support SB 1686.

Jo Locke
Grassroots America We the People
Kerrville, TX, TX

Children are easily influenced therefore they must reach maturity before making life-changing decisions. Having a sex change on a child before 18 should be criminal.

Kareen Kido
Self, ministry
Pflugerville, TX

I strongly support this bill!

Nolan Shaffer
Self / retail
Cedar Park, TX

We were created male and female only. No parent, teacher, clergy, legislator, politician, role model, movie star, spokesperson, news anchor, coach, mentor, and medical person should EVER coach, pressure, allow, suggest, and make possible for them to have ability to change their sex by idea or through surgery. Such a massive life altering decision should never be allowed for anyone under 18 or adult it is self mutilation and should be considered as self harm. Those that condone it should have criminal charges against them. It is grooming by sexual predators to get the line closer to consent. Which is already in schools and taught through multimedia outlets. Please protect a childs natural birth be protected physically, socially, and mentally. Please be men and women who hold to some honor and integrity which is remembered and is higher than the society's always changing compass. If not yall will be judged for the lack of honor.

Alice Montano
Self
Mckinney, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. I do not support any child being able to mutilate both their mind and body. This is not okay.

Katherine Gross
Self, Research Associate
Austin, TX

My name is Katherine Gross, and I am in firm opposition to HB 1686.

Gender-affirming care is an umbrella term that encompasses both social and medical supports for individuals who are transitioning. For trans youth, this could include elements of social affirmation and transition, such as using their appropriate pronouns or a chosen name, and dressing a manner that affirms their gender. It could also include medical aspects, such as puberty blockers, exogenous sex hormones such as estrogen and testosterone, or (in extremely rare circumstances) gender reassignment surgery.

There are many data that demonstrate the health benefits of gender-affirming care. Take, for example, an analysis conducted by Stanford University of data from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Analysts examined data from a sample of 21,598 respondents who received hormone therapy, and a control group of 8,860 respondents who never received hormone therapy. Compared with members of the control group, trans people who received hormone therapy had statistically-significantly lower odds of experiencing severe psychological distress and suicidal ideation. Additionally, trans people who were able to access hormone therapy in early to late adolescence were less likely to engage in substance misuse.

Proponents of this bill regularly seek to generate public support through fear mongering, by exaggerating the prevalence of gender reassignment surgery. In reality, estimates from the Yale School of Medicine suggest that the number of top surgeries performed averages about 200 per year. Bottom surgeries, or surgeries on the genitals, aren't performed on anyone under age 18. The new Standards of Care from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health recommend the minimum age for top surgery as 15. Moreover, that proponents of this bill are so outraged at the thought of a trans teen receiving top surgery while raising no alarm about cisgender teens who receive cosmetic breast reduction surgery destroys any illusion that HB 1686 is about "protection." It's about eliminating the bodily autonomy and invalidating the identities of trans youth.

Proponents of this bill also argue that coverage for gender-affirming care is too expensive. In reality, according to expert testimony provided during Boyden v. The State of Wisconsin (2019), the estimated cost of coverage for transition-related care would be between four and 10 cents per insured individual per month. Surely, if Texas can justify a cost of $1,769 per resident each year due to societal gun violence, then the low cost of gender-affirming care should be deemed fiscally prudent by comparison.

In summary, I urge you all to vote in opposition to HB 1686. Trans youth are invaluable members of our community who must be afforded equal rights to access the healthcare services they need. The notion that this bill will "protect" them is ignorant at the very best.

Charles Welhausen
Self
Dallas, TX

Vote FOR

Kathy McClelland
myself, copywriter and mom!
Cedar Park, TX

Please support HB 1686!

There is evidence that medically transitioning a child does not reduce the rate of suicide. As a matter of fact, it has been documented that the suicide rate increases 7-10 years following an individual's transition. We also know that an individual's brain has not fully developed until around the age of 25. Children are not capable of making these decisions or allowing others to make it for them. Additionally, the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and gender reassignment surgeries result in permanent and harmful side effects including gynecomastia in men, chemical sterilization, osteoporosis, pulmonary micro embolism, vaginal atrophy, risk of hypertension, diabetes, permanent loss of normal sexual function and further mental health decline.

James Marini, Pastor
Self
McKinney, TX

IN SUPPORT OF prohibiting Transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and PROHIBITIONS on the use Of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Christina Cooper
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I am for this bill because I believe Gender Modification for children is extremely damaging both emotionally and physically. I have heard from people who have gone through this and regretted it greatly. They are emotionally distraught, their bodies have experienced unrepairable damage and they say they will never ever be the same! There is no way a child is mature enough to fully understand the risks involved in altering their gender!!

Alma Medrano
Self
San Antonio, TX

I would like to thank the authors of this House bill. I would like to express my support For profiting protection of the youth from the harms of Sex change.

Sarina Grasham
Self
Needville, TX

We firmly believe that minors are not capable of identifying themselves as a specific gender, and should not be encouraged as such. Their brains are continuously developing into adulthood.

I am for this bill, to protect the sanctity of a biological gender at birth. We also believe that we were created with a specific gender, for a greater purpose in this world, and we do not have authority to take this matter into our own hands.

Not to mention the difficulty so many children will face in the future generations as they seek to find a heterosexual sexual mate, having the gender identified by male or female reproductive organs at birth.

BettyJo Henderson
Self
Llano, TX

Please leave our children alone. Do not sexualize them, corrupt them, change their gender, steal their innocence, or physically, mentally, and emotionally harm them. Leave them the way God created them.

Jane Wall
Self
Austin, TX

I, and many others, are FOR the bill, as this decision should absolutely include parental involvement.
A minor is not allowed to drive, vote or drink, why should they be allowed to permanently maime themselves without parental involvement.

Teresa Thornton
self
Allen, TX

I am in total support FOR this bill. Children are not born into the wrong body, and they are certainly not mature enough to be making life altering decisions at young ages. Gender modification of minor children needs to prohibited!

Orlando Salinas
Self
Round Rock, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686 and I appreciate Rep. Oliverson for taking action to protect our children. There are ZERO longitudinal studies that illustrate the long-term effects or puberty blockers, and our children must not be guinea pigs for pharmaceutical companies. Furthermore, children do NOT possess fully developed frontal lobes, the portion of the brain responsible for reason and logic. This portion of the brain often does not reach maturity until the mid-20s. Our children are relying on us to protect them from irreversible bodies mutilation. Please stand firm in your resolution to protect our children and do NOT give into activists.

Jean Millunzi
Self / retired
Katy, TX

Please pass this bill. Children are born with a sex given by our Lord God.

Geri Becker
self Laboratory Consulting
Bulverde, TX

I stand in support of this bill and encourage this legislature to support this bill.

I believe that God created us: male and female . period.

Alex Sexton
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Parents, or guardians, know their children better than the state legislature. It is wrong for the legislature to dictate how parents/guardians should raise their children. The decision to transition is an important one that neither children, nor parents/guardians, nor providers take lightly. Passing this bill would condemn some trans youth to suicide; in a society such as ours where they already feel ‘othered,’ passing this bill only ostracizes them more.

Mikie Groscurth
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Do not allow children under the age of 18 to have their gender modified. Do not allow doctors or parents to start medication with that intent or surgery.

Candace Smith
I wanna my grandchildren!!!! follow?
San Antonio, TX

I vote yes! We must stop these procedures and treatments.

Leigh Crow
Self
Dallas, TX

Support

JoAnn McBride
Self
Longview, TX

I am strongly against this bill.

Jean Kenas
self
Carrollton, TX

I support this bill. Please pass it. I strongly urge you!!!

Jennifer Zarate
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Please support this bill and stop the insanity and child abuse of elective gender selection on children from adults. Children cannot get tattoos until 18 or enter into contracts until 18 for valid reasons.

Susan Hamilton
Self
Richardson, TX

It is wrong to alter any child's body forever on the basis of gender or sexual identity. Those are adult decisions and money makers for those who prey on the fact that those surgeries and hormones create patients for life.

Marieulla Cox
SelfHB
Sunset Valley, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686 and would urge the passage of the bill. Child gender modification is an experimental procedure that has long term damaging effects and is a decision that a minor is not mature enough to make. The State of Texas needs to do everything possible to protect children from these drugs and surgeries. Children who experience gender disconnect need to have counseling and emotional support rather than life altering physical changes.

Staci Koetter
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

Thank you for authoring this Bill to protect children. I pray that this passes!

Laurie Eder
Self
Victoria, TX

If I wasn't clear before, I SUPPORT passage of this bill.

Lancelot Clopton
Travis County Republican Party / and self - Retired
CEDAR PARK, TX

Please vote yes for HB 1686, our children, the future of the state of Texas and our country are in your hands.

Cynthia Burks
Self
Brazoria, TX

I support this bill to protect the children of Texas

Marcia Lyke, Wife/Mother/grandmother
Self
Austin, TX

Stop this insanity in the state of Texas!!
Boys are boys and girls are girls!
It is assigned by the God of Heaven and we have no right to even attempt to change a gender through procedures or treatments in ANY form. Public money should not be spent on such a ridiculous, ludicrous idea. As a citizen of Texas, I implore you, as legislators DO THE RIGHT THING!
Thank you!

Cynthia Alderman
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please register my support for this bill.

Chelsea Henry
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

Children should not get transition surgery! They’re not mature enough to make the decision to alter body for the rest of their lives! These children need protection.

Richard Henson
Self
Rockwall, TX

Please stop gender modification of minors

Linda Gremillion
Self /retired
Spring, TX

I am in full support of this Bill that prohibits the use of public funds to change a child's gender.

Jessica Martínez
Pastors Coalition of Texas
Brownsville, TX

I support this bill. When we look at it from a scientific standpoint there are no studies that transitioning children and removing healthy body parts, taking medication that chemically castrates them helps them in any way. Testimonies that I have researched show that these children still grow up with negative feelings, struggle with confusion and feel even more torment and regret. I would point to the public story of “I am Jazz” in TLC who is having an identity crisis after going through his sex change surgery and the story of Chloe Cole who is publicly speaking out and trying to hold doctors accountable for removing healthy tissue at 15, now at 18 she deeply regrets that decision. Please vote to protect children.

Kim Sturman
Myself / Ellis County GOP Precinct 1050 Chairman
Red Oak, TX

I support this Bill!! Dear God please pass this bill!!

Kathryn Sisk
SELF
Spring Branch, TX

I support this bill. Why?
Child “sex change” is medical and psychological abuse and there are no long-term studies suggesting otherwise. Basic biological human identity as male or female is destroyed. "Sex change" goes against God's law and against biology and nature.
Children are being sterilized and lose ability for normal sexual functioning. Massive explosion of sterilized youth - these children become dysfunctional & asexual. Again, going against God's plan of biology and nature.
Obscene profits are being made by providers and pharmaceutical companies at the expense of innocent lives, beginning with psychosocial “transition” and continuing through surgeries to remove
healthy body parts.
My faith and the faith of most Texans does NOT support this practice of abusing children.
I strongly support this bill and thank Dr. Oliverson and the coauthors.

Stephen Snodgrass
Self
Sherman, TX

I support this bill and ask my representative to vote accordingly.

Patricia Gallat
Self, retired
Missouri City, TX

Absolutely against providing young children any help in seeking gender transitioning! If they are not old enough to vote, buy alcohol or drive, they are certainly not old enough or educated enough to choose such a life changing decision. And at no point should taxpayers have to foot the bill!

Page Mitchell
Self
Sanderson, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Teresa De La Garza
Citizen
Princeton, TX

I am requesting to ban the bill on provisions for children to receive procedures and or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Kevin Tomsic, Dr
Self
Rowlett, TX

We have laws against genital mutilation. Reversing such laws for exception of mental illness under any DSM V category is not only misguided, it would be medical malpractice. There are no double blind studies to support efficacy of any gender affirming surgery. Any presumed reduction in suicide is based on anecdotal evidence at best, and data manipulation at worst. Please consider protecting the rights of parents of these innocent minor children...

Natasha Owens
Natasha owens music
Frisco, TX

Children are not born in the wrong bodies. They don’t have the wisdom or maturity to make this decision under 18

Amy Devine
Self
Lake Jackson, TX

I solupport this bill. Minors must be protected from this physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

Kerri Tropp
Self / Housewife
Wills Point, TX

I am FOR banning gender transition care for minors.

David Owens
Self
Frisco, TX

They have not the knowledge to understand what they are doing.

Anna Chen
Self
Katy, TX

I support this Bill HB 1686, do no harm to children.

Julie Thurburn
Self
Frisco, TX

Thank you for taking the time to read my request that you vote ‘FOR’ HB1686 to protect children from gender modifying procedures and treatments and prevent the use of public funds or assistance in said procedures and treatments.

Chelsae Childs
Self
San Angelo, TX

I don't believe any child is born in the wrong body and do not support any procedures or treatments that would alter their gender in any way. I will not financially support this mistreatment and abuse of children whom are not capable of making these decisions; for they are not done mentally and emotionally developing. I put a demand on our local, state and national government to put an end to this ludicrous act of hatred towards those unable to fully defend themselves.

David Alexander
Self/Business Owner
Houston, TX

I am for this bill 100%.

Dorothy Hablinski
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Susan Hamilton
Self
Pittsburg, TX

I stand against procedures that include the multilation of children's genetalia, especially when the child has not yet obtained an age where they can purchase liquor, or enlist in the military, and put their lives on the line. The only thing that can be correctly foreseen is that they will become mentally unstable as they mature and discover this cannot be undone. This is child abuse at the least, and creating a pharmaceutical and mental health bounty of money for industries that simply do not care about the children or the adverse future mental issues.

Mary Christiansen
Self— Occupation: Housewife
Plano, TX

For the Bill

Donald Davis
Self
Longview, TX

I support HB 1686 It's a crime what they are doing to the children in our country. It needs to be stopped!!

Eunice Ruiz
Self
San Benito, TX

I support this bill.
From a scientific standpoint, these certain procedures and treatments for gender transitioning will not have the desired effect in the adult years. Many have regretted these decisions and do not live happier lives.
If it is required to be 18 years of age to drink alcohol and serve in the military , why are children allowed to make decisions that are life altering?
Please vote to protect children.

Arveal Wimbish, Mrs
Ellis County Republican Assoc
Milford, TX

I support HB1686

Rion Jacobs
Self, retail supervisor
Waxahachie, TX

Vote yes. We must ban this practice, especially for children, and public financing for it. These acts must be identified as the sickness they truly are, and not normalized in any manner, especially by public officials or offices.

Robert L Green
Myself and my grandchildren.
Austin, TX

Where in the world are we headed as a society if our public schools can permit or even encourage sexual confusion in...and introduce adult topics to...completely undeveloped minds. If one has two X chromosomes (XX), you are female, but if you have a Y chromosome with the X (XY), you are male. Period! All K-!2 schools should exist to provide the an educational curriculum of basic knowledge in math, science and language skills, etc., in a healthy, orderly environment where learning and appropriate behavior is expected

Why do you think we have so many failing schools; and why do you think we are so far behind so many other countries in academic achievement? Sexually inappropriate materials and racially divisive "exercises" have no place in our schools. Period! Parents and teachers both have a job to do rearing up a child into productive adulthood, but age-appropriate discussions of gender and sex must only be left to the parents. "Teachers" who attempt to do otherwise do not belong in our schools; and they should be fired, lose their credentials and any pension.

karma Sweet
self
Red Oak, TX

I support HB 1686

Cristina Semler
Self
Celina, TX

I oppose this bill. The use of HRT SAVED my child’s life!
I believe the use of HRT should be decided between the child, the family and the doctor. Government does not need to be involved in health decisions

LaShandra McConnell
Self
Nash, TX

This needs to be pass

Sarah Kenoyer
Self - Stay-at-home mom
Austin, TX

Regardless of support or opposition of the population, the transition of minors should be considered based on the facts, not feelings. Chemical castration, irreversible sterilization, and affirmation of mental illness have not, and should never be considered anything that what it is, cruel and unusual. No other time in history has an epidemic like this taken place which is evidence of it being a social contagion. No other time in history has the loud minority manipulated culture and now is the time the legislature needs to determine the facts before bowing to the pressures and threats of the illogical. Please learn about the effects of these drugs like organ failure and lower bone density. Please compare the suicides rates of pre- and post- transitioned people. Wise people before us determined minors were not mature enough to drive cars, smoke cigarettes, have sex, or get married, or drink alcohol, none of which would render a permanent result. There is no logical argument to positively promote the permanent, detrimental, and horrific effects of these surgeries and drugs for any person. But, we have a duty to protect our children from themselves and if their delusion parents will not, you must.

Wendy Franco
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please ban and protect our children from these types of procedures that can be far more devastating later in life. They are not mature enough to make such district decisions

Cindy Middleton
Self retired
San Angelo, TX

Please please please support HB 1686. We must stop this insanity of mutilating Texas children.

Andrew Evans
Self
Little Elm, TX

I don’t support child abuse or endangerment. Anything related to affirming a child’s gender transition is child abuse and it is horrible. I urge you to ban child mutilation and support affirming scientific evidence that gender is decided during the gestational period of a babies growth and affirmed at delivery. Save our children from this woke indoctrination and wicked ideology

Thomas Kile
Retired Self
MIDLOTHIAN, TX

I support HB1686.

Amy Duggins
Self
GEORGETOWN, TX

For

Jordon Arnett
Self/CPLC
Mt. Vernon, TX

I oppose HB 1686.

Bruce Goodwyn
Self, Information Technology Worker
Corinth, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Albert Gordon
Self
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Do Not Introduce Legislation that provides for the mutilation of Children under the age of Legal Consent.

Mary Rios
Self, retired
HOUSTON, TX

I wish to submit my approval for this bill. Children are too young to make a qualified decision on mutilating their bodies. To have others do this for them is abhorrent. Please vote for the passage of this bill!

Jan Gentry
self, homemaker, Eagle Forum
Dallas, TX

We must protect our children. HB1686 does this. Children are emotional and must be protected from doing something they will regret in the future and there is no return. They cannot undo the harm they will have done by transgender mutilation. That is what
it is. When they become an adult they can do whatever - if they still choose. Please support HB1686. protect our children.

Lisa Kim
Church group
Frisco, TX

Support

Gail Hudman
Self
Long Branch, TX

I can hardly believe that we have to submit to you our support banning gender modification of children.
This is not only child abuse but taking advantage of those who cannot speak for themselves. You are holding these hearings in what could be the most liberal city in Texas, where it is very easy to show up for hearings and ignoring the rest of this great State as we cannot as easily make these hearings. We are expecting you to represent us and our children and grandchildren. All children should be safe in Texas. Ban pediatric gender modification

Melanie Heasley, Private citizen
Self machine operator
Fort Worth, TX

I do support this bill, adults I know have regretted getting gender reassignments. Children should NOT be able to do this under the age of 21. That should be provided by their PRIVATE healthcare. Public money & assistance should go to cancer or other LIFE THREATENING treatments. This in my opinion is NOT a life threatening but a choice.

Steven Schierman
self
Katy, TX

This bill needs to pass to protect our children. We don't allow children to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, even get tattoos before age 18 or 21. Like altering procedures that have long lasting consequences with no evidence they lead to better outcomes for children with gender dysphoria should not be permitted. There are no long term studies for negative effects of these procedures. As a physician I strongly support this bill.

Karen Mayhue
Republicans of Fairfield
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Virginia Mendez
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote NO for HB 1686. I have heard a couple of young ladies that realized what was done to their bodies and reversed their decision. One young lady Chloe said she will never be able to breast feed. Our God made us perfect!

Matt Mayhue
Republican
Cypress, TX

I support this Bill

Sheila Cheek
Self
Hillsboro, TX

Please think of the children when making your choice!

Leslie Romo, Mr.
Self
Georgetown, TX

I strongly support the passage of this bill. Our children must be protected from misguided parents and from those who would perform child abuse by twisted medical procedures. Thank yoy.

Concerned Citizen
self
Read, TX

Please exercise the precautionary principle and prohibit the transitioning of children. I cannot expect the protestors of this bill to follow reasonable thinking. This makes me leery of entering my personal information which could then be captured into a database. It isn't safe to publicly advocate to keep our children safe. So, please also find a way for us to submit our arguments without worry.

Andrew Thompson
Self-Landman
Midland, TX

The fact that reassignment surgery for children is even a debate is a huge red flag for our leadership in Texas. We have a mental health crisis and we are leading these kids down a path of a lifetime of health problems, physical and mental. If you are scared to stand up in the face of social pressure, leadership is not for you. Please stand up for these children.

Jason Duran
self, self-employed
San Antonio, TX

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 "for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'" Romans 10:13

Luis Melendez
Self
FARMERS BRANCH, TX

In support of prohibiting transgender procedures and treatments to certain children and prohibitions on the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Colleen Boytim
Texas Citizen
WILLIS, TX

The children in Texas need to be protected from the mutilation of their bodies before the age of consent. This temporary mental confusion of gender dysphoria usually passes after children mature beyond puberty. In the meantime, parents, with the help of the state must protect their children from hormone and surgical treatment that can never be reversed and leaves the child's body traumatized for life. They may later come to regret this decision when the reality of sterility, inability to breast feed or carry on a normal life as their birth identified gender. These decisions are life changing and not reversible as many who have de-transitioned now are finding. Protect Texas Children!!

Frederick Bullough
retired
Kingwood, TX

We strongly support HB-1686 and companion SB-14 and believe every Texas lawmaker should view protecting Texas children as the highest priority for our Texas legislature.
Fred & Margaret Bullough Kingwood, Texas 77339

Allison Massengale
Self -mother
Leander, TX

Children deserve to have a childhood and not be allowed by the medical system to mutilate their bodies - once they are adults they can make a more informed decision and they are free to choose for themselves. Kids are being transitioned without informed consent and they have no idea as to the long term consequences of their irreversible decisions.

John Bergman
Self
Midland, TX

The transitioning of minors goes against the core values of average Texans and is propagated by a small minority with personal agendas. Parents are responsible when their children misbehave and should likewise have control over radical surgical procedures. Minor children should not be making irreparable and life altering decisions prior to adulthood.

Tricia Richner
Self
Temple, TX

No person under age 18 or 21 should be able to make decisions that permanently alter their life's trajectory. Removing healthy body parts is sick and wrong. If adults make this choice, that is on them. But, no child should be able to access medical treatment that is damaging. Let them be kids.

Kayla Sargent
Self
Conroe, TX

Children shouldn’t be able to make gender reassignment surgery decisions

Anita Bradberry
Self
Austin, TX

Please support this bill. Children are too young to make such major decisions for themselves which will affect them lifelong! It is child abuse for parents to push for or actively support physically changing their child’s gender. I’m amazed that we are even having this discussion.

There are reasons children cannot buy cigarettes, alcohol, guns, and that they have to wear seatbelts! This bill is to protect children who may be confused about their gender and who mistakenly believe this is what will make them “happy.” Give them a chance to grow and mature physically and emotionally before making such a life changing decision for themselves.

Lori Davenport
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Teri Evans-Palmer, Associate Professor Emeritus
Self
San Antonio, TX

I refuse to support a HB promoting gender reassignment of any aged American citizen funded by taxpayer monies. The idea that gender can be modified is ridiculous and perverse.

Amy Fogle
Self, High School Clinic Asst.
Frisco, TX

Strongly oppose ANY procedure or treatment for children in regard to gender reassignment or transitioning, or gender dysphoria.

Mitzi Arenas
Self
Houston, TX

Please prohibit institutions/persons from allowing such detrimental acts to our children. Having to undergo such procedures or treatments is permanent and children are too impressionable to make permanent decisions for themselves. If you still have a godly conscience, or if not, a love for the the little ones, please do not pass such laws that enforce this upon anyone much less children.

Verma Givhan
Self
Seguin, TX

THE CHILDREN OF THE NAZIS' GENETIC PROJECT, this is what I am calling this fetish to experiment on children, and it is wrong and against Creation itself. But out society have glorified this experimentation, starting with the main stream media & in the very schools our children attend for 8 hours a day, being brainwashed day in & day out. I call upon you to stop this mutilation of our children & grandchildren. You were put in office to (Jeremiah 29:7) seek the welfare of the people...this is not seeking their welfare, but their destruction. So many teens and young adults who has had this procedure are coming out against it, because of the negative effects it has brought physically, mentally, and emotionally. The main stream media does not cover those stories, they suppress them because it doesn't fit their narrative. But these teens & young adults speak of being deceived by those who encouraged them to get this procedure done. I encourage you to look up the many stories, it is so very, very sad, but as I stated earlier, this "experimental" process is nothing more than an experiment on children and it's sick and wrong. I call upon you be the "gatekeepers," protect our children & grandchildren from the vicious wolves, seeking to destroy them & use them for their own purposes. ??Thank you for all you do for the good of the people of Texas. https://www.news-medical.net/news/20191007/Hundreds-of-trans-people-regret-changing-their-gender-says-trans-activist.aspx

Mike Hargesheimer
Myself
Midland, TX

I am in support of this bill. The government should be fighting against mental illness not helping promote and creating more mental illness.

Nikki Billington
Self
Sinton, TX

FOR THE BILL

Amy Fogle
Self
Frisco, TX

Strongly support this bill!
Strongly oppose any procedure or treatment for gender reassignment, gender transitioning or gender dysphoria

William Tuthill
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Phyllis McReynolds, Mrs
Self/teacher
San Antonio, TX

Please protect the children of this state by supporting this bill

Amy Fogle
Self, High School Clinic Asst
Frisco, TX

Strongly support this bill

Sally Zuniga, Mrs.
Self, parent & homemaker
Leander, TX

I support HB 1686 because children *are* minors, and their brains are not fully developed to make *permanent* and irreversible life decisions. I believe any efforts, including but not limited to counseling, treatments, procedures, for/on minors *toward* transitioning away from a child's biological sex are critically detrimental to their mental health and will continue to affect them negatively throughout their lifetimes. These negative effects affect not only the individual, but the families they're in and the communities and society at large. For thousands of years people have lived *knowing* they are male or female.

The reason *some* children (a minuscule proportion of the child population) are confused is likely because of social media influencers, kids trying to stand out and be unique among their peers, big pharma and a greedy medical industry are targeting them. There is serious money to be made by making permanent mental and health care patients out of these children. It is common for teens to feel mixed emotions during puberty. As most adults know these feelings pass as we mature and our brains become fully formed and the emotional and logical portions of our brain are completed. Children are naturally innocent, naive, and immature and the outside pressures they're being pushed to consider (gender reassignment surgeries) is an insane proposition for their immature brains. It is butchering of their bodies and stealing their opportunities for procreation as well as hijacking their emotional and physical states. These decisions are adult-level decisions. History, experience and common sense tells us this "craze" to transition is a fad. Unfortunately, it destroys many even with the decision of few.

Noel Bradshaw
Self Retired Manufacturing Engineer
Round Rock, TX

I implore you to reject HB 1686. Situations pertaining to this bill are very complex, and as such, the decisions should be left to the family to decide.

Chad Davenport
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Tamela Davis
Self - Teacher
Melissa, TX

This is morally & ethically wrong, & the public tax should never provide the funds to make this happen! Not only should it not be done, it especially should never be done on youth, before their brain is fully developed & and are finding themselves, their worth, purpose, etc. Public funds should definitely NOT be used for procedures while they're struggling, or ever!!

Sherry Lazor
Self
Richardson, TX

I do not believe that anyone should have the authority to provide gender dysphoria to children under the age of 18 without consent of parents.

Gina Ottavio
Manager
Anna, TX

Abortion was made a daily and routine method of birth control. Nearly 99 percent of abortions are due to personal laziness and lack of responsibility for one's body. Killing an innocent baby is NOT an answer. There are many after birth options for adoption available. Stop saying it's okay for complacency in self control!

Kathy Hille
Self- retired
Austin, TX

I urge you to vote for this bill. Children are not capable of understanding the long term effects this type of surgery will have on them. These surgeries can permanently sterilize them and cause significant health issues. Those who undergo these treatments will be on hormones for life and negatively impact their health. Children with gender confusion need mental health counseling and not surgery or drugs.

Cathy Marable
Self. Retired.
Clarksville, TX

I support Bill 1686! It protects children!

Valerie Milner
Self; user experience/information architect
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I am for parental rights and treating all Texans fairly. I am for individual liberty and I don't believe the government has any business in dictating healthcare decisions that have no impact on the greater population. I am stunned and dismayed that the lives and well-being of one population of Texans is being prioritized over another. I am insulted that my state's government is using language such as "protecting the children" in arguing for a bill that would deny life-confirming healthcare. I am ashamed that the state of Texas is participating in such fear-based and hateful rhetoric and frustrated that this is the kind of nonsense taking up legislative time and money when the state clearly has much higher priorities to address. I support and celebrate my LGBTQ+ friends, neighbors, loved ones, as well as strangers, in their desire to live freely and equally, as God intends for all his children.

I listened to hours of testimony on this bill yesterday. I believe we are all made in God's perfect image, but that image is not about a body or two discreet genders. I do not believe God makes mistakes. I am a cisgender, heterosexual Christian woman who does not believe that another human who does not identify as the gender represented by their genitalia is any kind of mistake. Quite the contrary. Who is anyone to presume that God did not create our trans friends in exactly his/her/their perfect image??

Janell Richardson
Self
Round Rock, TX

I support HB 1686 because I believe Gods Word is the authority in our lives and to act against His authority is to think we are god. God made male and female and it also says His Creation is good. Also, these drugs that are being used may have life long health effects, both physially and mentally. Minors do not have the maturity level to make these decisions and may resent making this decision when they are older and wiser. There are testimony of those who have made these immature decisions and have lived to regret it tremendously.

Mike Sears, Mr.
Self
Plano, TX

Stop the craziness. Please vote for HB 1686

Gail Beyrle
Self
Plano, TX

You must vote for this bill. We must protect our children. No child is born in the wrong body.we must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Larry Kortkamp
Self
Murphy, TX

I am FOR this bill

Janet Cook
Self
Midland, TX

God assigns a child's gender - not man! The transgender "craze" being pushed in our nation is ludicrous and dangerous!

Jatonna Morgan
Self
Mckinney, TX

I'm for 1686. God puts people in the right body. He never makes a mistake!

Kylee Kelley, Mrs
Self
Anna, TX

HB 1686

Kimberly Galland
Self-CPA
Bryan, TX

I support this bill and am against ANY treatments to children for gender transitioning or the use of public funds. It is wrong to allow children to undergo these life-altering treatments before they are fully developed and able to think about the life-long consequences. I was born a female in 1963 and went through a period between 8-10 that I wanted to be a boy. I dressed like a boy, cut my hair off and pretended I was a boy. I loved boy toys and thought they were cool. Like most kids, I grew out of it and thankfully these options were not available to me. I am a mother of 3 grown children and a grandmother of 10 beautiful girls. We celebrate their uniqueness and beauty created as women and I would never want them to experience the horrors of gender modification or reassignment.

Amy Fogle
Self, High School Clinic Asst
Frisco, TX

Strongly support the passing of this bill

Cynthia Ryan
Self, concerned parent
Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1686. I am very concerned about the overall long term health of our precious children who are undergoing transgender treatments. Confused and hurting children need our love and support as they navigate turbulent emotions and social media mixed messages. They do not need life-altering treatments and procedures that are not adequately researched. We have an obligation to protect them first, just as any parent would try to protect their minor child from harmful choices regardless of how the child may feel about those choices.

Angie Thor
Self
Mansfield, TX

Please protect our children. If they're not old enough to drink a beer, they are certainly not old enough to make this life changing, no redo surgery. We should be addressing the mental health issues in our country. As we have become more and more "tolerant", we are seeing more and more mental health issues. We were created with order. As we begin to blur the lines between truth and "feelings", it is more disturbing for children. PLEASE provide some level of stability. Of sanity. Focus on mental health. Not on the destruction of the body that is unrepairable!

Kathy Burke
Self/author
Austin, TX

FOR the bill!

April Laird
Self, real estate
Fredericksburg, TX

This is a life and body altering surgery with serious health implications forever. Why are we allowing minors to do this, before their brains are fully developed to fully understand the consequences of this surgery? This is child abuse and child mutilation. Kids pretend to be all kinds of things, including superheroes, trees, bugs, etc. but that doesn't mean we turn them into one. If they aren't old enough to drink alcohol or serve in the military or get married, why are we letting them mutilate their bodies? We have lost all common sense. This is pure insanity.

Melinda Clements
Perceptions Ministry
Dublin, TX

I am For this bill!

Angela Daniels
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR

Christine Roberts
Myself
Cypress, TX

I don't support mutilating children!

Lynne St Angelo, Retired Teacher
Self retired
McKinney, TX

Children under the age of 18 are not allowed to drink alcohol. That is a much less dangerous thing than having a mastectomy. If an adult wants to carry through with gender reassignment and pay for it themselves then they have every right to do that but children are not cognitively developed enough to make a life altering decision like this and their parents are often bullied by counselors into thinking they must do something for their child's happiness. We are seeing already many young people who realize that the body they were born with is really who they are but cannot reverse the damage done by the drugs and medical procedures. PLEASE VOTE FOR this bill.

Chris Young
Self
Garland, TX

Please pass this bill HB1686 to protect the children of Texas!

Linda Claiborne, Mrs
Luke 4:18
Austin, TX

A vote for this bill

Jason Asnes
Jason Asnes
Austin, TX

This should be up to the parents of these children, not legislators.

Ron Milner
self
Dallas, TX

Some legislators seem to really care about the very small minority (around 1%) of transgender individuals who regret their transition choice, while completely ignoring the well being of the majority of individuals who benefit from gender affirming care. This is disingenuous. Legislators should leave decision making to the parents, doctors, and individuals.

The idea that individuals choosing to transition are doing so frivolously is absurd. It is an extremely difficult life to live, full of sacrifice, danger, ostracization, and fear. And yet, it is a choice people are willing to take because it changes their lives for the better, even with all the negatives that come with it.

Restricting access to this kind of care is a simply a shameful attempt to try to cancel the trans community by disguising it as caring about a few people who regret their decision. If legislators actually care about these people, they should go out, meet a few people, and see what a difference it makes in their lives to be who they are. Then ask them how their life would be if their rights were taken away.

Who is actually made better by these restrictions? If legislators are honest with themselves, they would know that this doesn't benefit the people that they are supposed to be serving. Legislators should care about the people they are serving who are actually personally affected be this, and not the loud voices of so many who have nothing to do with it.

Please show kindness in this harsh world.

Teresa Walker
Self, retired
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Mike Martin
Self ups driver
Allen, TX

For

Melinda Clements
Self / Teacher
Dublin, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Stephanie Faust
Parent
Leander, TX

Just worried about these kids.

Thomas Klein, Precinct Chair
Precinct 140, HD 61, Collin County GOP
McKinney, TX

Procedures, hormone blockers & hormone supplements to alter the gender appearance for biological males or females less than 18 years of age are a danger to them and should be unlawful in the state of Texas.

Chad Sellers
Self
Georgetown, TX

I support this bill.

Denise Sachse
Self
Mckinney, TX

No to gender modification
No to public money to pay for these procedures

Sharon Doyle
Self
Georgetown, TX

Gender modification is wrong and no child should be allowed to make these decisions that will permanently cause them harm for the rest of their lives.

Rita Dyer
self, ret.
San Antonio, TX

I support. this bill. We must protect children.

Jack Finger
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for the bill.

Jessi Tung
Self
Midland, TX

Please ban transgender reassignment of children in Texas.

Josie Tejada
Self
Garland, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. It is crazy to think that people actually would do such things to children. It is child abuse to mutilate children's bodies and stop their natural body growth. Children are too young to decide such things and if they do it is because of social media or peer pressure adults telling them that they are in the wrong body. Please help stop this. Thanks for your time.

Meghan Fairbanks, Ms
self
Houston, TX

Since I was not allowed to testify:
Madam chair and members of the committee. My name is Meghan Fairbanks, I'm from Houston, & I'm here representing myself and I'm here to register my opposition to HB 1686. I believe that this bill is politics invading medicine.

First, I would like to answer a question that's been asked of multiple witnesses before me.
What is a woman?
Me. I'm a woman. Not only am I a woman, but I'm a proud transgender woman.

I'm not going to quote studies and statistics. I'm going to tell you about one person. Me.

I am 51 years old. This is the part where you say, OMG Meghan there's no way you're that old, you look so good for your age.

I would like to personally rebut the argument of "social contagion" or "clusters". Frankly, there's a specific word I'd like to use for that, but that word got Dr Hotze kicked out of here a couple of weeks ago.

I was 13 years old the first time I had the thought that I wish I had been born female. Feelings that I know now were gender dysphoria. I can assure you, I truly felt like I was the only person in the world that felt that way. I was not groomed. I was not indoctrinated by Tumblr. This was the mid 80's. A time when the internet did not exist. A time when being a member of the LGBTQ community, especially as a youth was ostracized.

I did not grow out of it. It is not hyperbole for me to say that I had those thoughts multiple times a day, *every* *single* *day* of my life for over thirty years. I literally laid in bed at night as a teenager praying to God that I would wake up in the morning as a female. Imagine what that has to feel like. That lead to things like depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. And even assuming that the idea that the majority of trans youth grow out of it, this bill would seek to remove health care for 100% of those children. Is that not child abuse?

I would never wish gender dysphoria on another person with the exception that I would want you to know what it feels like because if you did… We wouldn't be sitting in this room right now debating this bill.

The only relief I ever felt from those feelings of gender dysphoria was after I started my transition and after I started hormone replacement therapy at age 47. It's hard for me to put into words the feelings of relief that I felt. Once I realized that burden that I carried for so many years was finally being lifted…. Putting those feelings into words is difficult to do, but the best analogy I have is that it's like being in prison for a crime you didn't commit, and suddenly being freed.

Post transition, I feel so much happier, more confident, and I actually love the person that I see in the mirror now. I can only imagine how my life would be different today had I had access to the modern care that didn't exist when I was a teenager. My only transition regret today is that I didn't do this sooner in life and I want trans youth to be afforded the opportunities I did not have.

Elisabeth Smith
self, attorney
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. As an attorney for a practice representing healthcare professionals such as doctors, state lawmakers DO NOT BELONG inside the doctor/patient relationship. Physicians take the Hippocratic Oath to do no harm extremely seriously, and doctors providing this type of care are NOT doing harm. Patients and/or patients' guardians are part of the medical process in determining the best course of action and treatment for each individual patient. Everyone deserves healthcare, and "everyone includes" transgender persons. I DO NOT support this bill.

Michael Fisher
SELF
ABILENE, TX

Please accept this as SUPPORT for this bill. These surgeries and treatments should be illegal to be performed on children in the State of Texas. Please pass this bill!!!!

Mary Anne Clark
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

I am a mother of 3 teenage boys. My family and I moved here from Los Angeles, CA where we saw first hand the negative effects of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning and reassignment. It wreaks havoc on the body and the mind. I had a male friend (adult) who decided to undergo these treatments and procedures at the encouragement of his partner. He went through physical pain and the toll it took on his mental health is unbelievable. In the end, his relationship ended and he was still in the process of transitioning. He went into depression and halted the medications and procedures. It took him into deeper depression and he is now suffering from medical complications from all of the things he put his body through. We knew a lot of teenagers who also started taking hormone suppression drugs. Again, we failed these young people who are naturally going through the ups and downs of being a normal teenager. Couple that with the side effects of these drugs and you have teens who are suffering from depression. My boys had classmates who were taking these drugs during the furnace years of 11, 12, 13, when the reproductive system is undergoing so many changes. Please don't open Texas to this. Let's protect everyone from these dangerous procedures and treatments. Thank you to all of you who are in office serving the people of Texas.

Nicole Goddard
Self business owner
Leander, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. They are innocent children and they are learning. My little brother wanted to be a cat for a few days. That doesn’t mean he should have surgery to make him look like a cat! He’s now a grown man and happily married. And he no longer wishes he was a cat! Children pretend, imagine and learn as they go. They go through phases as they understand life. No permanent changes should happen until they are grown adults and sure of who they are and what they want out of life. It’s the same reason kids don’t get tattoos! They may like My Little Pony today but they would regret that tattoo when they are adults!
Kids should be free to learn and grow without having very permanent consequences to temporary thoughts and phases. Performing these treatments and procedures on children is abuse and no public money should be used to harm innocent children! Let kids be kids. Let them learn and grow. Let them play. But don’t scar them for life or ruin their perfect bodies just because society has confused them or caused them to doubt who they are. They are perfect and loved just the way they are! Please don’t hurt children. Let Texas be a state that protects innocent children from parents who don’t realize the permanent damage they are causing! Please!

Shea Thompson
Self
Midland, TX

I am writing today in support of HB 1686. Insufficient scientific study has taken place to determine the long term consequences of gender reassignment and use of hormone blockers. It is very disturbing to hear that the medical establishment is telling gender confused young people that gender reassignment is reversible, implying that there are no permanent consequences when that has not been proven true. It would be such a shame to rob a gender-confused person of their fertility and sexual function due to the mishandling of gender dysphoria. These decisions are not age-appropriate and should be made once the child is an adult and can fully understand and handle the consequences of that decision, especially given that most young people with gender dysphoria eventually outgrow the condition. Of greater note, the Tavistock Clinic, the pre-eminent gender reassignment clinic in the UK, has closed its doors and is being sued by 1900 of the 19,000 patients. This should be an alert to us here in the US and in the State of Texas. Transitioning and reassignment has not proven to be the most compassionate nor the most effective treatment. Gender dysphoria should be handled as many other mental health conditions, with compassion and with empathy, but guided and dictated by proven science. The treatments have not been adequately tested and vested as to the long term harms on young people and they must be protected from theirselves until they are old enough and wise enough to understand and until the long term repercussions on overall health, fertility and sexual function are fully known.
With respect,
Shea Thompson

Eileen Kenehan
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please vote yes and protect our children.

Marco Mah
Self - Senior Publishing Producer
Hutto, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children.

George French
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Ennis, TX

Do not allow public funds to be used for procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria.

Jennifer Lopez
Self, small business
Abilene, TX

FOR

J.J. Brewer, Mr.
self, Business Development Executive
Round Rock, TX

I am in full support of this bill and call on all the Texas House members and Senators as well as the Gov. of Texas to take action on this bill and pass it into law. The future of our state literally depends on this bill.

Crystal Dietrich
Citizen
Buchanan Dam, TX

I am for this bill. We need to stop the abuse of minors, period.

Malena Southworth
Self
ALEDO, TX

I am strongly in favor of prohibiting gender transitions of minors in the state of Texas. Children can't vote, most can't drive, can't get a tattoo or consent to a myriad of things — these children also are unable to mental and emotionally understand the long term ramifications of gender reassignment treatment, be it hormones, therapy or surgery. This kind of "affirming" care teaches our children they are a mistake, they were born in the wrong body, there's something wrong with them rather than teaching them that they were divinely created, all people feel insecurities at some point, they are normal, there is nothing wrong with them. We are engineering mental illness by bombarding developing bodies with foreign chemicals and hormones with no long term studies to the physical and mental side affects. It's evil, criminal and self-serving to politicians pandering for more votes. God creating male and female. And He doesn't make
Mistakes.

Barbara Denson
self
Houston, TX

It is unconscionable that children are having this done to them. Please make it stop.

Lisa Fogle
Self/Human Resources
Leander, TX

I support this bill.

Deana Banda
Self teacher
Elgin, TX

Support this bill. We must protect our children.

Ron Schoof
Self. Retired
McKinney, TX

This bill must be passed to protect all our children.

Jeremy Henry
Self
Abilene, TX

Support/for

Barbara Isaacs
Self
Fairview, TX

I support HB 1686
Minor children do not have the ability to make adult permanent decisions. Please protect our children from medical predators.

John Heisner
Self. Voter. Retired
McKinbey, TX

If an adult desires sexual change surgery, it is an adult decision. So be it.
A child who is not yet mature, does not understand sexuality, and has not completed adolescence, puberty, or matured does not have the ability to intelligently make such a decision. An adult who thinks they are helping a child by pushing or endorsing such a change is wrong. Just because a boy has some effeminate characteristics or a girl some masculine ones is no reason to push them into drastic, disruptive, life changing surgery. Children are super impressionable and go through difficult phases. We should protect them from radical decisions until they have grown up. We say you need to be an adult to decide about drinking, smoking, marriage, handling guns, driving….. yet we'll let a 10 year old take puberty blockers and have their sex organs removed if they think that is what they want.

Please. Forget the politics. We all know this is wrong for children

Araceli Perales
Self, homemaker
Round Rock, TX

For the bill

Tia Throop
Self
Abilene, TX

I am FOR this bill. No minors should be able to make life altering modifications to their bodies. Their brains have not fully developed, especially the critical thinking area of the brain. Experts say the brain is not fully developed until people reach their early to mid 20s. Please support this bill and protect our children. Let them have a childhood to enjoy.

Karen Coskrey
Self
Dublin, TX

Children have to wait until they are 18 for a driver's license. Be 21 for alcohol. Children need to at least be an adult/old enough to make an informed decision. And why does the public need to pay for this?? They didn't pay for my cancer treatments.

Charles Byrn
when first opened
Abilene, TX

Please protect the kids.

LaVonda Miller
Self
Somerset, TX

Please acknowledge my support for HB 1686 for the protection of children and minors in the cruel and a U.S. or practice of allowing mutilation of their bodies in the practice of changing a child's biological sex before they have reached adulthood. This practice, in my opinion is cruel and unusual treatment of one of the great State of Texas resources, our young people. I overwhelmingly support Rep. Oliverson in his bill to stop this in our state.

Randy Putz
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support the goals of HB 1686, to protect our children from damaging and irreversible harms as they grow towards adulthood.

Georgia Reagan
Self, retired
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR prohibiting gender changes before age 18

Patrick Hudson
Self
WILLIS, TX

The thought process behind the sexual alteration of the body of any person that God has created is a Satan driven idea and will in all likelihood result in a life full of misery. No child should be harmed in this manner!

Shawn Harlan, Ms
self
Stephenville, TX

For

Kim Campbell
Self, teacher
Dallas, TX

FOR prohibiting gender transitions of minors. They should be an adult before deciding this life altering change.

John Parrella
self -Technology Executive
Round Rock, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children. Thank you for not bending to the tiny minority driving irrational woke agenda items.

Teresa Dear
Self, small business owner, notary
Round Rock, TX

This should not be available to minor children. Adults can do what they want to their own bodies, not to minors.

Diana Passini
Self, title abstractor
Farmersville, TX

If children are not capable of making adult decisions then how is it right for them to make a decision to change their, gender? Insurance companies should not be forced to pay for gender transitioning or reassignment in any child, it is absolutely wrong to force them to do so. There are so many people truly in need and public funds that could be used to help should not be used for gender transitioning in children. Please allow children to be children and stop allowing doctors, teachers and others to push an agenda. Just because a little girl is a tomboy or a little boy is sensitive it doesn't mean they want to change genders. Please protect the children of Texas by passing this bill.

Charlene Murphy
None
McKinney, TX

We must stop the madness that a person can change their gender!! It is not possible!! Lifelong issues associated with gender modification.

Charles Lamping
self, civil engineer
Frisco, TX

I support this bill and HB 4754 from Rep. Tinderholt.

Lara Logan
Self, independent journalist
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR prohibiting minors from changing their gender. This is pure child abuse. They should be adults will fully formed brains for making this decision.

Jeffrey Laird
Self, tech sales
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR prohibiting minors from altering gender. This is child abuse and mutilation.

Cheryl Zouzelka
Self, Self Employed
Dallas, TX

“I am FOR HB 1686. Thank you for passing this bill out of committee ASAP. “

Krista King
Self
Grapevine, TX

I am FOR this bill. No child is born in the wrong body. Leave our kids alone.

Sharon Rettmeier
Self
Mckinney, TX

I Support the bill and am IN Support of prohibiting the use of public money or assistance to provide these procedures and treatments

David Grant, Dr.
Arklatex Assessment
Texarkana, TX

I support this bill. As a psychologist.

Wesley Reagan
Self, retired
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR prohibiting minors from having a sex change. This is pure evil and child abuse. They should be 18 at least before making that life altering decision.

Viviane Marioneaux-Maguire Marioneaux-Maguire
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am For HB 1686

James Sargent
self; self-employed
Abilene, TX

Myself and my family support HB 1686 to prevent gender modification (mutilation) to be performed on the youth in our state. We need to protect those whose voice has not developed at the state level yet. Why are there adults wanting to cut, harm, and physically alter our kids? PLEASE PASS HB 1686.

Russell Stewart
Self/Business Development
Montgomery, TX

Strongly support.

Patricia Belodoff
My Family
Round Rock, TX

"Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children."

Terra Haynes
Self
Portland, TX

The body a person was born in is not a mistake. Their is a contingency of evil trying so hard to destroy our children. Medical transition is an illusion; you create an illusion of the opposite sex but there is no such thing as changing genders it cannot be done. It is nothing more than a cosmetic surgery; however, the results are forever and devastating. Children should not be subjected to the whims of adults. Please protect our children. If by any action on your part or lack of action, you cause a child to stumble… You will literally have hell to pay! That comes from the best source in the world, the Bible. Please support house bill 1686. Thank you!

Heather Fowler
Self
Argyle, TX

WE SUPPORT THIS BILL! Please
protect our kids. We cannot allow kids to be given Chemical castration drugs, drugs that harm/ mutilate their bodies and we cannot allow our kids to be caused bodily harm by removing perfectly healthy body parts-masked as “gender affirming care.” THESE PROCEDURES AND PUTTING THESE DRUGS IN KIDS IS CHILD ABUSE!

Joseph Burkett
Self, retired military
Fredericksburg, TX

FOR prohibiting gender changes of minors

Maryjane Manning, Mrs
Myself
McKinney, TX

Vote yes on HB 1686 and protect the children

Lori Wann
Self
Van Alstyne, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Jane Fuller
self
Plano, TX

No child under 28 should EVER have these treatments let alone allow tax-payer money to be used to provide these treatments!!! Please know that I am against these procedures and ask that my representative vote against HB 1686!

Justin Kenoyer
Self - Day trader
Austin, TX

This is what I wrote:

Regardless of support or opposition of the population, the transition of minors should be considered based on the facts, not feelings. Chemical castration, irreversible sterilization, and affirmation of mental illness have not, and should never be considered anything other than what it is, cruel and unusual. No other time in history has an epidemic like this taken place which is evidence of it being a social contagion. No other time in history has the loud minority manipulated culture and now is the time the legislature needs to determine the facts before bowing to the pressures and threats of the illogical. Please learn about the effects of these drugs like organ failure and lower bone density. Please compare the suicides rates of pre- and post- transitioned people. Wise people before us determined minors were not mature enough to drive cars, smoke cigarettes, have sex, get married, or drink alcohol, none of which would render a permanent result. There is no logical argument to positively promote the permanent, detrimental, and horrific effects of these surgeries and drugs for any person. But, we have a duty to protect our children from themselves and if their delusional parents will not, you must.

Martha Dunson
self, mom
McKinney, TX

No person is born in the wrong body. Allowing puberty blockers/hormones and genital mutilation causes irreversible damage to confused children and will not alleviate their mental pain. Please vote FOR this bill and stop the sterilization and mutilation of Texas children.

Paul Mitcham
Self
Houston, TX

Stop destroying our children’s health.

Brittany Evans
Cornerstone Presbyterian Church
Frisco, TX

FOR the Bill

Weston Laws
Self
Tuscola, TX

I am in SUPPORT of this Bill! Children are a product of their environment. Their minds can be molded by things they are subjected to at an impressionable age. We do not let children under certain age limits vote, drive vehicles, buy restricted items, go to war, etc.. So why would we let them to make a life altering decision to mutilate a part of their body when their minds are not mature enough to comprehend what they're doing?

Please vote in SUPPORT of this Bill!

Casey Burgess
Myself
Dallas, TX

We should not allow anyone under 18 to be persuaded by a well meaning adult or counseled to alter their bodies chemically or physically given concerns raised by medical research over the benefits/risks of this form of treatment.

Paul Belodoff
self
Round Rock, TX

"Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children."

Lisa Rawls
Self
Tyler, TX

For

Elisabeth Steves
self musician
Houston, TX

We, your constituents, need you to acknowledge that the phenomenon of being transgender is a congenital, biological variation in the brain, much like left-handedness. It has been scientifically documented, though additional research is indicated to learn more about the many degrees and sub-variations of the congenital variation. It never has been a choice, but living with these differences, whether or not one receives the benefit of current medical technology, results in an extremely difficult social position into which youth are not capriciously ensnared. This spectrum of inborn differences is confusing and potentially traumatic to live with, and requires considerable persistence and fortitude from those affected to obtain relief in the form of supportive counseling and medical treatment. Seeking therapies, whether medical or psychological, for this set of variances already has reasonable safeguards and does not benefit from additional legislative restriction. The path forward to wider understanding of this relatively rare variation is more research, not obscuring existing documentation with opinion. To waive, suppress, or inhibit medical intervention to those affected is not in the best interest of those whom you have pledged to serve. Understandably, these inborn differences might be invisible and difficult to understand from the perspective of the majority which is not affected. You, as leaders, are called upon to take the high road, bear that which is difficult to understand, and stand for this small percentage of your constituents who have bravely and articulately spoken for themselves, and found their own way to access appropriate treatment for this personal issue. Thank you for your service.

Kim Peelo
Self
Liberty Hill, TX

For the bill

Brenda Modesitt
Self / Entrepreneur
Arlington, TX

FOR / Our children must be protected against any of the gender reassignment treatments or procedures immediately. It is detrimental to our whole society and the use of public funds is criminal! Thank you for supporting this bill:)

Asa Dennis
self; Chick-fil-A team member
Little Elm, TX

Plainly stated, mutilating children's bodies and doing irreversible damage to their bodies via hormones and chemical castration is child abuse. While young minds are developing and puberty gets confusing and uncomfortable, there are medical professionals ready to swoop in and convince these children that they were born in the wrong body. They then remove the perfectly healthy body parts of these young kids for a quick payday. You all have a responsibility before God to put an end to this evil - before more innocent children fall prey. God has promised that he will judge rightly on the last day and you will have to answer for your decision on this matter. I implore you: uphold justice and protect Texan kids!

Terra Bruder
self, lead application developer
Houston, TX

My name is Terra Bruder. I live in Houston, Texas and my zip code is 77007. I strongly oppose HB1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same rights as everyone else.

The claims made by the proposing members and the bill's supporters are in direct contradiction to the well-documented opinions of medical experts with greater credibility on this topic. Those opinions are echoed by the major medical organizations the experts comprise: transition care saves lives; rates of regret are lower than those of common medical procedures like lasik; children with parents and adults who support their self-reported gender identity have superior mental health outcomes; and gun violence is the greatest risk to American children.

The conflation of the by-definition fascist political ideas of Christian Nationalism with public health is patent rejection of Texas' great history of protecting individual liberty. It is a shameful smear on the record of our elected bodies, more akin to the dehumanizing Confederate period than the open individualism of the Grange mentality.

This conflation is a cancerous form of self-harm. It forces Texans to flee their homes for access to basic human rights protected by numerous international treaties and basic tenets of the social contract. Moreover, it is a great risk to the economy of our great state. In a world where the civil liberties do and must extend to LGBTQIA+ folks, non-Christians, followers of the true and uplifting message of Christ, and the families of those impacted by such legislation, companies have an ethical responsibility to avoid doing business in states and territories with oppressive theocratic regimes. No amount of feigned concern for children will dilute this fundamental reality. Companies will abandon Texas because their employees can't thrive here. Events and conventions won't be held here. Innovative talent will leave. We know this because it has happened before, in other states with this sort of regime.

Members of our great bicameral have an ethical, moral, and fiscal responsibility to reject this bill. Its proponents have abandoned the principles of a modern, thought-leading state, and have an ethical responsibility to step down from their elected seats, effective immediately. We must give no quarter to theocratic fascism dressed up as public health. We must respect the autonomy of Texan parents and kids, and the hard-earned experience of their medical providers.

Reject HB1686 without hesitation.

Charles Ratliff
Self
Richardson, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Timothy McKenzie, Dr.
Self - COO
Sugar Land, TX

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill to protect precious Texas children from cultural insanity, modern day child sacrifice, and from incurring irreversible harm by those who have pledged to first "do no harm."

Thomas Wilkins
5220 Cliff Haven Drive
Dallas, TX

I am adamantly opposed to tax-payer dollars going to support ANY form of gender modifications and/or treatments. Please move this Bill forward and support it.

Patrick Martin
Self
Plano, TX

Please, in the name of common sense, stop this insanity. I'm not even a religious person and know gender reassignment for children is twisted and dystopian!

Nancy Groves
Self
Colleyville, TX

We need to end this mutilation and child abuse now in Texas

Kelly Mirabella
Self
Celina, TX

I opposed this bill. Stop focusing on actually helping kids. Start with banning assault rifals!

Brandi Schumann
Self
Keller, TX

Support

Ashlee Stites
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Mary Ellen Jackman
Self
Cypress, TX

I strongly support this Bill!

Kristia Leyendecker
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Please, please, please do not pass this legislation. This is NOT protecting Ch listen but harming a population of children. This is a small fraction of public funding that can maintain the health and life safety of a group of children who need support and love and reinforcement. This bill is cruel and spiteful and discriminatory.

Jacob Garcia
Self
Midland, TX

To my Representatives I am in favor of this bill.

Brittany Bazaldua
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Tommy Hays
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I am for this

Tara West
Self
Deer Park, TX

FOR THE BILL

Nancy Brown
self
Arlington, TX

I believe any kind of gender reassignment is against God and is wrong. Most especially when this is done to children who are not equipped to make such a decision. We need to help children (and adults) to understand it is wrong and that they can be helped in other ways so this "mutilation" is not necessary.

Alix Bartolomei
My person thoughts as mother and grandmother.
San Antonio, TX

We must stop all legislation that involves sex alteration in children. Children are too young to understand the long term effects ! I oppose this bill vigorously ! Alix Bartolomei

Brenda Helmer
Self, a tax paying citizen
Fort Worth, TX

STOP THE MADNESS … this “treatment” is child abuse … stand up for the children, our most precious commodity… please vote YES to deny provisions for gender transitioning in ANY form … where are the adults?!!!??

Vickie Cambron
Self
Conroe, TX

Please support this bill. Don't let minors be mutilated.

Daniel Buzzard
Self, project manager
Georgetown, TX

I am in favor of this HB1686 limiting gender treatments on minors

Madison Haines
Self
Lubbock, TX

No child is born in the wrong body.

Kevin Brownlow
Self/ Engineer
San Angelo, TX

Stop the madness / Do Not Harm

Carol De Leon
Self/ teacher
Houston, TX

I vote in FAVOR of HB 1686! No public tax monies should be used

Downie Mickler
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB1686 - our household is in favor - please vote yes

Rebecca Ressler, Mrs
self
Houston, TX

FOR/SUPPORT the bill

Diane Pax
Self/Teacher
Leander, TX

I support this bill. Our children are our future and we need to protect them from this craziness. Thank you for writing and bringing up this bill.

Wenlian Zhang
Self
Allen, TX

I support HB1686 .

Janice Hall, Mrs
Self
DeSoto, TX

I am for Hb 1686.

Kim Morrison
Parents of trans children
Santa Fe, TX

Let parents care for their children. There is enough medical advice when it comes to these kids.

Sheri Riddle
Self
Lubbock, TX

I’m FOR this bill. We must protect our children from those who will inflict life altering damage to the physical and mental health of anyone who is not a self supportive adult.

Deborah GINAC
A citizen
Austin, TX

Ban gender modification for children in Texas!!

Karen Meyers, Mrs.
Self, Texas Educator, Retired
Plano, TX

We must absolutely prohibit these procedures and treatments in our great state for minors under the age of 18, because we care about our future Texans!

Melinda Zaragoza
n/a
Sugar Land, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature. Legislature's personal opinions and beliefs should stay out of law making. They work for the people and we the people are speaking against this. Thank you.

Jennifer Carter
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Children are not old enough to make these decisions. My tax dollars should not be use to mutilate children!!

Jon Pendergrass
Citizen
Northlake, TX

I support HB 1686 !!!!

Janet Coleman
Self
Houston, TX

Please do NOT allow minors to undergo life-altering surgeries! This is tragic and so dangerous!!

Laura Robinson
Self/Family
Spicewood, TX

FOR/Support this bill

Charles Allen, Mr
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please do not use children with gender dysphoria as a political weapon. The American Psychiatric Association recognizes this as a legit condition. Please allow parents and their doctors to make the decisions regarding the health and well being of their children. Texas parents shouldn't have political bullies singling out their children. Also, as a side note, there are babies born everyday intersex. They are born physically representing both genders. These children and the children with gender dysphoria deserve medical care without politicians singling out their struggle for their own professional brinksmanship. Anyone who spent time on a playground in their childhood knows there was always effeminate children and there have always been bullies who tormented them. If you do pass this bigoted, and hateful legislation it will be easy to remind constituents of their time witnessing the torment of weaker kids on the playground. Republicans appear to be singling out the weakest among us, our children. Please stop this hateful and cruel legislation. Thank you

Nivasha Howery
Self
Garland, TX

Leave medical care to the professionals and to parents. Transition-related care works to address mental health issues associated with gender dysphoria — the distress someone experiences when their gender identity doesn't match the sex assigned at birth. Not all transgender people experience gender dysphoria, though depression and suicidal ideation are often worsened by the discrimination and stigma transgender people face. Parents are involved in making decisions about the practices and treatments that make the most sense for transgender children. Doctors overwhelmingly follow a care timeline recommended by major medical associations. Many recommend waiting until a trans child can give informed consent, usually around age 16, before beginning hormone therapy.

Michelle Reynolds
Texas resident
Bellaire, TX

I am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill.
We have pressing matters for which public money need to be spent, like the education of our children, the protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must not spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.

Tamara Bennett
Self
Southlale, TX

I support HB1686

Amelia Frank, LCSW
Self - social worker and human person
Austin, TX

I could write about the ways that gender-affirming care, including non-surgical, non-permanent treatments like puberty blockers and hormone therapy, are shown to support trans children's emotional well-being and healthy development, but the evidence base is well documented enough that I doubt that children's well-being is what this bill is actually about. I think this bill is about the ways that all forms of queerness, especially the queering of gender identity and norms, feel threatening to the authors of this bill. They say change is the only constant in life, but change brings uncertainty and instability, and tradition in many ways provides the illusion that some things will never change. Traditional gender identities and norms give structure to families and communities, and give us a road map for interacting with one another. Traditional gender identities tell us what we can expect from one another, and what kind of person we should be striving to be. Queerness is a way of living outside tradition, examining traditional norms and determining whether they are aligned with an individual's values and goals. Queerness creates paths in life for people who aren't served by traditional norms. Acknowledging that there have always been queer people, and there have always been trans people, and allowing space for them in society, means acknowledging that traditional social structures have always been at best arbitrary, at worst created to oppress, and that there are alternative ways of living that are valid and healthy. To people who do want a more traditional life, this can feel threatening, can force them to examine their life and their values in ways that aren't always comfortable. This is understandable, real self-reflection is often uncomfortable. What is not acceptable is to exterminate a class of people in order to make another class of people feel more comfortable. This bill attempts to forcibly halt the process of social change, and to insist that to live in Texas means to live in the past. I don't always like it either, but change is inevitable. And punishing children for reminding you that nothing is guaranteed is cruel and cowardly.

Shannon Braun
Self
Colleyville, TX

Support

Suzette Young, Mrs
Self/occupation-engineer
Houston, TX

I vote for bill. We should not support changing a minors body. God knows what he is doing and doesn't make mistakes. And too many of these minors regret it when they grow up, it's so sad, we need to protect their bodies as minors.

Anita Kunneman
Self
Colleyville, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

David Pedigo
Self
Seminole, TX

This bill needs passed .

Cassandra Engelman
Self
Zephyr, TX

I am very much for this bill. Prohibited use of public money for such procedures AND prohibited the said procedures in under age sex changes in which person was born. Please stop this madness

Suzanne Tucker, Mrs
Self, wife of retired USAF 06
Farmersville, TX

II am not in support of these procedures and not in support of public funding for them.

Jennifer Ballard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support HB1686

mingjing zhang
self
austin, TX

i support hb 1686

Natalie Genco
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support 1687. Stop mutilating our children and stop using our children for the sinister agenda of adults.

Beverly Howard
Self - retired educator
Helotes, TX

I agree on the prohibitions of these procedures for children preferably until 21, but at least until they are 18.

Desiree Deck
Self
Woodville, TX

Children are not responsible for making such a huge decision that is irreversible. I as a tax payer do not support these procedures or treatments morally or financially. We have so many age limited laws in effect and this should be one of them and honestly I don’t even think it should be an option.

Troy Noack
Self / Maintenance
Anahuac, TX

Please help our children in this crucial time. Let them be children and do not encourage false agendas, meant to injure them permanently.

Emily Chambers

Myself and the vulnerable trans kids in this state

Beaumont, TX

How long will be too long? i'll tell you win how long will be too long will be when trans kids start killing themselves because you thought you were in a better position to make decisions for their healthcare than their parents and their doctors how long will be too long when the greatest minds in the country who just happened to be trans don't come to Texas and choose to innovate here because of your shithead decisions how long will be too long? When a trans person gets murdered for taking a piss in peace in the bathroom. You screwballs have a lot more important things to be worrying about with your time. Perhaps you could start to fix the energy grid that killed multiple people just two years ago because it didn't work when the state froze over. Maybe you could help improve our education system, which is sorely lacking compared to the rest of the country. You know that school system you're just so proud of. Maybe you could clean up the air or improve our roads you know stuff that actually matters to all Texas citizens, regardless of their own personal political beliefs. Sometimes it feels like you people aren't worth the air you breathe because you're too busy trying to take mine. You need to leave us alone!

Barbara Langston, Mrs

none

Fort Worth, TX

T

The procedures and treatments for gender tr
ansitioning, gThnder reassignment, and the use of public money or public assistance to provide for the procedures and treatments.I am also opposed to abortion. i

Jennifer Pendergrass

Self

Northlake, TX

I support HB 1686

Troy Dunson

Self

Lakeway, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children.

Tonya Donaldson
self - System Administrator
Wylie, TX

I would like you to oppose this bill. As a transgender woman myself, I have experienced gender dysphoria my entire life. I am now 43 years old and have only been living my authentic self for the past 2 years. I have been the happiest I have ever been in these last 2 years finally having the courage to live my truth. When I came out, I mistakenly believed that all the anti trans issues from lawmakers was behind us, unfortunately I was wrong. I don't understand why you would want to deny happiness to people who aren't like you. Can you explain it to me please? Gender affirming care of minors is important and there are numerous studies that show it is life saving. Kids aren't just walking into a Dr's office and requesting hormones and getting them, or requesting surgery and getting it, that is all lies being spread. There is gatekeeping that happens to try to protect those getting the gender affirming care. It does not hurt YOU to allow these kids, along with their parents, and trained medical professionals to receive the care they need and deserve. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), has guidelines that the majority of providers follow as best practice care. If you feel the need to legislate trans healthcare, maybe you should ensure that providers are following those guidelines and best practices rather than trying to ban the care outright. But since I feel this will fall on deaf ears because you've already made up your mind, what's next? Are you going to go ban all Trans healthcare? Re-enact sodomy laws? Where does it stop? Will you require tests of religion to participate in government? What right do YOU have to choose
what is best for others as long as it isn't infringing on the rights of others? How does a trans person infringe on your rights?

I also have 2 cis-gendered daughters. I love them with all my heart, and I would try my hardest to ensure the best medical care was given if either of them had any health related issues as I hope you would as well. I do not wish being trans on anyone, you have no idea the pain and internal struggle that comes with something like gender dysphoria. I don't want kids to be trans, what I do want is for kids that ARE TRANS to be able to receive the care that they need. So please, for the health of ALL kids in TX, oppose this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Patti Hatton
Self
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children.

Kenneth Kasper
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am writing to express my support for this bill HB 1686. There is an evil that is sweeping the land. It is not the first time in history that this kind of evil has taken hold but we need to be aware of it now and do our best to stop this. Children are being manipulated by the culture, their misguided parent's and especially the psychiatric "so called professionals". Basic biologicals truth is being manipulated to make all lies acceptable. When we denying basic biology we are denying nature and the truth and purpose of human existence. I ask you to please support HB1686 to put a halt to this insanity at least at the most impressionable stages of life. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sigrid Cima de Villa
Self/banker
San Antonio, TX

I am For this bill 1686 to be made the law. I am for legislation to prohibit children's mutilation procedures and treatments for trans gender changes. Stop this horrific evil.

Elizabeth Dunson
Self
Lakeway, TX

These are CHILDREN- who don’t even know what life is about yet! They can’t make these kind of decisions at a young age.

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children.

mingqin zhang
self
austin, TX

i support hb 1686

Lonnie Sawyer
care center ministries
dallas, TX

Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

Julie Gray
Self/Realtor and Mom
North Richland Hills, TX

I support HB1686!
Please fight to protect our children.

Jenny Chao Chang, Mrs.
Parent
Austin, TX

For the bill
No child is born in the wrong body.

Jud Scott
Self
Bee Cave, TX

We strongly support this legislation to protect children from gender transition mutilation and permanent harm. The interest group which opposes this bill has no science to prove its position; in contrast, there are multiple reports and studies which confirm that young children normally grow out of any gender confusion they may encounter and go on to o normal development.

Permanent changes to young children who do not even have the full capacity to understand these issues of their consequences are child abuse.

None of these procedures should be allowed upon children and should be prohibited until a patient is 18 and an adult, and is also fully informed of the irreversible consequences of such procedures.

Please pass this legislation from your committee snd to NOT yield to pressure from the special interest group which has an agenda which does NOT have the health snd long term welfare of our children as their goal.

Thank you.

Lisa Fabian
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

Jack Wilson
Self
Austin, TX

Good morning,
I am the father of a non-binary child. I am cis-gendered. I grew up in Texas, in Austin and Kerrville and have lived here most of my life.

In all my years, I never thought I'd see the party of small government, the party of individual liberty and choice, take such an active and destructive role, interfering with families and their decisions to be made with medical professionals. It is absurd that reps, with literally no medical training, are questioning years and years of medical and psychological research- in an effort to reach into the nuclear family and decide for parents and children how to raise their children and live.

There is a plethora of real- life threatening -perils that our citizens face on the daily- this not even remotely close to being one of them.

It would benefit the people of Texas most, if the Legislature would resume actual governance- and stop punching down for political gain.

Sarah Hissin
Arlington Residents for Inclusion (667 members)
Arlington, TX

This bill is disconnected from everything medical and psychological sciences tell us about trans people. It is harmful to a trans community and it takes away the rights of Texas families to choose with their doctors what is best for their children. This puts trans people, and especially are trans youth in danger. Don’t claim you care about our kids impasse, transphobic bills like this one

Anneka Harding
None -private party
North Richland Hills, TX

Our children are much too young to be making life alerting, irreversible decisions. Our children need mental help not mutilation. The long-term effects of puberty blockers, gender reassignment surgery, and hormones are fatal. Our children need psychological intervention. When our children become adults if they receive any of the above listed "help" to transition to a different gender, they will most likely be sterile, barren, unable to experience sexual pleasure and connection. Please do not allow our children to destroy themselves before they have a chance to live. Help them to accept their bodies, not destroy them.

Dinah Huthnance
Self
Houston, TX

FOR/Support this bill

Cathy Patton
Self
Houston, TX

Please protect innocent children and prohibit surgeries to castrate , mastectomies and any other bodily altering procedure including hormone modification. I vehemently support HB 1686

Anita Ford
self - programmer
Kyle, TX

This was not in my original testimony plan, but I do want to speak a moment as someone who has experienced several periods of suicidal ideation in my life. I am concerned by some of the rhetoric during the hearing that seemed to say that reductions in suicidal ideation among children receiving gender affirming care is somehow not important. That the only statistic that should matter is the suicide completion rate. I find this narrative horribly offensive. I can tell you from personal experience that suicidal ideation is terrifying. It's lonely. It's exhausting. It's harmful. It is not something that should be dismissed as unimportant.

I was raised in a very small town in Parker County, in Representative Glenn Rogers district - who is one of the coauthors of this bill.

Growing up, I went to a school with absolutely zero *out* LGBTQIA+ students, teachers or staff. For those who were suspected of being gay, they were the subjects of vicious rumors and bullying.

On Friday nights, you could find us grabbing the best burger in town at the FFA booth at the high school football game. And every Sunday morning you would find my whole family together in the pew at church.

Though I was raised in the Catholic faith, I was "saved" by the Baptists in middle school at the conclusion of a teen lock-in my friends invited me to.

My father is an 20-year Air Force veteran who went on to work for General Dynamics, and my mother was a stay-at-home mom, youth soccer, basketball and softball coach before getting a job at the school when I was a teen.

I did my undergraduate work at Texas A&M University and concurrently worked at and earned an MBA from Texas Christian University.

All this is to say that I imagine parts of my upbringing and lived experience is somewhat similar to many of you on the committee.

I grew up in the pre-internet era in a town that is somewhat isolated. Like Dr. St. Amand said in the hearing, growing up I wasn't aware that trans people existed. While his first encounter seeing and learning about trans people was affirming - he saw himself and finally had a name for what he felt, I will admit that my response was very skeptical. I could not wrap my brain around how my gender was anything but how I was raised my whole life, and I didn't understand how anyone else could feel that way, either. But I was able to stop and think, to seek out and and to truly *listen* to trans people and their loved ones.

My life is absolutely richer for the transgender people that I call my friends and colleagues. Texas is absolutely richer for the transgender people here today and for those throughout our state. When they speak about their experiences growing up and living in their bodies and navigating this world, I LISTEN, and I believe them, and I hope that you will too.

Please do not advance this hateful legislation.

Pam Schwab
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill.

Linda Fields
Self
Katy, TX

I'm supporting this bill. Our children need to be left alone. Enjoy playing games & having no pressure on them about who they are in God's eyes. Remember their innocence.

Rebecca Jones
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Casey Ballard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Jill Hartman, Mrs
My home, family and community
San Antonio, TX

I am very much for Houseville 1686. Preserving the health and peace of mind for my family, friends, and my community at large.

Alice Perkins, Ms
Mesamies LLC - Investing - Owner
Austin, TX

Please VOTE in FAVOR of this bill. We must protect our children These decisions are adult in complexity Please keep our children safe from facing the life altering stress that the pressure of this bill would bring to their lives

Peggy Teague, Mrs
TXAPN
Anna, TX

Do not pass Bill #1686

Timothy Hurst
Self
McKinney, TX

Support this bill. No person is born in the wrong body. We just prohibit gender modifications for minor children.

Kelly Pichon
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill having been a registered nurse , private sector mentor of youth and mother of 3 children . First do no harm . This bill is usurping the authority of parents and ignoring the very dangerous evidence that does exist and not taking into account the very reasons children have supervision and authority figures to love and guide them, to protect them , even from themselves ! Woe to whoever supports minors being allowed to make these crucial decisions about their lives and bodies !

Kimberly Nielsen
Sell, LPCA
Waxahachie, TX

Children should not be experimented on. Not are they mature enough to make life altering decisions like this. If we say they aren't mature enough to drink until they are 21, how can we say they are mature enough to altar their gender? I stand for this bill to prohibit the mutilation of our children.

Debbie Black
Self
Keller, TX

SUPPORT

Cathy Keto
Messiah Lutheran Church
North Richland Hills, TX

I SUPPORT this bill

Kay Agnew
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am FOR HB1686. While it is easy to sit quietly and trust those whom I have elected, the time for easy is long gone. Those who have pushed the agenda to mutilate the bodies of our children are driven by money and greed, and not by the best interest of those children. Puberty is a time of confusion as one seeks to discover their role in our world. No child at 13 has the wisdom to make such a life altering decision. And many decisions made at 18 are regretted at age 40. This madness must be stopped, and I am positive that the majority of Texans support the passing of HB1686.

Karin Dunker
Self/mom and grandma
Benbrook, TX

STOP hurting our children! Instead of legislating our children, how about fixing our gun laws and protecting our children so that they can become adults? As a parent and grandparent, I know what is best for my family. Stop stepping on and stealing my ability to care for my family.

Brenda Potts, Mrs.
Self
Belton, TX

I support / FOR HB 1686. Our children our precious to us and it has always been our responsibility to protect them until adulthood. To encourage children to do physical harm and in many ways irreversible surgeries when a young child or youth's brain is not fully developed is unthinkable. We do not legally allow children to smoke, drink, get tattoos for these very reasons. European countries are now pulling back on gender transitioning and gender reassignment surgeries. I know of a law suit in which a young girl was given a mastectomy at a young age not fully understanding the consequences, but she did it because of adults directing her to do this. She now realizes as an adult that was a mistake and she believes she always was female but went through a phase of questioning her identity. Counseling would have been the correct therapy for her. I ask why are we allowing our children to be sacrificed so quickly to what appears to be the money making business of Transitioning drugs Surgeries and their medical doctors. Let children continue to image themselves as dinosaurs, monsters, soldiers, ballerinas, boys and girls. They will understand their true identity in time and not under the pressure of adults grooming our children into what these adults want to see in the world.
I'm asking you to vote FOR HB 1686. Save our children.

Shannon Hurst
Self
McKinney, TX

Support this bill. No one is born in the incorrect body. We must prohibit gender modification for minor children.

Candice Corley
My family
Houston, TX

For/ support the bill

Lisa Hudson
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill. We need to protect children and truth. Putting legs on a fish will never make the fish a dog. A woman can never be a man and a man can never be a woman.

Jonathan McKenzie
Self
Houston, TX

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill to protect precious Texas children from cultural insanity, modern day child sacrifice, and from incurring irreversible harm by those who have pledged to first "do no harm."

Tammy Nakamura
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686 which prohibits the use of state money to do this to kids.

James Jones
self
Bryan, TX

Every cell of my body has DNA that says I am a male. Surgical altering and drugs won't change that. I thought I wanted to be a girls sometimes when I was a child. I am glad there was no option then and that I now would never want to change. Temporary confusion should not override permanent and real gender. Children must be taught that they cannot change their sex even though surgery would make it seem so. I support this bill.

Pamela Sorrells
self-retired
Fort Worth, TX

This proposed bill is the beginning of the medical discrimination of children. Next will be making it illegal to treat transgender children for any medical necessity. The proposed bill is the start of discrimination of all peoples that are not white, religious and poor. Oliverson should be ashamed of his bill targeting children.
BTW...from AP: Nearly 800 convicted sex offenders in 14 states got Medicaid-funded prescriptions for Viagra (search) and other impotence drugs, according to a survey by The Associated Press.
The majority of the cases were in New York, Florida and Texas.

Debra Heiden, Mrs.
Self
Allen, TX

Please vote YES FOR this bill--we need to protect our children!

Linda Steakley
Individual
Spring, TX

For and support of HB 1686

Sonny Rios
Self
Cedar Hill, TX

Please do everything possible to see that this bill prohibits the mutilation of children.

Nicole Estrada, Mrs.
Self
McKinney, TX

Proverbs 24

3 By wisdom a house is built,
and by understanding it is established;
4 by knowledge the rooms are filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.
11 Rescue those who are being taken away to death;
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.
12 If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,
and will he not repay man according to his work?
13 My son, eat honey, for it is good,
and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.
14 Know that wisdom is such to your soul;
if you find it, there will be a future,
and your hope will not be cut off.
15 Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous;
do no violence to his home;
16 for the righteous falls seven times and rises again,
but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.
17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls,
and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles,
18 lest the Lord see it and be displeased,
and turn away his anger from him.
19 Fret not yourself because of evildoers,
and be not envious of the wicked,
20 for the evil man has no future;
the lamp of the wicked will be put out.
21 My son, fear the Lord and the king,
and do not join with those who do otherwise,
22 for disaster will arise suddenly from them,
and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?

Paul Carlisle
Self
Lakeway, TX

I completely support HB1686. This is a very important piece of legislation that is necessary for the protection of Texas children.

Joanne Doering
Self
Georgetown, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Jimmie Crawford, Esthetician
Self
Ovilla, TX

I support bill HB1686

Margaret Evita Kemmer
Evita Kemmer - Orange County Precinct 3
Orange, TX

I support HB 1686 to protect our Texas children from sex change surgeries, mutilation and permanent sterilization.

Patti Elliott, Mrs.
Christian Taxpayer
Houston, TX

Me and my family are STRONGLY FOR this bill!
I can't even believe we have to talk about it. Our children need to be protected from this very evil agenda.
This bill must be passed!!

Mike Oakley, Mr.
self
Grapevine, TX

I support HB 1686 wholeheartedly. We must protect our minors in Texas from permanent mutilation and chemical castration.

Charli Shaw
Self
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will damage the mental health and well-being of the trans youth in this state. It will under teachers and parents in providing care and support for those children. And it will embolden others to possibly hurt trans folks.

Look at the science. Not religion, not personal experience or feelings, look at the facts. Look at the statistics of homeless trans youth. Look at the hospitalization rate and murder rate of trans folks. Look at the number of qualified doctors currently available. It's alarming.

I also don't see how we can be simultaneously empowering parents to take over educational choices but we can't trust parents to provide healthcare for their children.

Sarah Bunn
Self - marketing
Fort Worth, TX

I very much support this bill and cast my "vote" to see it passed.

Ralph C Todd
Self Retired
Long Branch, TX

I support HB 1686

Janie Kelley
Myself - Lifelong Texan (Retired)
Temple, TX

FOR/Support the Bill
Children are being used & abused in horrific ways by adults who greedily seek profit. Please pass laws that will prohibit further procedures & treatments that will harm our precious future.

Natalia Kulas
The Public
Spicewood, TX

FOR the Bill!

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Gambrill H Wagner, Mrs.
Self and my family/children
Houston, TX

I am a Texas citizen and I support this bill. With so many other pressing demands for public resources in our great state, there is absolutely no reason to spend public money on this. Matters of gender identity, and dysphoria our private concerns that should be handled within a family with advice from licensed medical professionals and as a personal matter. Mutilation of children should not be state sanctioned or paid for.

Teresa Simpson
Self
Mckinney, TX

I urge the Hunan Services Committee to pass this very important HB 1686 to the full House for a vote.

All children need to be protected as a human being with the body that God has given them. They need to be taught how to love who they were created to be. Not a feeling inside. These children need to be respected and taken care of and should not have to even think about such confusion.

Linda Norman
self
Lubbock, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been studied. The medical community must uphold their oath of "do no harm".

Whitney Sanderlin
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Support this bill!! No child gender reassignment or treatment under age 18

Joe Thiebaud
WCRP
Bridgeport, TX

SUPPORT

Billy Hendon
Self - Accountant
Lewisville, TX

Please do not pass this bill! The state government should allow parents and health care professionals to decide how to best take care of their children. And the State should not encourage hate to an already marginalized group.

Peggy Nicholson
None
Houstin, TX

What!!!! Why would anyone allow someone to mitigate a child who hasn't a voice? When they are 18 perhaps they can chooose hit themselves if they want gender changes. No one should be able to choose this life altering thing for a child. They deserve to become adults and make their own decisions .

Scott Young
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. We should not be using tax dollars to change a minors body. God is in control and we shouldnt be stepping in.

Ashleigh Thomas
Self
Cypress, TX

I am supporting this bill. We have more pressing matters that need the money to go too.

Tennille Caulkins
Self
Katy, TX

The state has no business making medical decisions for anyone, much less for a child. Parents and their child's doctor should be the only ones making those decisions. Texas boasts being a state of independence, but consistently takes rights away from women and members of the LBGTQ community. DO BETTER!

Dana Ruiz
self, pharmacist
League City, TX

As parents, we all want what's best for our children and this is no exception. Prohibiting these procedures and treatments does not allow full access for parents to be able to help their children. I would go to the end of the earth for my child and I know everyone that sees this would do the same. Please reconsider this bill as it prevents parents from receiving access to help their child to their best of their ability.

Ashley Burnett
Self
Bullard, TX

Against

John Doughtie
Self
Houston, TX

Stop gender modification treatments of minor children!

Blanca Luna
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am deeply opposed to this type of legislature. Families should be receiving support from their experienced doctors and therapist - NOT deterred or penalized!

Emilie Rezendes
Self/ Student
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill.

Sharon Taylor
Self
Lewisville, TX

Support

Regan Snyder
Self- assistan manager
Colleyville, TX

I support this bill

Heather Thomas
Self
Cypress, TX

I am against any procedures and treatments and drugs etc being done on children for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria and in the use of public money etc. I believe it is child abuse and should not be allowed. It is irreversible so can’t change when they change their mind.

Lisa Glenn
Self
Leander, TX

FOR and support of this bill. No child should be put through any changes of their body. These are children that haven’t even developed and
Matured to understand what they are going through. This is insane that parents and daughters cries would allow this. Stop this madness

Patsy Abbott
self
Grapevine, TX

I am registering my SUPPORT for HB 1686. Texas must say a resounding NO to gender reassignment or transitioning for minors. Let them decide as adults after their minds and bodies have matured enough to make those decisions. Look at how many regret what they've done.

Kristi Phillips
Self
Belton, TX

FOR/SUPPORT THIS BILL

Kathryn Gibson
“Self”
Coppell, TX

I support HB 1686

Robin Phillips
Self
Houston, TX

OPPOSE--Parents and doctors should work with children to make these very private healthcare decisions, which involve treatments recognized by all national accredited pediatric healthcare organizations.

Stetson Clark
Self
Grapevine, TX

I support this bill. Please pass it

Jean Parsons Parsons, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

No child should have drugs or any surgery to alter their sexuality until they reach legal majority otherwise this is sexual abuse.

Deborah Kovach
Self
Spring, TX

Please protect vulnerable children from the permanent harm caused by puberty blockers and removal of healthy tissue. These children have no ability to understand or legally consent to these "treatments" that will impact them for the rest of their lives. Children should be protected, not experimented on, and doctors who perform these procedures should be held legally accountable for the harm caused.

Danielle Riddle
Self. Homemaker
Lubbock, TX

I am for HB1686 because I want our laws to protect the physical and mental health of our children against those who would bring them irreparable harm.

Kristin Groves
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1686. Protect our children!

Mario Cordova
Self
Grapevone, TX

I support HB 1686. Protect the children!

Dalene Gantt
My self
Paradise, TX

I support HB 1686

Adam Riddle
Self . Estimator
Lubbock, TX

I am for HB1686 because I want our laws to protect the physical and mental health of our children against those who would bring them irreparable harm.

Taylor Sandy
self, sales representative
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686!

Richard Kasper
self
College Station, TX

I am completely in favor or this bill. There are so many other laws on the books that help protect minors from doing certain harmful things to themselves (tattoos, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping, etc.) there is no reason a child should be allowed to make a life changing decision like gender transitioning before the age of 18. NEVER should public money be used to assist in these procedures and treatments.

Janet Begert
Self
Grapevine, TX

Save our kids please

Adam Sandy
self, sales representative
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Karen Roberts
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

Protect our children from procedures that could have long term effects and regrets. Sexuality is an adult matter across the board. Why? Because the rule of US law knows that minors are not always mature enough to make life altering or serious decisions that can affect them long term.

Joe-Fan Wu, Hiusewife
Texas resident
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Melitta Vahalik
Myself
Yoakum, TX

The disfigurement of youths below the age 18 is most abhorrent and should be banned. Even into adolescence people are vulnerable to social pressures and regret the small misjudgments in decision making so let us not make such a possibly huge misjudgment be too simple.

Betty Johnson, Ms
Texas Apostolic Prayer Network
Lufkin, TX

We agree with bill

DaSha Keller
Self
Arlington, TX

For the bill

James Wynne, Mr.
Self
Katy, TX

For

Wyatt Tall
Self
Austin, TX

Stay out of the lives of transgender, transitioning, gender questioning people. Leave their medical decisions to them, their parents and guardians, and the medical community. You are demonizing and already vulnerable community and saying their lives are less than. Spend your time on laws that actually help people who are struggling.

Rexanne Mattei
Self Homemaker
McKinney, TX

I fully support this bill.

Lydia Randazzo
Self, homemaker
Flower Mound, TX

This is a Waste of money and against everything that is humanly right.

David Palmer
Self. Artist
Cypress, TX

As a member of the LGBT designation, I support the passage of this bill. Gender dysphoric people deserve compassion and access to appropriate psychological care but children should be protected. They cannot consent and they can wait and as someone who knows a disproportionate amount of transgender people, waiting until the age of consent to medically alter yourself to be more congruent with your self identification does not alter their ability to lead happy lives. I urge the passage but I also urge republicans to stop reacting with anger and ask God for wisdom and compassion when dealing with these issues.

Julianna Alff
Self
Houston, TX

The brain does not develop fully in men until age 26 and women a little younger. No child is capable of making a decision to take these drastically measures in their youth. Please do not permit these procedures under 18. Thanks

Careen Fullerton, Dr.
Self pharmacist
Lufkin, TX

Vote HB 1686 and stop medicalization of gender confused minors

Lynette Zeller, Mrs.
Self
Victoria, TX

Please vote FOR HB 1686 to PROTECT CHILDREN and youth from the irreversible damage done by puberty blockers, surgery (mutilation) of their bodies, sex hormones, etc. This is child abuse and barbaric and should be punished, not promoted! Please protect our children!

Sally Abbott
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR this

Monique Rodriguez
Self
Bulverde, TX

As a Texan and parent, I believe these health decisions should be left to the medical professional and parent/guardian for the child. God has given the parent the authority to lead these decisions through wisdom. The health decisions a parent makes should not be interfered by the government. I do not support this bill and will use my vote to vote out any representative who aligns their support to this bill.

Stephen Echerd
self
Dallas, TX

I urge the Texas legislature to approve this bill, which intends to protect children from making life-changing, irreversible decisions about their long-term personal identity, and their ability naturally to reproduce. We as a society rightly do not allow children to purchase and use narcotics, alcohol, enter into binding legal agreements, marry, operate a motor vehicle on public streets, and many other things -- it is reasonable for society to require that an individual wait until they are an adult before allowing them to choose to radically alter their bodies. There are statistically very few individuals born with both male and female biological sex characteristics[I believe this bill respects those individuals and allows them to receive appropriate medical attention.

Ann Livesay, Mrs.
Self, teacher
Tyler, TX

I totally agree that this bill should be passed!
Want to protect our children from being abused.
Every child is a gift from God made by Him and in His image. Each child is uniquely designed by God, and God makes no mistakes. He decides the sex, and gender and physical attributes and gifts of each person. All procedures to undo the sexuality of a child, any drugs or treatment to transition or undo what God has done should be banned. Such procedures permanently damage and Rob the child of the life God intended. This law would protect children. VOTE YES!

Kristen Fuller
Self, stay at home mom
Prosper, TX

I am opposed to the prohibitions

Monique Pappas
None
Houston, TX

For…
We as parents can be charged with Child Negligence if we leave a 10 year old unattended at home

But it should be okay to let our 10 year old change their gender with procedures? I don’t think this is okay
And public assistance should not be given

Jan Benjamin
Self/retired
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Robin Rezendes
Parent/self
Ft. Worth, TX

NO to using public funds to pay for body/hormone altering treatments of minors (or prisoners or military members, for that matter!!). YES to this bill.

*Make pharma disclose the amount of money they make per person thru the use of expensive surgeries (plural) and lifelong use of hormone therapies. Let THEM pay for it since they believe in it so much.

Gender dysphoria is a mental illness and should be treated as such. Even people born with dual genitalia have both the genes and hormonal surge which helps to determine their sex. Sex is scientific and used throughout the animal kingdom. It's a fact. Please treat the individual for the mental illness that it is and DO NOT use public funds to allow minors to alter their bodies. Physicians who promote this are DOING HARM, as often the surgery does not result in attaining peace, but heightens the mind/body disconnect. These minors will be stuck. Make them wait they are of age and can afford these elective surgeries themselves.

Mary Shahan
Myself
Elm Mott, TX

God doesn't make mistakes. A child is who they were born to be. No one is born in a different body.

Leslie Winters
Myself
Round Rock, TX

I am FOR the Bill. This not health care, this is a cash cow for the doctors and the pharmaceutical companies. This madness is leaving our youth broken and mutilated. Please vote Yes for HB1686.

Patrick Dizzine, Mr.
Self Retired
Grapevine, TX

I'm a 73 year old man, have been married to my wife for over 40 years, and have raised 3 daughters…During those tender years two of my daughters went through phases where they climbed trees, rode their bikes, (way too fast) and roughhoused with our neighbor boys… They in essence acted like boys, am I to assume that if we had the type of society then that we have now, as well as the type of school system policies that would encourage our daughters, behind our backs, (because they acted like boys) to transition to being boys that they would have? I shudder to think of that prospect…

Both girls eventually passed out of that phase and grew up to be professional's (nurse and teacher) and are happily married, what would have happened in today's educational environment? Make no mistake, open your eyes, ask yourself why is this happening? Our country is under spiritual attack right now, there are countries (one in particular) that want this country dethroned from our current world position and want to assume that position, they are not governed by biblical precepts and resort to a type of warfare referred to as "Unlimited Warfare" where they will use psychological operations, propaganda, bribery and in the end kinetic and whatever other means they can contrive to achieve that end… Our educational systems (k-12, universities, colleges) have been captured (corrupted by money) as well as our corporations, government, medical industry, Hollywood and judicial systems, we are in the fight of our lives to save this country…

The trans movement is part of the psy-ops being used to sow discord in our society and confusion among our youth and is essentially a component of unlimited warfare…You don't see China, Russia or many other eastern countries promoting this in their youth, quite the contrary…

I URGE YOU TO PASS THIS BILL, when future generations look back what will they say about this period in our history? Thank you…

Rob Potts, Mr
Self
Belton, TX

I support this bill.

Susan Chamberlain
Self
Marshall, TX

I support HB 1686 - no Funding for anything that is related to child gender modification .
Thank you and God Bless
There are only two sexes male and female and that is assigned in the womb by God the creator . All else is a sickness that has been inflicted by sick people

DEBRA NELSON
Rains County
Emory, TX

FOR

Lauryn Hendrix
Self
Midland, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been studied. The medical community must uphold their oath of "do no harm.

Beth Joubert
Self
Cypress, TX

For this bill to protect our children.

Michelle Chern
Self
Katy, TX

Pass the HB 1686. Please protect the children. They don’t have the ability of discernment yet.

Kristin Hawkinson
Self
Houston, TX

Our children need to be educated, cared for, and raised up to be leaders in their communities. Funds should be used for these things, not medical procedures that can have lasting, damaging effects in their life.

Cassie McMillan
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill

Karen Wiseman
Karen Wiseman Individual
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote yes and protect our children. They do not have the capacity to understand the gravity or permanence of these procedures.

Sichan Siv, Ambassador
Self
San Antonio, TX

I urge a vote IN FAVOR!

Cody Hendrix
Self
Midland, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been studied. The medical community must uphold their oath of "do no harm."

Brooke Williams
Texas resident
Fort Worth, TX

Vote For!
If they can't drink, drive, own a gun, or join the military they can't make this decision either! God help the state of Texas!

Alessandra Vizzani
Self/Homemaker
Tomball, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Tom Mundheim
Self
Collinsville, TX

How crazy can anyone be to think modification of a child's sex is ok? Please stop this lunacy of a minority of loud mouth deviants!

Misty Griffis
self
Granger, TX

I support HB 1686. When they reach adulthood, they can make whatever choices they want, but to make life altering decisions for a child is wrong and should be stopped.

Bernie Thiel
Self farmer
Lubbock, TX

We must not pass such a bill in the state of Texas or in these United States of America. It is unholy and And could only bring the powers of hell upon this country.

Michelle Bullard
Self, mother, teacher
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. Children are not born into the ‘wrong’ body and allowing adults to mutilate their bodies is a crime. Please protect children from harmful medical procedures and social treatments.

Annette Harrell
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support

Sandi Linz
Self
colleyville, TX

18 years old is appropriate age

Sue Baumgarten
self
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and FOR this bill. We have pressing matters for which public money needs to be spent - like education for our children, protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must NOT spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.

Julie Bentley
Self
Carrollton, TX

Support

Marvin Hernandez
Self
Euless, TX

I support is his bill

Kelly Gamill
We The People
Fort Worth, TX

SUPPORT HB 1686. We WILL ALL give an account one day. HE formed them in the womb, not you not me. What's next? God made another mistake and that boy is really supposed to be a dog? The problem here is a spirit of confusion. We were warned about who was behind such. I refuse to serve a liar and a thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy the future of these precious kids! They MUST know they are loved by our Creator and there is a purpose for their lives the enemy desperately wants to destroy. GOD DOESN'T MAKE MISTAKES! Our RESPONSIBILITY is to lead them to TRUTH, not confusion. Clearly many of you do not know TRUTH but we need to remind ourselves that you and I are nothing but dust and He will always be GOD and His Word will endure forever. TRUTh will remain. It is a blessed surrender to a GOD who loves us! He would not cause confusion to one of his own. Would you do that to one of your kids?

Ginny Thompson
Self
Conroe, TX

Please vote FOR this bill.No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children

Kimberly Pell
Self
Katy, TX

For SUPPORT THE BILL

Lisa Lee
Self
Lubbock, TX

"I SUPPORT HB1686
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been studied. The medical community must uphold their oath of "do no harm.""

Ying Chen
Self/Self Employed
Plano, TX

We are strongly against performing gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria on children. Those acts are taking advantages of children and their immature minds, and should be prohibited and subject to criminal charges.

Stacy Holden
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR this bill. I believe our tax dollars could be better spent on education. Investments in education will make a lasting impact on and benefit millions of Texas children each year.

Pamela C. Johnson, Ms.
Self
The Colony, TX

My father was a Navy doctor who contracted polio from one of his patients during WWII. He had hoped to specialize as a pediatrician after the war, but the polio left him with an undependable leg, so he continued his career as a pathologist and became an esteemed professor of Pathology for two medical schools before he died. He was a “doctor’s doctor” who added a great heart of compassion and common sense to his instructions to future doctors and patients.

I’ll always remember his excitement over the electron microscope and I’ll never forget his heavy heart after certain autopsies. Dad never gave up any personal details to us, but he clearly stated - NOT “suggested rules to live by”, but - “RULES TO REMAIN ALIVE.”

These rules were:

1. You are not your own; God made you and you belong in this time and place and to Him.

2. Doctors do NOT know it all.

3. Avoid, avoid, avoid putting foreign objects into your body.

4. Have nothing to do with experimental medicine.

One of my keepsakes from dad is my old children’s mini microscope, which I still use today. The wonder of examining the living tissues of our world in magnified detail has taught me several interesting things:

1. There is something oily and very colorful (chemicals? hydrogel?) in the plastic matrix on the end of the Covid test nasal swabs. Apply Rule #3.

2. Skin, hair and blood cells (or whatever matter you wish to examine) are, by and large, the same from one of us to another but still unique to the person.

3. No matter what you do (surgically) to the exterior of the body, the cells remain the same.

4. When you break the bond of the cell wall, everything changes but it cannot repair itself. It dies in short order.

In our “macro” world, a certain segment of men and women who have some medical knowledge are trying to make themselves rich and famous by “breaking the bond” of the human body as it was formed by God in the womb. They’ve been doing “transgender” plastic facial and breast implant surgery since at least the 1970’s, but the results have been far from what the patients had hoped.

A friend who chose that life was candid with me about it and revealed a deep disappointment in spite of the outward appearance. Apply Rules #2, 3 and 4.

Children under the age of 18 (IMHO) have no means of comprehending the consequences of the choice to make all the outward surgical and inward chemical changes to their bodies. All that medical manipulation STILL DOES NOT CHANGE THE DNA - or God’s plans for that child’s life. It does not address the heart and the soul.

Children should be treasured and protected and not put through a protocol which is premature and unnecessary for the preservation of life.

Nor should taxpayers have to pay for it. Apply Rules #1, 2, 3, 4.

Jacob Massengale, Master
Nameless Farm
Austin, TX

Approve

Jane Medlin
None
Temple, TX

I am calling on state officials to act to protect children by prohibiting procedures and treatments related to changing gender identification. Children are NOT capable of making such life altering decisions. In addition, using public money to do anything that would potentially be harmful to children is unacceptable

Bryan Shoemaker
Self
Trophy Club, TX

No Child is born the incorrect sex. I am against gender surgery, gender reassignment, transitioning or whatever else it is called that surgically or chemically alters a child. It is not loving, it is child abuse. Children cannot make this decision, it's a well known scientific fact that their brains are not mature until their 20s, but we're allowing children to alter their lives forever and be eternally reliant on a lifetime of chemicals, drugs, and counseling. It's a disgrace and I do not support any of the practices.

Brittney Gonzalez
Self
Northlake, TX

I support this bill

Kim Wells
Self
Frisco, TX

I am for PROHIBITING children from making changes to their bodies until after the age of 18 or older! Children are in trusted to guardians to protect them even from harming themselves. I am for the protection of any bodily harm and body change of natural birth until they are legally old enough to vote or be drafted. I urge you to please stand up for the protection of children from radical thoughts and ideas that may forever change these children. Science has shown brain maturity does not fully mature until age 25!

Glenn Lenard
Self
Georgetown, TX

I do not think its fair to limit someone's ability to choose. If you are smart enough to get a drivers license you are smart enough to know the choices and decisions your body needs.

Shanda Hasse
Self
Lubbock, TX

Sexual interference via medical treatments and surgeries for children is child abuse and projects a dim future for these innocent youth.
• “Gender-affirming” care is encouraged as early as 9 years old placing permanent life decisions and life-long health trauma into the hands of 3rd grade children.
• There is a 50% suicide rate for children who undergo transitional treatments and procedures which is 20 times higher than their peers.
• 98% of children accept their natural sex by adulthood even through “tom boy” seasons and boys acting more effeminate while young.
• Puberty blockers and hormone medications cause innocent youth to become sterilized, stunt growth, affect brain development, bone density, and elevate risk of cancer, heart disease, blood clots, and diabetes into adulthood.

Political weaponization against young minds and absurd promotion of the LGBT agenda toward our youth population in our public schools, community and national programs, community libraries, drag show events, and on social media is a public health crisis and must be stopped. There’s no end to this societal aversion of scientific normalcy if the State of Texas doesn’t step in with protective measures for the most innocent among us. Medical professionals who encourage and administer these treatments are deluged by monetary motivation and exhibit a grave inability to see the scientific facts of healthy human development in children. I implore the Members of this Committee to vote in favor of HB1686. The health of vulnerable youth is at extreme risk if we don’t stand up in this time against these unbelievable monstrosities.

Thank you for your deep consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Shanda Hasse
District 83
Business Owner
Mother of two (14 and 12)

Veronica Rohde
Self
Colleyville, TX

Support

Steven Webb
Self/ retired
Lubbock, TX

No tax dollars for these treatments and procedures. Children must always be protected from radical agendas until they are at least 18 years of age.

April Luter
Self
Lewisville, TX

This bill must pass to protect our children from abuse. Medical procedures related to gender affirming care and puberty blocking treatment for children must be stopped. Our children are not capable of making decisions that could create irreversible damage to their bodies and their psyche. We must protect them from adults seeking their own agenda or attention. Rather, mental health care related to affirming the worth of these children and their beauty as God created them should be provided. Children going through puberty should be provided better information on the way these hormonal changes affect mood, sense of self, and physical changes in the body. Puberty can be very disorienting for many. And now society at large is telling these children it is not normal and it means they need to make irreversible changes when most of the times these feelings will change within months if not weeks. Providing these children with information that lets them know these feelings are normal and will change and eventually go away will hopefully provide them with the support they need to navigate through this time. Stop the abuse now!

Sarah Alaniz, Dr.
Self/Educator
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill. We have pressing matters for which public funds need to be spent, such as the education of our children and better wages for first responders.

veronica mohrmann
self
austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because I know how difficult it is to navigate the issues as a parent of a transgender child , that is now an adult. If these measures had not been available for us as a family to consult with our medical and mental health providers and the freedom to do so as a family we would have lost him to the dysphoria , depression and possible suicide. Please I encourage you to reconsider the high cost this will take on these children and their families. Give them the options available to confer with their licensed providers in order to make that informed decision. Don't make it harder on families by closing off a chance for their children having the opportunity to thrive . Thank you

Katherine Pence
Self/accountant
Houston, TX

Do no harm to these poor children

Elmer Hensarling
Self
Granbury, TX

18 years of age minimum. No public money should be used

Joe Sansone, Mr.
Self
Southlake, TX

Please vote to pass this amendment. I cannot believe that our society has deteriorated to the point that these mutations are currently legal.

Kevin Hinson
Self
Deer Park, TX

I am for this bill because I believe kids are being indoctrinated into believe there is something wrong with them and how they were born. No child is a mistake, and they were born for a purpose. We need to encourage our kids to be who they are and not try to change themselves to match an idea they have of someone else. Transgenderism is a sign of a mental disconnect between a person's thoughts and reality. This disconnect must be met with truth and love to help individuals recognize reality and that there is nothing wrong with how they were born.

No boy can truly what it means to be a girl, and no girl can truly understand what it means to be a boy. For anyone to claim the opposite gender, they are belittling themselves, and are putting on a mask to hide who they are. We should instead show them they can uncover the mask they are trying to put on and that they have inherent worth and value.

No child is a mistake. We must protect children, so I support this bill.

Suzanne Carlson
self
Weatherford, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Ginny Kimberlin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please stop this violence

Audra Hooper
Self
Lewisville, TX

Children are not born in the wrong body.

Jorge Bosch
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

I support HB 1686.

Ninfa Gonzalez
Self
Weslaco, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. Please do not endanger our children by limiting their access to gender affirming healthcare.

Lynda Hogue
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please protect these children. We are counting on you for common sense.

Thank you for serving our state.

Lynda Hogue
Lubbock,tx

Jeff Johannigman
Self - Career Consultant
Austin, TX

Leading medical associations have validated that gender identity treatment is a valid medical need, and promotes the overall health and well being of those undergoing such care. Such treatment should be decided by medical professionals and their patients, not by politicians.

Alexandra White
Self
Dallas, TX

Taxpayer funds from Texas residents should absolutely not be used for procedures and treatments on children for the purpose of gender transition, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria. These procedures and treatments are evil. Texas should not fund them. We are doing a disservice to our children and state if we fund these extremely dangerous and debilitating (both mentally and physically) procedures and treatments.

Norman Childers
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this

Steven Alaniz, Mr.
Self/Firefighter
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill. We have pressing matters for which public funds need to be spent, such as the education of our children and better wages for first responders.

A Layman
Self, Director Talent Management
Cypress, TX

Support

Sean Dooley
Self
Kyle, TX

Strongly opposed. The government should not be involved in making healthcare decisions for families in Texas. Gender affirming care is medically necessary and life-saving care. The medical profession is not split on this issue.

William Milner, M.D.
WNM Emergency Medicine, PLLC
West Lake Hills, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. I am a practicing Physician licensed in Texas, and I am abhorred that we as a state are allowing this institutionalized child abuse to occur. Thank you for your time.

Pamela Goodin, Mrs.
Self Retired
Grand Prairie, TX

For/Support this bill

Lynn N. Monteith
Self
Houston, TX

FOR!!!!!
I vote for

Stuart McLaughlin
Self
Dallas, TX

Full support and commend lawmakers for making this part of Texas State law.

Caleb Johnson, Master of Accountancy Student
Self
Sugar Land Texas, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

Beverly Roberts, Mrs.
Republican Party of Texas ?
Houston, TX

We are created male and female, in order to procreate and ensure the continuance of the generations. To mutilate and castrate someone based on their feelings is a travesty, especially for a young person who does not understand the purpose of their sex. I entreat you to support this common sense measure to stop the destruction of our children.

Shirley Markley, Mother
Self - concerned citizen
Bee Cave, TX

Children are too immature to make a permanent decision with such consequential actions that could destroy their lives. I support this bill, and I will be closely following the votes to see who is and who isn’t concerned about these horrific procedures being done on children.

Bradley Prenevost, Mr
Self / teacher
ROBINSON, TX

I give full support to this bill.

Jimmy Pitts
Self
Mesquite, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Kaylee Martinez
Others and my self
Austin, TX

No . I don’t accept this bill as a citizen of the US . I vote no . These are children they are not fully developed this can cause underlining issues . This is un human . God created a man and a women there is no In between . They are too young to make health decisions for them self . The legal age is 18 this is not right this is unbelievable .

Patrice Swanson
Myself
Houston, TX

I support this bill. There are only 2 genders - male & female. Adolescents who are confused & uncomfortable in their bodies need support & counseling - not drugs, hormones or surgery. Gender affirming care would just add to their misery & would not get to the root of their depression. Please vote for this bill to end gender affirming care!

Sheila Kale
Kale
Fredericksburg, TX

I believe it is child abuse to encourage or allow a child to dislike their body to the extreme of changing their sexual appearance or hormone makeup. More than my belief, it is harmful scientifically and experientially from all the videos that are de-transitioning. Children need affirmation in who they are created to be, not surgery or medications to make them fit the current trend.--thus telling them they are a mistake.

Leonel Gutierrez
Self
Brownsboro, TX

I want to register my opposition to this bill that usurps parental rights in providing potentially suicide-avoiding treatment to their children. I am sick and tired of the GOP continually digging deeper and deeper to find red herrings to appeal to extreme right wing. As someone who supported Ronald Reagan (and saw him as a visionary), these types of disingenuous stunts disgust me - I am certain President Reagan is whirling in his grave.

I urge my State Rep, Keith Bell - as well as all other members that are pushing for this insane legislation - to stop this nonsense and let parents, in conjunction with qualified medical professionals, make these types of decisions.

Kay Clinton
Self
Houston, TX

Support. HB1686

Lynn N. Monteith
Self
Houston, TX

I vote FOR

Ann Watson
self/citizen
San Antonio, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686. I do not want public money used, so I am FOR HB 1686

Ken O'Donnell, Mr.
Self
Houston, TX

God created each of us , we should stay as he created us, perfect.

Angie Buford
Self
Rockwall, TX

Against!

Brittany Isbell
Trans people's rights
Tomball, TX

This bill is nothing more than hate speech. It does nothing to protect children, and actually does the exact opposite. It puts transgender children in greater danger for increased mental health issues. Every major health professional organization uses science to back thier support of gender affirming care for minors. Puberty blockers are used in many children who start to mature faster than is healthy and no one is batting an eye about that.

This bill goes against parents rights to make health care decisions with their childrens doctor. You are pushing parents rights for some while wanting to strip parents rights from others.

This is about removing rights from citizens not protecting anyone. If you want to protect children end this bill and do something about the #1 cause of death in children in America. I'll give you a hint, it's GUNS!

Lillie Baird
Self - Student
Houston, TX

For this bill! No child is born in the wrong body!

Brenda McGuire
Self
Emory, TX

FOR

Soprina Reeves
Self Support Manager
Prosper, TX

Any trans gender altering procedures should be done at 18 and older.

Christine Atkins
Self
Aubrey, TX

Gender affirming care is recommended by physicians and the American Psychiatric Association for the well being of these children/teenagers!

dinah rowland
My Family
colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Brad Glasco, Mr
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill.

Crystal Tolentino
Self/education
Plano, TX

Once again, politicians are playing doctor and this time it directly affects a population already plagued with injustice! If this bill passes, it will be big government at its finest. It is extremely hypocritical to boast freedom in our state only to have it chiseled and trimmed to fit the opinions of those that do not hold the knowledge to make such a decision. Trans youth and parents deserve options and happiness. The law should not stand in the way of any path that would allow a person to feel whole. Medical decisions should be between the patient and doctors…PERIOD. Texas is heading to the wrong side of history with political meddling in healthcare. Families are already pressed for options and bureaucratic mazes of red tape to wade through. Don't add to the weights to these people already drowning. Lift them up. Stay out of their medical decisions.

Laura Hodge
Self
Dallas, TX

Gender dysphoria is an illness. Please don't use tax money to mutilate children. Please allow doctors to do their work with a good conscience and without government interference.

Pamela Carter
Self
Ft Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Randall Kimberlin
My family
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Carrie Murphy
Self - real estate investor
Fort Worth, TX

CHILDREN ARE TOO YOUNG, IMMATURE & NOT MENTALLY DEVELOPED ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTHS ABOUT TRANSITIONING. THEY CANNOT COMPREHEND THE OUTCOME & CONSEQUENCES. #SaveTheChildren

Katherine Smith
Self
Houston, TX

No child able to make gender changes to him/herself.

Charity Tolbert
Self
Cypress, TX

I don't believe children should be able to make such life altering decisions. Just as I would not want my child to undergo a boob job or a penis enlargement just because they are insecure about how they look. Their body is growing and changing so much during childhood/teen years. There are new studies out that show a lot of persons who have had gender reassignment in their teens/youth, who are now regretting their decisions and becoming depressed. There's no winning with this very personal choice. If they want to do that once they are an adult, then that will be their own personal choice. But I do not want to have my money spent towards someone's insecurities or bad body image. Our money could be spent in other areas far more important to the well being of this state and its citizens. I could name a lot of other areas our money can be placed.
More of our tax dollars toward Orphanages, food banks, criminal rehabilitation, etc etc (I have a whole list).
I am against this however, also playing devils advocate, if we aren't going to be heard on this and we are trying to help these people with their own personal body image and cater them, How about we place that money into counseling or mentoring programs to guide them through until they reach adulthood?
To restate, I'm against children undergoing these procedures and do not want my money belong this cause.

Whitney Darwin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Do not pass this bill. It's irresponsible and it harms children. You need to be spending this time and energy on protecting our children from actual threats (like gun violence, the leading cause of children's deaths). Bills like this will only create a situation where trans kids feel more isolated, helpless, and at higher risk of committing suicide. Their blood is on your hands if you pass this bill.

Kathleen Hobson
Myself
Denton, TX

I am against this bill due to the fact that trans affirming car is life saving for Trans youth.

Shannon Fannin
Self, RN
Austin, TX

To the Texas House of Representatives, Committee on Public Health

I am speaking in favor of HB 1686. I am a registered nurse and the mother to a trans identifying 13 year old.

I want to speak on the issue of social contagion and how easily these kids are influenced. I heard testimony that gender identity is formed between 18 months and 5 years. My daughter has never shown any slight inclination that she did not align with her birth sex, she was much more girly that I ever was being that I was a definite tomboy. She applied to an all girls middle school and when she didn't get in, she was devastated.

When she stared at AISD public middle school, everything changed. She had previously told us she was gay and we lovingly supported her and encouraged her to join the rainbow club at school. She began telling me all the new pronouns and people that were trans but told me "I know I am a girl". She told me that in Rainbow Club the teacher told the kids that the club was a secret and not to tell parents. She even had the kids come up with a fake name for the club so parents wouldn't know they were attending Rainbow Club, "Cheese Club" was chosen. I just assumed that it was being done to protect the kids who didn't have supportive parents like us.

Thanksgiving was when she came out to us that she was a boy, just 3 months after being devastated about not going to an all girls school. We were blindsided as there had never been any indication that there was incongruence with birth sex. She told us that she felt a lot of pressure at school from peers and teachers to declare pronouns, and she was unsure so that meant she was trans. The school had already socially transitioned her for months prior without our knowledge and consent, changed her name and pronouns, and she had been celebrated at Rainbow Club for coming out. In the first few months of sixth grade, she and THIRTEEN of her girlfriends became trans. This is not statistically possible.

The school and the adults at the school taught her that we were not to be trusted, and to keep secrets from her parents. It will take a long time to repair that damage.

Adolescence is a time of growth and change, and also being uncomfortable. Kids are learning that they should not feel these things and the reason they do is because they are in the wrong body. This is just false. We need to give kids the time to work through these things and only when they reach adulthood should permanent and irreversible decisions be made. Kids cannot give informed consent, and parents should not be allowed to consent to sterilization and removal of healthy body parts.

You will likely not hear from as many parents such as myself, who is a left leaning liberal. We are called transphobic and shunned. Parents are scared and trying to keep relationship with their kids. We need your help.

Please do the right thing and protect these kids.

Cory Atkins
Self
Aubrey, TX

As a lifetime Texan I am deeply concerned how our party of "Small government" and personal choice has devolved into dictating individual's lives and overriding not only parents ability to care for their child with consultation from medical professionals. Our government should be focused on ensuring we have the freedom and rights to manage our own families and medical needs. Politicians are not medical or gender experts so to force your beliefs and short sided opinions on what is best for an individual is revolting. To say it's to protect our children is a slap in the face to these children, and the thousands of children I. Our state who go to bed hungry, who have no medical care, who come home dead from gun violence. I strongly oppose any restrictions on anyone's freedom and am strongly opposed to any interference with medical professionals advice and strongly opposed to government dictating what level of care a parent can give their child. Restricting and isolating the trans children will cost lives. Allowing these children to be themselves will save lives.

Christopher Lucey, Mr.
Self
Lindale, TX

I do not support public funding of these treatments without first researching and greater understanding of the potential impacts on the individual, in particular, those under 18 years old.

The issues around any major surgery affects a persons psychological, physiological, emotional, mental, social, spiritual (those of faith or of no faith at all - each person holds beliefs regardless to be considered) and potentially economic impact; there is not reasonable evidence yet established to give a family and the individual sufficient evidence and information to empower them both to effectively understand the life altering decision they are contemplating and considering at this time.

Scientists, researchers and the entire medical community themselves are not fully aware of this issue, it’s implications nor its potential affects on the life, health and welfare of the person, their future and possible outcomes to adequately offer sound medical advice - this type procedure ought to require an entire medical team to evaluate each situation uniquely and separately prior to arriving at a position or path forward that keeps the patients highest and best good in mind over their lifetime - as this decision affects their life in every facet.

John Duffie
Nelson Duffie Interests
Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill and legislation. The children need our protection from this evil.

Elizabeth Buchanan
Self
Tyler, TX

Please help our children

Michael McKenzie
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I SUPPORT THIS BILLTO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN FROM THIS INSANE CULTURAL MOVEMENT.

Loni Johnston
Self-homemaker
Fort Worth, TX

This bill will hurt children in our state. Transgender youth deserve life saving, gender affirming care. If a qualified doctor believes that a course of care is indicated for an individual child, and the child and parent are in agreement, then I trust them to make those decisions. Transgender individuals who do not recieve gender affirming care are at much much higher risk of self harm and suicide. This bill will result in the death of transgender youth. Please allow families to work with health care professionals to decide what care they need.

Donald Rohde
Self
Colleyville, TX

Support

Megan Heep
self, school teachers
Fort Worth, TX

FOR

Heriberto Tolentino Jr, RN
Nurses
Harlingen, TX

It is time for elected officials to stop making medical decisions! These decisions should always be between the patient and the doctor.

Josh Rohde
Self
Colleyville, TX

Support

John Jacobson
Self
Harlingen, TX

I support HB 1686 to prohibit public money from being spent on gender transitioning

Nancy Smith
Self
Houston, TX

No public funding for any kind of gender medical procedures. In fact, it shouldn't be allowed until a person is age 21 or over….but on their own nickel, NOT MINE OR THE PUBLIC'S HARD EARNED FUNDS.

The idea of forcing a person to help pay for another person's wants is illegal or should be.

Please do not vote for this travesty!!!!!

Frances McKenzie, Mrs.
self
Sugar Land, TX

I support this bill and find it unbelievable that this insane culture is pushing the evil thing.

Keisha Howell
Self
Houston, TX

For

Deborah N, mrs
self
blossom, TX

HB 1686 BANS pediatric gender modification in the state of Texas.
Please pass this bill HB1686

Rosanna Blalock, Mrs
Myself
Houston, TX

A personal decision

Izar Trevino
Self
Austin, TX

I very strongly appose thus bill. Transgender children deserve the right to bodily autonomy and should not be prohibited by our government to obtain it.

Paula Ea
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly and plead that you do also. No child is born in the wrong body. The implications of these gender altering medications are without adequate testing and the long term effects are unknown. Children do not know what's best for them. Parents are called to make decisions for their children not let the children rule the parents. In the recent tragedy, we do not know all the details yet, but when did Audrey's mental health start failing? Could it be when she started taking gender altering medications? Time will tell, but I would guess there are other case studies to give evidence to this possibility.

Richon Ohafia
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill.

David Griffin
Self. Business owner
Alvarado, TX

I support HB 1686. Stop the mutilation of children.

LeeAnne Rogers
Self
Arlington, TX

I stand behind parents to make decisions for their children, and especially for kids over 18-26 that they can make decisions based on their gender identity. It’s not up to politicians to determine how people choose to live their personal lives. Who you are, who you love is not up to government. This is on par with segregation and discrimination based on any factor. We are HUMANS. We are Americans. We are Texans. It does not matter our race, gender, religion. We all have the same rights. Instead of wasting my tax dollars on controlling things that do not hurt others, why don’t you worry about what is the real threat? Gun violence in our schools. If you want to protect the border and fix fentanyl, stop allowing guns to be so unrestricted hat they fall into the hands of criminals. LGBTQAI+, women, and anyone who is not a Christian white male are not the enemy. Listen to your constituents. We do not support this bill.

MAN NIU
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Prohibition

Joan Massey
The people of Texas
Fort Worth, TX

Please protect our children & pass HB 1686!

David lowe
Myself
North Richland Hills, TX

Child gender modification is child abuse.

Under Texas laws, child abuse is: section 261.001, child abuse is defined as a “mental or emotional injury to a child that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning.”

Gender affirming care has become an industry, requiring ongoing treatment. That is why many medical related associations oppose this bill.

The mind and body are interconnected. They're designed by God, to work together. Any gender modification that occurs is only cosmetic.

This bill is not anti LGBT. It is anti child abuse and I support it.

David Lowe

Alexander Fitzgerald
Self, Testing Specialist/Outreach Coordinator
Dallas, TX

This bill is extremely dangerous and unnecessary. I fear for the safety of my cousin, my friends and the patients I see who will be affected by their inability to receive necessary healthcare. I'm a proud son of the South. I love being a Texan. But legislation like HB 1686 is making this state harder to live in. Any representative who intends to support this bill should be ashamed of themselves.

Susanna Nelson
Self- educator
Houston, TX

I am STRONGLY opposed to the idea of public funds being used on minors. A minor lacks legal capacity for many reasons,- the least of which is because they are incapable of making long term (permanent) decisions. Additionally, “research” on psychological matters is constantly in flux (e.g lobotomies, trepanation, phrenology…). This is merely the most recent iteration of those “scientific achievements.” Public funds should NOT be used on minors who lack the capacity to potentially sterilize themselves, especially when all of this is experimental, at best.

Amy Becker
Becker family
South lake, TX

Please protect our kids from these irreversible medications and procedures. Just like so many other things they should not be able to make such life altering decisions as children not their parents.

Bridgette Tolentino
Self
Harlingen, TX

Why are government officials trying to involve themselves in something that should be between the patient and their doctor. Please stay out of personal situations you know nothing about. My tax dollars did not include you to decide what to do with my body or my family's health. I pay my doctor for that.

Jessica Carter
Self
Carrollton, TX

Children need to be able to grow into who they are and be able to make this decision as an adult, not have the decision made for them as a child.

Kathleen Wason
Self
Nocona, TX

Against

Clint Potter
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is about scaring the LGBTQ community, it has no basis in science. I oppose this bill.

Paul Venter
Private
Southlake, TX

I SUPPORT this bill

Kathy Meng
Self
Arlington, TX

These procedures are unnecessary and if parents are driving the gender reassignment surgery, I believe it is a form of child abuse. Furthermore, the reason there are age limits for certain things is because people, before a certain age, are incapable of making life-long, transformative decisions.

Charles Mann, Mr.
N/A
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686

Julie Burns
Self
Willis, TX

For

Joan Mateker
Self/retired
Bellaire, TX

According to the National Institutes of Health, 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. This population has the deck stacked against them in so many ways, I don't think we should be making their lives worse. The medical community and the youths' parents should make the decision regarding gender-affirming care, rather than the legislature.
I know very concerned families who have moved from our state out of fear of reprisal for getting care for their teens.

Chris DeBoisblanc, CFO
Self
Katy, TX

Voting in favor of this bill prohibiting procedures or treatments of children for gender transitioning

Xixi Shen
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686!

Cassi Cole
Self
Plano, TX

This bill does not protect children; in fact it is designed to harm those seeking necessary and helpful treatments.

Catherine Montague
Self
Houston, TX

Against

Stephen Jackman
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Ann Crawford
Self
Houston, TX

For

Tairen Meng
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686

Terisa Clark
Self
Lubbock, TX

Medical treatments/surgeries for youth is a permanent decision for what statistics reveal they typically accept by adulthood (98%).

These treatments are not effective in supporting the challenges they are facing. Those challenges are better met with the support of families and care takers as they grow and mature to a place of reconciling those sexual questions.

Please step in to protect the youth of Texas. This protects children at a vulnerable age from the horrors of a lifetime impact at such a developmentally important age.

Edith Roberts
Self
Devine, TX

I support House Bill 1686

Veronica Ceci
Self
Austin, TX

This bill does not serve me or my community. It goes against the recommendations of scientists and doctors. I disagree with it and urge you to vote against it

Jennifer Welday
None-
Southlake, TX

We support this bill. We stand for loving all people who are created in the image of God. Not for condoning or accepting a persons rejection of this biblical truth. Public money should not be used for a person’s misunderstanding of who they are or desire to change how God created them.

Reamer John
Self
Houston, TX

The government has no business getting involved in the care for children that has been approved by a parent and a doctor. Hormone blockers are not considered experimental by any major health organization and has been shown to be both safe and reversible. Surgery at this age is also almost unheard of.

Michael Cox
Self
Sugar Land, TX

We as parents, grandparents all stand strongly against government education promoting early sex education and sex change education.
This is the responsibility of the parents not the government or the public schools! Stop brain washing and mutilating our children!

David Wilson, Mr
TAB
Harleton, TX

I support bill HB 1686

Janet Swords
Self
Fort Worth, TX

FOR THIS BILL. MALE or FEMALE. DNA is not wrong! There are no misgendered bodies!! Let SANITY rule the day!!

Patsy Gerfers
Self
Euless, TX

I support this bill.

MM Smart
CWA
Houston, TX

FOR/Support

donna stacy
Self
Keller, TX

No no no. Do not let this happen!!!!!

Luke Becker
Republican Party
Southlake, TX

This is a common sense bill that needs to happen. Texas is the future of wholesome American values and this bill gets Texas one step closer to remaining as the safe haven for Liberty that it always has been

Stacey Nichols
self, RN, CPN
Richardson, TX

As an RN and a Certified Pediatric Nurse, I believe that medical care should be between the patient, their family, and their physician. Politicians should not make medical or psychological decisions and they are not qualified to do so.

Alex Casias Jr
Self, College Student
Amarillo, TX

I support HB1686, which puts an end to child gender modification. Children should be allowed to live their lives in innocence. Making such major decisions as kids will not be the same when they are adults. Parents need to know that enabling and going along with such things should be child abuse. Why would parents want to put their child through extraordinary pain and long recovery, along with multiple medications that could potentially harm them even more. Doctors and enabling parents strip their children of their identity, and their character, and they (child) will never truly be comfortable with themselves. Children need to make that decision when they are much older when they have a full understanding of what they will put themselves through. Banning gender modification now will save countless children from regrettable reversal surgery when they are older. Representatives, I hope you all will support HB1686. Thank you for your time.

Cheyenne Welker
Self
Houston, TX

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill to protect precious Texas children from cultural insanity, modern day child sacrifice, and from incurring irreversible harm by those who have pledged to first "do no harm."

This is important and this bill must be passed.

Thank you.

Li Zhao
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686!

Becky Vrazo
My family
Fort Worth, TX

YES for this Bill. Let’s protect our families.

MARY TRAVELAND
Self
Mesquite, TX

Public money and/or public assistance should not be utilized for any gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria procedures and treatment. I am not sure how this bill is written, but trust that you do. Please vote to disallow any public funds to be used for these purposes. Thank you for looking after the interests of your supporters.

Harold Bullock, Dr.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR preventing surgical and medical procedures on minors to try to alter their sex at birth

Brandy Dinscore
Jefferson County
Port Neches, TX

I support this bill.

Kajal Campos, Registered Nurse
Self Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming health care saves lives! Prohibiting medical professionals from providing this safe care is only going to push, an already vulnerable population, back into the shadows. When people do not have access to health care we know that they are more likely to seek it from untrained professionals, that means getting their hormones online or black market. This bill is going to negatively affect the lives of our children in Texas. Please do no pass this bill.

Jonathan Davis
Self
Wylie, TX

Use of public funds to perform permanent body alternations of minors should not be considered. No reason these life altering procedures should be treated differently than funding tatoos, piercings or hair coloring. In fact it should be a crime to perfrom such procedures before the age of majority. Informed concent is not possible at least before 16.

Chester F Morrison, Ceo
Morrison
Houston, TX

For support the bill

Regina Steincamp
Self
Friendswood, TX

As a citizen of Texas and the U.S.A., I do NOT support HB 1686 because I believe the government should not have any ability to restrict, determine, or even have knowledge regarding the healthcare of its citizens outside of what’s needed to cover costs. Healthcare decisions should solely be made freely by physicians and the patients/guardians.

Yi Chen Lai
Self
Richmond, TX

FOR and Support the bill

Glenn MacLeay, Mr.
Myself
San Antonio, TX

Please support this Bill to stop gender transition and abusing our children. Also, no public money should be used to help people trying to transition. There is ample evidence to show that transition does not make lives better for people struggling with gender dysphoria.

Mary Anne Weatherred
Self/sahm
Fort Worth, TX

I am against this bill. Healthcare decisions should not be legislated by the state. Trans youth should have the freedom to be themselves with the guidance of their parents, doctors, and counselors. Their medical treatment is not law makers business. Please stop the hateful trend of trying to legislate away transgender people. The state has much more pressing issues.

Tracy Emmert, Mrs
Self
Southlake, TX

I'm not for surgical alternating children's biological sex.

Mollie Meadows, Student
Self/Student
Leander, TX

We should not under any circumstances let a confused child undergo any procedure and/or treatment for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. David says, "I am beautifully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139) The LORD made us beautifully. He cares about every detail. He made us they way we need to be made for the purposes He has set before us. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you." Jeremiah 29:11 Children may go through battles against gender transition but they are also in need of help against those battles. Instead of letting them give in, we need to protect them from the harm they want to do to their beautiful bodies. We need to stand with them AGAINST this suffering. We can not let children or teenagers damage their bodies because they are confused about what is happening in their life and their culture.

Keith Plaskonos
Self
Fort Worth, TX

We MUST pass this bill in order our protect our children from gender related atrocities.

Tanya Dienhart Maybin
Self and homemaker
Bastrop, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Lindsey Castner
Self
Southlake, TX

Do not allow our precious children to be able to change their bodies/gender while still so young. It can and will damage them as adults

Rebecca Oney
Self
Marshall, TX

This should not be ALLOWED at all ?? kids can't even make up their minds what they want for dinner much less about changing their gender ?? public assistance OR use of public money SHOULD NOT be allowed

Stephen Fish
SELF
Benbrook, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Lauren Ladner
Morrison
Brookshire, TX

For/Support the bill

David Nash
Self - Retired
Harper, TX

I represent myself and I am for HB 1686. Children and adolescents are not mature enough to make these kind of decisions especially if they are coerced by anyone and then in turn convince their parents to take action. On the flipside, children and adolescents should be protected from parents forcing them into an action that has life-long consequences. I request that you support the passage out of committee as as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Yian Wang, Wang
Self
Plano,, TX

I support HB1686

Jerry Romo
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Let’s get back to children being children and please stop letting adults force their children into making these life changing decisions at such a young age. What really needs to be done is make the age for this decision be 18 or 21. I mean if you’re gonna allow a kid to change his sex he/she should be able to drink or vote also. You’re telling me that a kid can make a decision on wether to be a boy or girl but can’t decide who can be in public office. I mean it’s common sense which isn’t so common.

Art Hawinson
self/ retired
HORSESHOE BAY, TX

We are who we are and no amount of mental or physical manipulation will change that. Child up to age 25 have not yet fully developed their brains and should not be intimidated by some so-called education or modification proposals. Please vote YES.

Kirk Becker, Mr.
Self
Southlake, TX

I am for and in support of this bill.

Temple wilson
Self
BURLESON, TX

Protect our friends

Dale Toney, Citizen
Self
Houston, TX

I am in favor of banning all medical procedures that would attempt to reassign, transform and permanently destroy a child's biological sex before the age of 21. The State of Texas should not spend any resources on these barbaric procedures.

Lillian Sheriff
SELF
Belton, TX

Parents with Inconvenient Truths about Trans (PITT)

1
Read in the Substack app
Open app
Tick Tick Boom
Jan 31
95
73

I am Lillian, the Mother of Mia. I first want to say thank you to everyone who has had a hand in giving parents a place to raise our voices! To all those fighting the injustice in our world. To those who are seekers of truth and to all the Prayer Warriors spending hours on your knees. Thank you from Mia and Me.

Life has been a struggle for me, raising kids (for all intents and purposes) as a single mom. I had four adult children before I was blessed with my baby girl, Mia—a special and perfect gift. As messy as my life has been and still is, I love my children. They were always my first priority.

My story in the world of gender dates back to the 2017-2018 school year. Between work and looking for a place to call our own there didn't seem to be much time for anything. One day while at work I received a call from Mia's school, letting me know that Mia had been bullied, and asking me to come in to see the principal to talk about it. When I got there, I learned that the bullying had been sexually abusive. I was told that the principal took action against them and one of the perpetrators even wrote Mia an apology letter.

When I got home, the first question I asked Mia was "Why didn't you tell me?" She really couldn't explain. We prayed together. We talked about how mean boys can be and how she needs to speak up when someone is hurting her. I reminded Mia that I loved her and I that I would alway be there for her, but that I couldn't help if she was keeping secrets from me. At the time, she seemed to understand this. Looking back though, I now know that she was keeping more secrets from me than I could have ever imagined.

Mia started 6th grade in a new school in Texas. I dropped her off at a school orientation for 6th grades where no parents were allowed. That should have been my first red flag.

Mia was in the theater program, with art classes as her electives. On Meet the Teacher night, I volunteered at the school, and helped out her theater teacher who was struggling as a first year teacher in a tough Kid school. While Mia excelled academically, she was struggling still with with what had happened at her previous school. I didn't know that at the time. What she did tell me was that she was having feelings of hurting herself, but said that it was because of video games and scary movies. We started spending less time on the computer and more time together. We ate dinner together, went for walks, and watched our favorite shows together. There are so many more happy thoughts and memories from this time that I don't have the strength to even write about it right now. This is harder than I thought it would be. Not only cognitively but emotionally. It is challenging not to fall apart.

We moved to a new city not far away, to a different school district that I thought would be better. Mia attended this new school for the last three month

Sheryl Gonzales
Project Destiny Texas
Lubbock, TX

Sexual interference via medical treatments and surgeries for children is child abuse and projects a dim future for these innocent youth:
• “Gender-affirming” care is encouraged as early as 9 years old placing permanent life decisions and life-long health trauma into their hands.
• There is a 50% suicide rate for children who undergo transitional treatments and procedures which is 20 times higher than their peers.
• 98% of children accept their natural sex by adulthood.
• Puberty blockers and hormone medications cause innocent youth to become sterilized, stunt growth, affect brain development, bone density, and elevate risk of cancer, heart disease, blood clots, and diabetes into adulthood.

The LGBT+ agenda toward our youth population in our public schools, community libraries and drag show events is a public health crisis and must be stopped. The State of Texas must step in with protective measures for the most innocent among us. Medical professionals who encourage and administer these treatments are doing so because of monetary motivation and exhibit an inability to see the scientific facts of healthy human development in children. Project Destiny Texas implores the Members of this Committee to vote in favor of HB1686.

Thank you for standing up for the health and protection of our vulnerable youth.

Sheryl Gonzales
Project Destiny Texas

Angela Reynolds
Self. Contract Mgmt
Northlake, TX

I support bill 1686. There should instead be a bill to get help for these individuals who are so confused. I’m religious and regardless if you are or not God is real and HE doesn’t misgender. The agenda to perpetuate this madness of genital mutilation will negatively affect their lives as we’ve so sadly seen. Shame on our government. Truly.

Terrence Ramkissoon
ADF
Missouri City, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Andre Pino
Self
Austin, TX

Legislators should not insert themselves in the doctor’s office between the patient and provider. Legislators should not be in the business of taking away legally available healthcare. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child.

Holly Case
Self
Watauga, TX

As the parent of two transgender children, this bill greatly concerns my family and I have considered moving out of the state regarding this issue, even though my children are both legal adults now. This bill is hostile toward them and many others. Parents deserve the right to determine the best medical care for their children and the state should not be involved.

Kassidy Lupardus
Self
San Antonio, TX

Trans healthcare is necessary for the mental health of every trans individual. No part of trans healthcare for minors is irreversible and to say otherwise is just false. The most they get is beta blockers to block puberty hormones which they can stop at any time and undergo puberty if they so choose. To say otherwise is irresponsible and cruel to those children and their families who are only trying to make things easier for their loved ones.
Barring that. The government has no business making decisions for people. Period. Knock it off and stop doing your part of turning our country into a fascist hell hole.

Anne Thayer
Self
Austin, TX

The family is where these types of decisions should be made and not the state. The state has zero interest/stake in how people lead their own lives when no other person is harmed. No "feelings" that this is "wrong" by others should dictate state law

Ricardo Aldazoro
Self - enterpreneur
San antonio, TX

Against, this is a crime against human rights.

Phillip Garfield
Self/ Employed
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill as it is unjust towards the LGBTQIA community.

Loren Ross
Self
Pflugerville, TX

There’s so much in this world and our country going on than trying to strip human trans rights! Like let’s forget the trans part this is HUMAN RIGHTS you guys cannot take this away or make the decision

Sheilah Kernan
Senior citizens
Georgetown, TX

I oppose any gender changes made to under age children

Nancy Oberman
Self
San Antonio, TX

Support FOR HB 1686

Dana Abernathy
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill.

Allison Ramirez
Self, city planner
Austin, TX

I am a transgender woman. I began hormone replacement therapy in 2019. I struggled with gender dysphoria my entire life. I felt like my body, my identity, my metaphysical self, and my conscious brain were misaligned. I was raised to believe I was a male, and that trying to leave this predefined category would be incredibly harmful, not only to myself but to others. The inverse was true. As I matured, I began to exhibit signs of depression and anxiety, caused both by my gender dysphoria and by my treatment at the hands of my parental guardian who saw in me signs of rebelling against my cisgender upbringing. My expression was repressed. This only pushed me to seek a way out, any way, and luckily I was supported enough in other ways that I made no lasting harmful decisions. Other trans people, especially trans children, are not so lucky. I do not want my siblings to die, knowing they could experience the full breadth of life, love, peace, happiness, and fulfillment that I have. To let trans children be ruled and dominated by a system that hates them, to fail them in yet another crucial way, would be tantamount to sin in the eyes of even the most religious parent in the state. We cannot afford more deaths. I will not stand for more deaths. I, alongside all my trans siblings and all our allies, demand the Texas legislature deny this bill its passage. You will not force me to leave my home state, the beauty and splendor and people of which I have always loved. You will not force me to detransition, or to change my name and gender markers without my consent. You will not kill me. To Greg Abbott, to Ken Paxton, to the Texas Senate, to the House of Representatives, I deny you your attempts to kill me, my siblings, and our children. May you see you the folly of your actions, it not now, then some day.

Heather Gregory
Self/entrepreneur
Denton, TX

Hi, my name is Heather Gregory and I'm a voting Texan. I'm calling to officially register my opposition to HB1686 and am asking you to vote NO on this bill. Every major medical association in the United States supports gender-affirming care, and we have more important things to do in the Texas legislature than get in the way of parents and doctors. Vote NO on HB1686. Thank you

Erin Russell
Self
Temple, TX

This bill will kill trans kids. I'm guessing that's the goal though.

Ethan Ngai
Self - Production Support
Austin, TX

No to HB1686!

Beata Xu
Self
Plano, TX

Changing gender is terrible thing for a whole life for child. Many children are lead to wrong way by the evil people. Some people just want to make money for themselves. Parents have to protect their children. Parents have the rights to teach and take care of their children. The government is so terrible for next generation today.

Ryan Smith
Self
Allen, TX

My name is Ryan Smith, a native-born Texan and a resident of Allen, TX representing myself. I OPPOSE bill HB 1686.

As Texans, we cherish our personal liberty and the ability to forge our own paths. We have a history of standing up for the weak and lending our power to those who lack it. One notable example is Governor Sam Houston, who fought against popular opinion to keep Texas out of the Confederacy. US Senator from Texas, Ralph Yarborough, voted in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 in opposition to his party. Speaker Joe Straus, against the wishes of his party, defended the importance of expanded Medicaid access and dignity for Transgender Texans. US Representative from Texas, Tony Gonzales, voted against party demands in support of gun safety laws and same-sex marriage protections. All are Texans who prioritized doing what is right over the pressure of party politics.

Today, you face a new challenge, one that has the potential to impact the lives of thousands of Texans. This bill, HB 1686, seeks to revoke access to gender-affirming care for young Transgender Texans, a care that has been proven to be critical for their mental health and well-being. You have heard from medical experts and Transgender individuals themselves about the debilitating effects of gender dysphoria and the importance of timely and appropriate medical care. The American Medical Association has published guidelines for gender-affirming care since 2016, many of which are banned by this bill. If this bill passes, it would prevent healthcare providers from offering the best possible care to their patients, and could even subject them to legal penalties for providing such care. More importantly, it would deny Transgender youth access to life-saving care, and could lead to an increased risk of depression, anxiety, self-harm, and suicidal ideation.

As Texans, we have a duty to support and defend Transgender youth in the face of hate and discrimination. As legislators, you have a duty to preserve access to the healthcare and support all Texans need to thrive, even if that goes against party politics. If you pass this bill, you would be denying Transgender Texans their basic human rights to healthcare and causing them immeasurable harm.

Texans have never shied away from the consequences of doing the right thing.

Sam Houston’s legacy is clear.
Ralph Yarborough’s legacy is clear.
Joe Straus’ legacy is clear.
Tony Gonzales’ legacy is clear.

Keep your legacy and conscience clear and vote NO to HB 1686.

Katie Peng
Self / full time Mom
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686

Ryan Smith
Self
Allen, TX

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Wyatt Watson
Texas Lives MAtter
Alamo, TX

Leave our children alone, our children do not belong to the government, stop this madness, it’s a shame we must even be having to push you to do the right thing. Table HB 1686 !

Sarah Palmer
Self - Public Health Program Manager
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill as a public health professional with a master's degree in public health and 8 years of experience in the public health field, including 5 years of experience providing gender affirming care to transgender Texans. I have many transgender loved ones and friends who rely on gender affirming care. This care is LIFE SAVING, literally, as it dramatically improves mental health outcomes and reduces the risk of suicide. We have plenty of data to prove it, and the data is readily available to this committee. Transgender people are being used as a scapegoat by the Republican Party to distract from the real public health issues impacting Texas kids such as gun violence in schools and the high rate of uninsured children. I urge the public health committee to listen to the medical professionals who have actual experience in providing this life saving gender affirming care, and to reject this bill in order to focus on the real areas of public health concern defined by the CDC and TX Dept of State Health Services.

William Fearer
Self
Ft worth, TX

I oppose gender mutalation surgeries.

Paula White
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Vote no

Juli Gerrard
Self
NRH, TX

I am in support of Bill 1686.

Jessica Sturdevant
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686. And request that the House also support the life and futures of our state's children by voting for this bill and stopping gender mutilation, sterilization and using tax payers money to destroy children's lives. Please vote for this bill. This is actually what our state wants. We do not want our children disfigured and destroyed. Leave the choices about gender transition to people once they are adults and not to growing/developing children.

Ryan Smith
Self
Allen, TX

My name is Ryan Smith, a native-born Texan and a resident of Allen, TX representing myself. I OPPOSE bill HB 1686.

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Jose Moya
Goat Locker Game Farm
Gillett, TX

Please support this bill with your vote…… 1686 must be passed!! Procedures of this matter should never be put on the shoulders of the tax payer. People get themselves into a mess such as this should seek private or use their own paid for medical services insurance to pay for their twisted self induced medical issues.

Ann Alley
Self, RN
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill and see these procedures and treatments as child abuse and mutilation. We answer to God for the way we treat others, especially the children he has created in His image.

Chelsea Ndiulor
Self - Administration
Cedar Hill, TX

I do NOT want the use of public money or public assistance to provide such procedures and treatments.

Billy Collins
Self - Sales Manager
Cypress, TX

I strongly support this bill and do not want any state funds going towards aiding persons to transition from their biological services. Please vote for it as polls indicate the vast majority of Texans support it.

Natalia Morgan
Self
Georgetown, TX

I completely disagree with this bill. Children deserve access to gender affirming care for a variety of reasons that has been very successfully documented by legitimate medical professionals. I am disgusted that this is what Representative Oliverson is wasting their time trying to get through the house when Texans have much more pressing and important needs that should be addressed right now like gun control, adequate funding of our schools and higher pay for our public school teachers, and making sure that we will not run into dire energy issues during the winter and summer.

Jay Jackson
self
Temple, TX

Legislators should not insert themselves in the doctor’s office between the patient and provider. Legislators should not be in the business of taking away legally available healthcare. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child. This bill presumes that legislators know more about the health and well being of patients than the doctors who treat them. How many of you went to medical school? This is nothing more than an effort to use transgender people as a "culture war" wedge issue. If you vote for this bill, you should be ashamed of yourselves.

Neil Decker
Self / Student
Wimberley, TX

If someone under eighteen years of age can legally drive a car, have a job, and sign away thousands of dollars of their future salary to pay for university, they should also be able to make informed decisions on their medical transition. For the vast majority of trans people, myself included, medical transition procedures hugely improve quality of life and significantly reduce suicidal ideation. Banning minors from obtaining medical transition procedures would put more teens at risk of self-harm or suicide. It takes an insane amount of courage for a person to accept that they are transgender; we worry about how people will treat us, how we are seen by others, if we will lose the people we love because we want to live our own lives honestly. A person would not go through medical transition if they aren't sure they want it. A parent would not put their child through medical transition if it was not what their child wanted. This bill would not protect childrens' lives; it would only put more lives in danger of self-harm.

Nicholas Ramos
Kind clinic
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

Kathryn Ferguson
Self
Gun Barrel City, TX

I support HB 1686! Children cannot purchase alcohol until they're 21 (because their brains aren't fully developed), can't join the military until they're 18 (without parent permission), can't get a driver's license until at least 15 (not responsible enough?), can't purchase a firearm until they're 18, can't purchase tobacco products until they're 21, all because they aren't old enough or developed enough to make those decisions. Yet people support this insane idea that very young children are mentally developed enough to decide to chop off body parts and permanently mutilate themselves? If Einstein were alive today, he might very well modify his definition of insanity! This country needs to stop promoting and glorifying what is essentially a mental health issue of self mutilation!!! The Country needs to STOP PUSHING THIS INSANITY!!!!

Paula White
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Vote no! Protect our children from mutalation..stop thinking of money over normal life. Wake up America!

Angela Ashmore
myself
Spicewood, TX

Studies in Australia over a long period of time show that children often outgrow their sexual confusion after puberty, at a very high rate. So it seems to me to subject children to reproductive sterilization, lifetime commitment of hormone medication (related to cancer), painful and unnecessary surgery before allowing their informed consent is not only criminal it is cruelty beyond measure.

Jena Ferguson
Self
Nederland, TX

FOR

Nadine Guy
Self/ Mother
Fort Worth, TX

These surgeries do NOT HELP PEOPLE! If children and minors are not old enough to consent to sexual activity or to even have their parents consent to them having sexual contact with others, THEN WHY ARE THEY BEING ALLOWED TO MAKE THESES DECISIONS THAT WILL FOREVER IMPACT THEIR SEXUAL LIFE? It doesn't make sense! This bill needs to pass so that the damage can at least start to be mitigated! Placing restrictions on doctors cutting off healthy parts of the body or prescribing medication to castrate minors is the bare minimum. These kids need real help. They are not in the wrong body. There is no body out there that they were supposed to have. They only have their own body. Such as it is. They need real therapy to help them accept and love themselves for who they physically are. Why are people telling kids that if they don't like their bodies or feel uncomfortable in them, then they should get surgeries? It's sick and needs to stop. Please do the right thing and pass this bill to stop the abusive doctors in our state. Christ is King!

Victoria Gerhart, NYOB
Self made mom retired educator and customer service mgr
McKinney, TX

Not up to the general public or government to make these decisions

Rhonda Johnson
Center for Counseling and Family Relationships
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this bill. As a licensed professional counselor and licensed marriage and family therapist who is the owner of a large counseling practice, we see the devastation and long term impact of choices made by adolescents. Allowing procedures before a child's life experiences and brain development warrant those decisions is detrimental with a life long negative impact to the child or adolescent. There is not enough validated research mental health to prove a long term effectiveness from these procedures on long term mental health.

Susan Masters
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am against this horrible HB 1686, please VOTE NO!

Charlie Swanner
Self / Retired
Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this bill

Jennifer Tredway
Self - Parent
Fort Worth, TX

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill. It is unacceptable that we should allow this kind of irreversible surgery on minors at tax payer expense or otherwise.

Monroe Fuster
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose strongly

Tyler Tredway
Self - Financial Advisor
Ft Worth, TX

SUPPORT HB 1686 - As a parent and Texas taxpayer, I believe we have a moral and fiscal obligation to the children and parents of TX to protect them from these life-altering, irreversible surgeries. The state of TX should in no way be involved in the funding and propagation of gender transitioning procedures.

Juan Varela
Self
Richland Hills, TX

I am in support of this bill. We must protect our children.

Christina Jarzombek, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I support this bill. Until an individual is an adult, their mind, body and internal organs fully matured, and fully understands the consequences/outcomes of their decisions, it should be unlawful for a doctor to engage in gender transitioning or reassignment procedures and treatments.

Catie Brosig
Self
Manchaca, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Gender affirming care is considered an evidence based, safe and critically important practice and should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams.

Ann Zadeh
Self
Fort Worth, TX

my name Ann Zadeh. I am a voting Texan. I'm writing to officially register my opposition to HB1686 and am asking you to vote NO on this bill. Every major medical association in the United States supports gender affirming care, and we have more important things to do in the Texas legislature than get in the way of parents and doctors. Vote NO on HB1686. Thank you."

Y Kouns
Self
Waxahachie, TX

As a a parent of 2 and Texas resident my whole life I am writing to you today pleading our legislators PASS this bill. We have to protect children! The prefrontal cortex of the brain, which is responsible for impulse decisions is not fully developed until 25 years of age. Please remember and take that into consideration! We must prevent children from making impulse decisions that are irreversible. Please pass HB1686 and protect all Texas minors.

Thank you.

Paula White
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Don’t be a political coward.. protect the innocent children!
No drag shows in public schools! Or any underaged student!
Let the trans murderer be a wake-up call.
Put an armed guard at every school

Louisa Harwood
Self
Dallas, TX

I am very in support of the passing of this bill!

Abigail Barth
Self
Gilmer, TX

I support this bill in prohibiting the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Andrea Limon
Self homemaker & homeschool parent
Haslet, TX

I want to go on record as being FOR this house bill! The trans movement must be stopped and our children protected from life changing mutilations.

Jessica Casey, RN
Self
San Antonio, TX

Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. Using minority stress theory and the interpersonal theory of suicide, this study aims to better understand suicide risk among transgender youth. The present study examines the influence of intervenable risk factors: interpersonal and environmental microaggressions, internalized self-stigma, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and protective factors: school belonging, family support, and peer support on both lifetime suicide attempts and past 6-month suicidality in a sample of transgender youth (n = 372). SPSS 22 was utilized to examine the impact of the independent variables on both suicidality and lifetime suicide attempt through two separate logistic regressions. Fifty six percent of youth reported a previous suicide attempt and 86% reported suicidality. Logistic regressions indicated that models for both lifetime suicide attempts and suicidality were significant. Interpersonal microaggressions, made a unique, statistically significant contribution to lifetime suicide attempts and emotional neglect by family approached significance. School belonging, emotional neglect by family, and internalized self-stigma made a unique, statistically significant contribution to past 6-month suicidality. Results have significant practice and policy implications. Findings offer guidance for practitioners working with parents and caregivers of trans youth, as well as, for the creation of practices which foster interpersonal belonging for transgender youth.

Respondents who experienced discrimination or were a victim of violence were more likely to report suicide thoughts and attempts.
Respondents who experienced family rejection were also more likely to report attempting suicide.

Access to gender-affirming medical care is associated with a lower prevalence of suicide thoughts and attempts.

Does Texas want dead kids over trans kids?

Claudia Quezada
Self
Spring, TX

I Support HB1686

Mandy Ramsey
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Gender reassignment, surgery and chemical castration should be a crime not funded with tax payer dollars.

Rhonda Landrum, Mrs
Self-Retired
Oak Leaf, TX

I am in favor of HB 1686

Rikki Frazier, Mrs.
Self
Burleson, TX

HB 1686 by Oliverson
Select
Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

“I support HB 1686”
To support the bill which prohibits the use of state money to do this to kids. I think children need to be protected from adults who do not have the childrens well being at hand. They need to be fully aware of what they are choosing. Children do not have that comprehension of understanding the long term outcome.

Elizabeth Jordan
Self
San Antonio, TX

It is unconscionable for the state of Texas to be considering legislation that flies in the face of what medical and mental health experts tell us. Gender affirming care is life-saving care. It is medically and psychologically necessary to save the lives of children suffering from gender dysphoria. You should not criminalize parents for doing what is necessary to keep their children healthy and happy and alive. To pass this law, will cause trans children to die. Every life is important. It is beyond ignorant to think that lawmakers know better than medical experts. The American Medical Association views these bills as a dangerous legislative intrusion into the practice of medicine and has been working closely with state medical associations to vigorously oppose them. In letters to legislators, the AMA has emphasized that it is “imperative that transgender minors be given the opportunity to explore their gender identity under the safe and supportive care of a physician.”

Metz Jessica
Myself
La Porte, TX

I support this bill unequivocally!!

Charles McOsker
Self
Bastrop, TX

As a Texas resident, I am strongly opposed to this bill's intrusion into health care. Legislators should not insert themselves in the doctor’s office between the patient and provider. Legislators should not be in the business of taking away legally available healthcare. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child.

Steven Axt
Self graphic artist
Corpus Christi, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm #LetThemGrow
Therefore, I am IN FAVOR of HB1686

Nan Leavell
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill.

Katherine Seal
Self
San Antonio, TX

NO child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification treatments, drugs, procedures of minor children in Texas. These decisions should not be made by children and should only be allowed for adults who can fully understand the choice they are making.

Gay Herrin
Self, teacher
Lubbock, TX

Transgender surgery in children cannot be reversed! 50% more suicides than peers. It exacerbates their illness inside of making them happy. I am supporting this bill,SB1686.

Cassandra Dowell
self database developer
Richland Hills, TX

I support this bill.

Arthur Bramlett
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is transphobic, oppressive, and does not address a real problem that is actually occurring. Trans kids and adolescents may use puberty blockers and in VERY RARE instances older trans teens may require top surgery, but there is no need for other gender affirming surgeries before the age of 18 anyways. This bill is fearmongering a nonexistent issue for political purposes. You are using parents fear for their children as a scare tactic to garner political power and you should be ashamed of yourself. If you really cared about children's well-being you could address medically unnecessary surgeries done on intersex babies and children to make their bodies conform to a harmfully rigid and prescriptive concept of gender.

As a trans Texan, this bill makes me angry and fearful for all kids, parents, and families in this state whose right to medically necessary healthcare is being stripped away due to bigotry, reactionary fear, and hate for those with different values or beliefs. I urge you to listen to your LGBTQ and specifically your trans constituents on this issue — not detransitioners flown in from out of state.

Parents have a right to choose healthcare for their children, and deserve the freedom and autonomy to make the best choices for their family. This bill restricts freedom and eliminates human rights from a minority group. It is unconscionable to pass this bill. Please consider how history will look back on this moment and this legislation — trans and LGB voters will only continue to increase in number.

Amy Barth
Self
Gilmer, TX

As a person that facilitates a technique to support families with special needs , I often see a healthier , happier environment creates a place where each child can thrive and succeed with the male or female physiology they were born into this world having .
I ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT THIS BILL - thank you !

Tonya Gilliam
Project Destiny
Lubbock, TX

NO HARM TO CHILDREN!!
Prohibit gender modification!!

William Leavell
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please don’t allow children to change their God given bodies until they are old enough to make an educated unbiased decision on their own. Vote for HB 1686

Chelsea Magee
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children.

Michelle Hopper
Self
Dallas, TX

Children should wait until their brains are fully formed - age 25 or older - before undergoing these harmful procedures. A majority outgrow gender dysphoria. Protect our children!

Barbara OConnell
Self
Houston, TX

FOR

Taylor Hall Hall
Self
Forest Hill, TX

As a Texan I stand to protect our children !!!

Helen Kent
Self. Retired rteacjer
Houston, TX

These decisions are made by private individuals & should be funded by such No public monies should be use

Jennifer Riedel
None
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Children are not developmentally capable of making decisions that are permanent and will affect them for the rest of their lives. We rightly prohibit minors from getting tattoos- why would we allow them to mutilate their bodies in this way? Please protect these children!

Wanda O'Neal
Me
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill!

Cathy Frayne
self / marketing manager
Austin, TX

up to parents not the govt

Karley Henson
self- outdoor education administrator
Georgetown, TX

This bill is discriminatory and does not reflect the widespread opinion of the public. Please do not pass this bill.

Jane Bromley
Self (editor)
Lubbock, TX

Please support this bill to protect our children from misguided activists!

alexandra hamlin
self
Austin, TX

Trans people are human beings and do not deserve to be treated this way. I firmly oppose this bill.

Belinda Jackson
Self
Lubbock, TX

No public funds or public assistance

Hongfeng Li
Self
Frisco, TX

Support HB1686

Robin Hall, Dr.
self
N. Richland Hills, TX

Support

Pablo Gutierrez
Self - Web Designer
San antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. The specific carve-outs in this bill for precocious puberty and intersex individuals betray the intentions of this bill—To discriminate against transgender individuals. Particularly the callouts for chromosome makeup, as there are many cisgender men who have xx chromosomes show that the biological sex of an individual is not defining of their gender. If there was a male to female transgender child who had XX chromosomes and one with XY one would be allowed but the other would not? The idea of some essential marker of gender is ridiculous, as the bill itself shows. The idea of the state interfering in individual's lives based on this is a clear example of governmental overreach.

All of this should be framed by the fact that the transgender population makes up only a fraction of a percent, the Williams institute at UCLA estimates it to be 0.3% of the US population. With the percent of children who are transgender likely being a much smaller amount. These treatments that the state is seeking to restrict are exceedingly rare and only performed with a the consent of the parents, the child and, the expertise of a physician. These decisions are not made lightly by any party involved and are often LIFESAVING for the children. This bill has no interest in protecting minors, instead it seeks to discriminate against a tiny minority of people who do not conform to an arbitrary idea of gender.

Overall this bill REEKS of a cockamamie theory of gender care based on sensationalist coverage, rather than medical experts and the community it would affect.

Mallory Prokopuk
Self
Katy, TX

Why are you trying to prohibit parents from helping their children. Nobody is forcing their children into these treatments, these parents are allowing their children to be their authentic selves, perhaps even saving their lives in doing so. This states refusal to respect individual choice when it comes to our bodies is killing people. The Texas legislature should be labeled as murderers for every child that ends their life because they have yo be something they aren’t to fit your ignorant view of the world. They aren’t hurting you! You are hurting them!

Keisha Jackson
self
Dallas, TX

Dear Representatives,

As a Black trans woman and educator in Texas, I am deeply concerned about any legislation that would restrict or limit access to necessary medical care for transgender individuals. I am writing to urge you to reject any proposal that would restrict the ability of transgender individuals to access gender-affirming healthcare, including hormone replacement therapy and gender confirmation surgeries.

Transgender individuals, particularly those who are Black or of color, already face significant barriers to accessing quality healthcare due to discrimination and bias from healthcare providers, inadequate insurance coverage, and limited availability of knowledgeable providers. These barriers are compounded for those who also experience poverty, homelessness, and other forms of systemic oppression.

As an educator, I know firsthand the harm that can result from policies and laws that discriminate against marginalized communities. Limiting the access of transgender individuals to necessary medical care only serves to further stigmatize and marginalize this vulnerable population, which already faces disproportionate rates of violence, harassment, and discrimination.

I urge you to consider the impact that this legislation would have on the health and well-being of transgender individuals, particularly those who are Black or of color. We must work to promote the health and well-being of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or any other marginalized identities they may hold.

Please reject any proposal that would restrict access to gender-affirming healthcare and instead work to promote policies that support the health and well-being of all individuals, including Black trans women like myself.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Brenda Bryant
Self
Ft Worth, TX

There are only two genders, male and female. You are what God created and designed you to become before the foundations of the world. Public monies should not go towards destroying anyone's life.

Kara Ash
Self - Composer, Musician
Austin, TX

Please. This is a matter of life & death for these children & families. Please do not restrict the support of transgender children on their journeys. No system is perfect, however we must TRY to help each other. Please rest your hearts in love & do the right thing. Please help all transgender people by continuing to expand the supports needed to increase mental health in this beautiful state for generations to come. I am a transgender woman, having finally reached a point of bravery to transition at the age of 46. I wish I grew up in such a nurturing environment as what is available today — however we have so far yet to go! This bill would send us backwards and literally destroy TX lives! Even at the age of 46, I would not have been able to make my healing journey possible without state-funded services & supports such as the Kind Clinic. They are the most important blessing in my life. Every single morning I wake up with gratitude for these amazing people supporting the trans community & beyond. Please do not vote for fear or power, please vote for LOVE & compassion with your hearts. The trans community is hanging on by a thread in today’s world, and we desperately need this state support. Thank you & God bless you.

Lindsay York
Joyful Living
Newark, TX

There is no good reason for children to receive procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. More than 1 in 4 adults who self-identify as transgender (28 percent) oppose such treatments, while another third (29 percent) neither agree nor disagree; only 42 percent agree or strongly agree. Those who identified as politically liberal, as a “Liberal Protestant,” as Jewish, or as nonreligious were more likely to agree than those who are transgender.

Would society be in favor of allowing children to make similar irrevocable life-altering decisions? What doors does it open if we allow these treatments? For things like school choice, job choice, marriage choice, etc.? Most reasonable adults, of course, would not support giving children the ability to make irrevocable decisions about their vocations or marital prospects. Why then do they support irrevocable decisions about gender transitioning that will also affect them for life?

Many who support such procedures are likely unaware that studies have shown that 60 percent to 80 percent of adolescents who suffer from gender dysphoria (i.e., a strong desire to be of another gender) do not identify as transgender when they reach adulthood. If more than 60 percent are likely to change their mind, why allow them to make unalterable changes to their body before the age of 18?

They also may not realize, as the study points out, that puberty-blocking treatments begin at around the ages of 9 to 11, that double mastectomies are being done on children as young as 13, and genital reconstruction surgery is performed on kids as young as 15.

It is well-known that leading experts on transgender medicine are accusing trans-activists of muffling their concerns about the quality of evaluations of adolescents and young adults with gender dysphoria. While clinicians who have raised the warning flags say the health of young people is their primary concern, activists worry that open questioning of the situation will fuel the anti-trans legislation sweeping across the nation, and further stigmatize trans youth. Others agree that it is time to take a closer look at the widely backed "gender-affirmative care" model and the quality of care being delivered, but they believe it should be done in the halls of academia, not through the lay press or on social media.

Ultimately, I believe that all humans are created by God, there are two genders, He created male and female, and each person is born who they are supposed to be. I recognize that mental health care is needed for children who may feel confused and need support, but again, there is no good reason for children to receive procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.

Linda Merriott, Ms.
Self
Lubbock, TX

Against- this would harm children!

Casey Wood
Self
Houston, TX

Support

Micah Hope
Self
Denton, TX

Gender affirming care should be decided between a medical doctor and their client (which includes parents for a minor). The government should not be dictating what is or is not allowed and over-ruling medical organizations who have stated that gender affirming care should be available to children. Banning gender affirming care will result in higher rates or suicide for trans children. The government needs to stay out of this and let doctors do their jobs.

Luis Varela
Self
Humble, TX

For

John Daigle
Conservative
Blanket, TX

No public money for this procedures,/treatment of any type.

Chad Williams
Chad Williams
Fort Worth, TX

For

Donna Cox
Self
Spring, TX

I would like to register my support for HB 1686

Aaron Lincoln
Self
Fort Worth, TX

People should be ashamed for the necessity of this bill.

Karen Burden, Mrs.
Self
Woodway, TX

We definitely should ban these procedures and never allow state money to be used for them!

Matti Danford
Self
Austin, TX

This would impact my health and quality of life especially as a disabled trans person, any adjustment or change especially on a horemonal level would greatly danger my health and losing access means I would lose things like my ability to walk with out mobility aids

Chris Spinelli
Self / Pilot
Keller, TX

There should be zero public dollars spent on gender transition.

Rachel Mason
Self, composer
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming care for young patients is life-affirming care. This decision is between the doctor, the patient, and the patient's parents. Let these young Texans live and present as they wish to, they are harming no one, and in many cases gender-affirming care saves the lives of young trans boys and girls. Please see this study on PubMed: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/ showing " Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth."

This bill will increase suicide among young trans people, please don't let their blood be on your hands. Let these young treasures get the life-affirming care they need.

Nicole Lincoln
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR APPROVAL of this bill

Kelsi Wilbers, They/Them
Self
Spicewood, TX

I am opposed to HB 1686. I am writing you with lived experience as a gender non-conforming (GNC) person who has felt the very real physical and mental effects of living a life that is contrary to the inner self. I also write to you with professional experience as the coordinator of mental health intake for a practice that primarily serves the underprivileged LGBTQIA2+ population in Texas.
I have much concern for all GNC children in the State of Texas should this bill pass. I was in the hearing room on Monday, 3.27.2023 until midnight when the Pubic Health Committee heard the testimonies of a small percentage of those registered in opposition to the bill. I am also a professional photographer, and I was there to photograph my CEO speaking, he sadly was not chosen to give testimony despite his very valuable perspective and immense experience.
Let's begin with the common ground that I have with those who wrote and/or sponsored HB 1686. I agree that:
- Some legal guidelines are needed to ensure that GNC minors are protected from predatorial practitioners
- Hormones or surgery should NEVER be a first treatment for gender dysphoria
- Therapy should be our first line of support for minors who present with gender dysphoria
- No therapist or healthcare professional should coerce any client toward any gender affirming surgery or hormone treatment.
- Mindful consideration should always be taken when prescribing gender affirming hormone for any person under the age of 18.
- No child should undergo gender-affirming genital surgeries before the age of 18.
- Added accountability is imperative for healthcare providers who provide gender affirming care to anyone under 18 years old.
- "Top Surgery" aka Mastectomies should remain rare occurrence and be reserved for minors that are post pubescent.
Now let's consider what I am not in alignment with regarding those who wrote and/or sponsored HB 1686. I disagree with:
- Banning any and all gender affirming care. This bill is a blanket, overreaching attempt to control (already often inaccessible) healthcare for queer youth.
- I disagree with the notion that parents should have the right decide the physical genitalia of an infant when a child is born transexual (unless they need surgery for the ability to eliminate waste).
- The notion that children cannot be trusted to communicate their truest self.
- That straight, cisgender individuals who have no lived experience with trans people should be authoring bills that affect only trans and other GNC individuals.
The way it is written, this bill is not well written legislation, and it will fail to protect the gender non-conforming children that the authors claim to care about. If a bill is to be written to protect the Trans and other GNC children in Texas, it should be authored with the guidance and consideration of healthcare professionals who ethically provide the care in that is question. Please, do what is right and stand with me in opposition of HB 1686.

Daphne Parken
self
Spicewood, TX

Please vote for HB 1686 and stop the medicalization of gender confused minors

pixerelli sunshine fuhry
Self insurance specialist
Austin, TX

Good Day, I would like to register my opposition to this bill. This bill will not “protect the children” if anything, it will cause irreversible harm. This will stop people from educating themselves and encourage more ridicule and hate than trans people already have to face. I trust that the doctor will make the best decision according to the patients health and wellbeing. This is not for the state to decide. This is a doctor, parent/guardian, individual decision. I pay taxes and I support money that goes to help anyone on public assistance. It is not my business to decide the best treatment for anyone. I have met many trans children and many trans adults. The adults had huge struggles their whole lives-not having any idea what was happening to them and living in shame. They do not choose this. I have heard of many that chose suicide and never get help. Being able to help children deal with gender dysphoria when they are young is a huge step, whether that be with therapy, hormone blockers or whatever the doctor sees best. It is irresponsible to word a bill like it is worded above-it is worded to invoke fear. If you have gender dysphoria, you have gender dysphoria, and in addition to therapy there are medical interventions that can help lessen the dysphoria. Just like depression, it never goes away. Gender reassignment is not gender reassignment surgery-a seperate issue-it is changing your gender. -gender transitioning can mean so many different things, and is not always part of a medical intervention. Please educate yourselves. Please speak with medical professionals. Speak with children and parents of children dealing with these issues. I do not believe you would be on board with this bill if you did. These are humans. Of all the things you could be doing to “protect children” you choose to marginalize people who are already struggling? If they can get the help they need when they are young-it is for everyone’s good. This is not a large part of the population, putting efforts towards schools/food disparities/mental health/drug and sex education-job training, things that will help people and more children not hurt them. As a mother of 3 and grandmother of 2, I ask you to please understand this will not help anyone. It will prevent help. Thank you, Pixie

Beatriz Cannon
Self
Houston, TX

Support this bill. Unfathomable that you would consider otherwise our children must be protected from the egregious proposition of child mutilation.
Protect our kids they’re a gift from God.
Support the Bill

Jeri Archuleta
self/ Investor
Austin, TX

This bill will be very damaging to our youth, possibly leading to higher suicide rates, depression and anxiety. These procedures bring happiness to our trans youth. These procedures bring hope. This effects a large part of our population, not only the individual but their friends and family that want them to be happy, and to be normal which only will happen if they can transition.This is a parental issue and effects the entire family and extended family so parents do not take this lightly. I am assuming those voting for this bill do not have any children or know anyone that is transgender. They are loving, kind children trusting us to help them not hinder them. They just want to belong. Just like you. They need our help to be in the right body. Can you just think how terrified they must feel? The pain that they feel from bills like this is immense.It is immense for me as well. The pain they feel from our leaders promoting this bill is immense. I ask for compassion and empathy and to vote agains this "hate" bill. It saddens my heart that our great state of Texas would consider this. To help our transgenders is to help the state of Texas and bring back compassion. It starts with our leaders. Please please, let it begin with you. Yes to public money, yes to assistance to provide procedures and treatments. Please vote against this bill. God bless you and thank you for you service.

Roland Schmitt
Self
Arlington, TX

I support this bill.

Jeanna Lee
Do No Harm
Lubbock, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Cheris Fuller
Self
Fort Worth, TX

For

Deana Day
Self CPA
Cypress, TX

I am for this bill!!!!!

Carol Ashcraft, Ms
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I believe that gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria of children should not be allowed, much less financed with taxpayer money. Please support this bill. Thank you.

Greg Beam
Self
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686.

Lydia Price
Self
Leonard, TX

FOR

Laura Looney
Self
Abilene, TX

I believe children should not be provided these procedures under the age of 21yrs old. At this time they should get all the facts. It’s not a fix all.

Elizabeth Muzyka, Mrs
Myself
Plano, TX

It has long been established that children are not ready, develop mentally to make decisions needed to drive a car, vote, operate power tools in a variety of other things, including the buying and consumption of alcohol. Neither are they develop mentally mature enough to make gender related decisions, mentioned in this bill that are drastic, life altering decisions. Neither should adults be making this decisions for them just as we don't choose marriage partners or adult vocations for them when they're children nor do most insurance companies pay for any on necessary surgery.

Linda Christian
Self
Lubbock, TX

It believe it is absolutely crucial that this bill pass to protect our precious children from the horrors and mutilation of sexualization, and gender transitioning and reassignment. We must empower, especially innocent, vulnerable children to embrace, love, value, respect and honor their own and others true identities, those endowed at conception, with respect to gender as well as every aspect of our beings. We must learn and teach our children to live with honesty, reality, integrity and dignity, putting an end to the promotion and practices of destructive delusions and fantasy that perpetuate horrific damage to individuals and society.

Carole Johnson
Self
Round Rock, TX

Please do not take away my rights as a parent to make decisions about my child's healthcare. What is best for my child is between us and our Dr and mental health provider. You are setting up a massive onslaught of suicides by forcing retransission. Don't fall to pressure of misinformed politicians and vote with your heart. LET TRANS KIDS LIVE.

Velma Pavlasek
self / retired computer programmer
Austin, TX

I watched the committee hearing on HB 1686 online for most of the day on March 27, 2023, and I was struck by how the authors of this bill would get defensive when a witness provided evidence that contradicted their reasons for denying medical treatment to children with gender dysphoria. I have been a Republican voter for 50 years and I am an evangelical Christian, and I know the arguments that are advanced for denying this treatment to this minority group. And I say to you that these bills are a form of persecution merely because you have the power to do so. I do not see any other medical treatment denied to anyone else in our state. So, that leads to the perception that you do not really have the best interests of these families and children in mind.

As a citizen of Texas and of the United States, I see these anti-transgender bills as an erosion of our liberties. As a conservative Republican, my family and I were against the way we were treated during the COVID pandemic. My daughter who works for the VA was forced to get the vaccine despite her religious convictions. Doctors who advocated alternate treatments were labeled as spreading misinformation and were threaten with their loss of license to practice medicine. I see so many parallels between the issue of COVID vaccines with the issue of transgender medical care. And I am afraid that if you pass this bill, it will set a precedent which will allow government to make medical decisions that are best left to an individual, their family, and their doctors. What Pandora's box are you opening with this bill? It is a question that you should consider because you may not be looking at the long term affects that this law will have on the rest of us.

One witness, a physician, made the best case for how to handle all the issues that are problematic with current treatment for gender dysphoria. I also advocate for the following:

1) Require physicians in the state of Texas, whose practice includes treatment of gender dysphoria, to be certified that they have been educated in the latest best practices recommended by the different medical groups. This is no different than requiring a certain number of classroom hours for realtors.

2) If data is missing due to lack of studies because this group of patients is so small, then allocate money for such studies.

Other than these, do not attempt to practice medicine from the Texas Legislature. Even if you are a physician, you know that medical treatments all have risks. That is why doctors carry malpractice insurance. Let the process of determining best care practices for gender dysphoria take its course by allowing the patients, their families, and their doctors to make the best medical decisions that they can with the current information at hand. This bill will delay that normal course of learning what is the best treatment.

I hope you will consider all I have said. Thank you for listening.

Kevin Carollo
self
AUSTIN, TX

I am a local, queer firefighter that came out late in life at the age of rougly 36. I wish that I had the education and the freedom to control my body with nationally recognized medical information. At work I respon to persons with mental health issues and suicide attempts and hope that I never have to come across a LGBT person that has ended their life due to lack of support. These restrictions will cause an increase in harm to LGBT persons and I will be the first responder suffering the PTSD consequences among the hurt of every person conntected to that person.

VIVIAN GERACI
self, mother
Round Rock, TX

I fully support this bill. Please protect children from permanently altering their bodies via surgery or medications, until they're brains are fully developed, they are old enough to vote, and legally drink alcohol. As a mother of three children - 2 girls and 1 boy currently ages 12, 12, and 10. I've watched all of them go thru phases of curiosity about what it means to be the opposite gender. During these little kid phases, which lasted from a few months to a year, they would sometimes wear opposite gender clothing, play with opposite gender toys or games, or tell me they would rather be with their same sex friends than the opposite. We observed these phases without commenting on it as either bad or good. We encouraged their curiosity basing our language on the idea that either gender can enjoy items and activities typically done by the other gender. All 3 of my children came out of these phases in their own time, and still desiring to be the gender they were born with. Its a part of growing up.

Please vote to allow these children to grow up. Please protect the children of Texas from permanent harm. Once the child becomes an adult, they can still elect the surgery or hormone therapy if they so desire it. Instead of permanent changes, encourage mental health care services, such as psychotherapy services with a qualified professional to help the person understand all that its happening in their growing and changing bodies, and explore their feelings of gender dysphoria.

Please protect the children from a medical industry that is hungry for its next surgical customer or lifelong medication client. Someone must be the voice of reason for these children. Please pass this bill!

Edna Orona
Self, Counselor
Denton, TX

Good afternoon,

Thank you committee for your time. I am writing in opposition for HB 1868. At the time of writing, I am an Licensed Professional Couselor-Associate (LPC-A), and National Certified Counselor (NCC). I graduated with my Master's Degree of Science in Clinical Mental Health. I am bound by the American Counseling Association's (ACA) Code of Ethics. "The American Counseling Association is a membership organization representing licensed professional counselors, counseling students, and other counseling professionals in the United States. It is the world's largest association exclusively representing professional counselors." Gender affirming care is life saving care, as it is ethical care. The ACA states in plain English that my primary responsibility is to protect client welfare (A.1.a). Denying clients the opportunity to life saving care would be a direct violation of not only this code but also the following codes. I will name a few for the sake of brevity. A.1.c, "Counselors and their clients work jointly in devising integrated counseling plans that offer reasonable promise of success and are consistent with abilities and circumstances of clients. Counselors and clients regularly review counseling plans to assess their continued viability and effectiveness, respecting the freedom of choice of clients." A.4.a "Counselors act to avoid harming their clients, trainees, and research participants and to minimize or to remedy unavoidable or unanticipated harm." The diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM-5) is published by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) it lists functional consequences of gender dysphoria as, "Preoccupation with cross-gender wishes may develop at all ages for the first 2-3 years of childhood and often interferes with daily activities...some children may refuse to attend school because of teasing and harassment..." "Also in adolescents and adults preoccupation with cross-gender wishes often interferes with daily activities..." I implore you not to force children to live in distress. One of the concerns during the live hearing from committee member was regarding the use of control groups for the efficacy of Hormone Replacement Therapy and the use of Puberty Blockers. In a study published in 2020 in the Journal of Adolescent Health there was a control group. To quote the article, "Transgender adolescents receiving puberty suppression had fewer emotional and behavioral problems than the group that had just been referred to transgender care and had similar or fewer problems than their same-age cisgender peers on the Youth Self-Report domains." doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2019.12.018. In a similar article, "Use of GAHT [gender-affirming hormone therapy] was associated with lower odds of recent depression and seriously considering suicide compared to those who wanted GAHT but did not receive it." doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.10.0360
Thank you.

Leigh Vladyka
Self
Austin, TX

I am a public school teacher, and this bill would cause irreparable harm to my current and future students. Gender-affirming care is life saving, and done under the supervision of medical professionals who have extensively studied how to provide that care. As well, it's a Texan's individual right to make their own medical decisions. It would be an infringement of personal liberty and an encroachment of individual rights for the government to interfere with personal choice. Texans deserve affordable and life-saving medical care, and that includes gender-affirming care.

Steve Holcomb
Self - teacher
Keller, TX

As a teacher, I see children every day struggling to try to determine who they are and who they want to be. This is a normal process and NO CHILD should ever be allowed to undergo permanent surgery prior to the age of 18!

Jon Bunn
The Hub DFW
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this and am asking you to SUPPORT this bill!

Denise Taylor
Self
Colleyville, TX

Support

Deborah Leatherwood, Mrs
Household
Weatherford, TX

For passage of this bill

Stacey Bunn
The Hub DFW
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this and am asking you to SUPPORT this bill!

Gregory Watson
Self, retail
Austin, TX

I support House Bill 1686 by Oliverson, as well as its companion legislation, Senate Bill 14 by Campbell.

Sarah Bunn
The Hub DFW
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this and am asking you to SUPPORT this bill!

Hannah Bunn
The Hub DFW
Fort Worth, TX

I am for this and am asking you to SUPPORT this bill!

Mary Lynn Raia
Self
Sugar Land, TX

Please don’t allow childen to be subjected to changing their sex, some children go through similar feelings, but eventually realize that God created them to be either a girl or boy.

Mary Hardy, Mrs
Self
Groves, TX

Please vote FOR HB 1686

Victoria Martinez
Self / Retired
Lubbock, TX

FOR the passing of this Bill . HB 1686 by Oliverson

Loren Lomme
Self, licensed professional counselor
Pflugerville, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Gender affirming care is considered an evidence based, safe and critically important practice and should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams. This is plenty of research that gender affirming care supports better mental health for children and plenty of research and evidence that prohibiting gender affirming care causes both short and long term, detrimental damage to a child’s mental health. As an professional counselor specializing in child and adolescent populations, I can confirm that gender affirming care is critically important for both children and their families.

Anita Landrum, Mrs
Anita Landrum LLC
Taylor, TX

I disagree with gender changes, especially in children.

Kelsey Scotka
Self
Austin, TX

Please reject HB 1686. Protect Texas children!

Sunny Pate
Self. emergency services coordinator
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as I have seen first-hand the effects that lack of access to care for LGBTQIA+ individuals and children has had.

If we want to keep our kids safe, then we make healthcare more accessible. We secure our schools. We pay our teachers more. We write laws limiting access to harmful weapons that are killing them. Access to healthcare is necessary.

Jared New
Self
Decatur, TX

I support this bill

Becky Eickenhorst
Self
Port Arthur, TX

Do not my money used for this

Kathleen Osborn, Retired RN
Resident of Texas
Allen, TX

Young children(under the age of 18) are not able to make any legal decisions for them selves other than this type of decision. Once they have been allowed to go through puberty and are old enough to make an adult decision about the rest of their life, marriage, children etc. Let them make life time choices for themselves , without the influence of parent, teachers and other adults. They may not fell the same way when they are older, but then it may be too late. Don't rush into anything that may turn out to be a disaster.

Lucretsia Black
Self
Austin, TX

This body claims to be acting in an effort to protect children yet routinely fails to do so from the #1 cause of death to children. This body claims to be acting in service of faith yet routinely fails to uphold the values provided in John 13:34-35 (the new commandment - for the "Christians" who haven't studied the book) This body routinely acts in the interest of big oil, the NRA and the elite minority of wealthy donors who do not reflect the values we hold true as a state. This body has proven incapable of representing the will of the people, and rather than change course and address the real crises we face this body has chosen to attack an exceptionally vulnerable few citizens with objectively false and dangerously genocidal narratives. This body does not deserve the authority it has been given, much less the right to dictate what citizens do with their own bodies and what medical care or behavior is appropriate. For those who call themselves faithful, I challenge you to ask yourself, in accordance with John 13:34 - on the day of your judgment will He recognize his love in your actions? To all who have allowed this to go so wrong for so long, shame on you. My entire life has been a raging battle against the expectations of the ignorant and the corrupt. My every thought has been of the potential of violence that so many think I provoke simply by failing to be like they think I should. Every single day of my life has felt like a bad punchline to a cruel joke and for so long I felt I was to blame. But I was not the problem, the problem has always been narrow-minded bigotry founded in the antiquated colonial patriarchy. The solution is possible, and even convenient. The best way forward is honorably representing your constituents and working on the very real issues we face instead of making an embarrassing spectacle of yourselves picking on trans kids. There is so much work to be done, and rather than distract the people and yourselves with culture war theater you need to do the jobs you were elected to do or resign with the disgrace you deserve.

Peggy Brown
Self
Lubbock, TX

FOR!!!!!!! FOR!!!! FOR!!! HEAR MY VOICE! FOR!!!

Waldo Martinez, Dr.
Self, retired physician
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill. I do not believe the state should be paying for these type of procedure on minors.

Hannah Bunn
Self
Fort Worth, TX

For/Support Bill

John Betancourt
self, social work
Austin, TX

As a Texan resident, I am strongly against this bill as it restricts a marginalized populations access to evidence based healthcare. LGBTQ+ texans already have trouble accessing healthcare, much less gender affirming healthcare. It should be stated that this is a blatant attack on the trans community and LGBTQ+ families. We have observed a spike of LGBTQ+ suicides in the past couple years that correlates with the rise in such legislation as this one.
This bill does nothing but hurt an already marginalized group and it is being pushed forward by a few hateful people that do not represent the attitudes and beliefs of actual Texans.

Kameron Petrash
Self
Smithville, TX

It is a clear discriminatory bill. The “experts” that gave testimony in support of banning transgender healthcare to people under age 18 have been discredited and major mental health and medical organizations all agree that trans healthcare to children is both safe and effective and necessary. This bill should not be passed and should be disregarded.

Melynda Bracken, Mrs
Self / mediator
San Antonio, TX

I am against these type procedures and treatments but especially for under age children or special needs adults. Generally the children will grow out of wanting to change genders.

Jean Dullnig
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR

Susan Bauer
Self
Houston, TX

Government, placing itself in the middle of parenting and healthcare decisions each individual can only make for themselves and families, is wrong and takes away Texan's civil liberties, it endangers people's lives, and creates an unsustainable system of needless and disruptive meddling in people's lives.

The world changes around us constantly. Legislation cannot micromanage those changes. But parents, along with their families, their values and their morals and guidance from their creator can.

Save legislation for protecting rights, not taking them away based on YOUR religious values. Save legislation for protecting the vulnerable who have no protectors (parent and family) nor professionals, who can guide their protectors. Save legislation for fixing systems that are broken but intended to help children.

You know, to create legislation that has the ability to claw it's way into families who are working hard to love and support their children, children who have no other social supports, is not only cruel but evil. If you vote for this bill, you may want to ready yourself for the only question God will ever ask of you. "Why did you chose hatred over love?"

Jennifer Crews
Self - receptionist
Lubbock, TX

Children should not be allowed to alter their bodies permanently until they are 18 years old via hormones, surgical procedures etc. Public money should not be provided to these underage individuals for the purpose of gender transitioning, reassignment etc.

Frank Fox, Dr.
Self
Austin, TX

The argument is so clearly written within the statistics, that folks who are unable to be recognized as themselves are prone to depression, anxiety, and most seriously, suicide. For a state that laurels itself on the right of personal freedoms, to effectively eradicate the freedom to be who oneself is, and to have those people closest to you at the helm of supporting that personhood, is not only criminally offensive, but it is hypocritical to the very definition of the term. The only things this bill will establish will be the radicalization of children, families, and entire generations of Texans who will see this place as an autocracy of the cis, white, "Christian" man (most certainly result in less taxpayers funding your forthcoming governments), as well as the literal death of children who are simply expressing themselves freely with the support of their families and communities. With even the smallest amount of the the greater good in your minds, this bill would not even be on the floor.

Rachel Ashcraft
Self
Waxahachie, TX

Allowing children (minors) to make irreversible health choices should not be allowed or permitted in the state of Texas. Anyone performing such treatments to a
Child should have all Medical licenses revoked and sent to prison for life. We no longer want to call a spade a spade, allowing the alterations of hormones to attempt to change a child's gender before a child is completely developed both mentally and physically is child abuse.

Rebecca Davis
Self
Arlington, TX

Yes. I'm in support of this bill. Please protect our children.

Michelle Ready
Self retire law enforcement officer
Avinger, TX

I am writing to state that I am 100% in favor of the prohibition on public money being used for any type of procedure or treatment for a gender transition or dysphoria!

Kay Sutton
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please vote No

Anita Garza
Self
Austin, TX

I have always been a proud Texan, but this bill has made me seriously consider leaving the state. This kind of anti-trans rhetoric is absolutely appalling. Gender-affirming care is live-saving healthcare. Republicans threw a fit about being forced to wear makes, "my body, my choice" but they are absolutely hellbent on telling everyone else what to do with their bodies (women: abortion, trans people: gender-affirming care). You are banning books and saying that parents have the right to choose what their children are reading or learning in school, so why aren't you letting parents choose what medical care is best for their children? LEGISLATORS ARE NOT MEDICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS! Why do you think you know more about what's medically best for these children than their own doctors? Why are you pretending to care about children?? You are "trying to protect them" from social media, drag queens, books and medical care, but you refuse to protect them from the school shooters armed with assault weapons who are just walking into their classrooms. You don't care about the kids, you just pretend to care so you can push your fascist beliefs on us and slowly strip away our rights. Land of the free and home of the brave?? Yeah right, only if you are a rich, white, straight man. I have never been more disappointed in my state representatives than I am right now. If this passes, I hope that none of you are reelected.

Maryela Garza, Mrd
self-mental health counselor
Weslaco, TX

I support this bill to protect children.

Joyce Stamps
Self
Meadow, TX

I want this bill to pass. I'm in favor of passing this bill. Please

Debra Stryk
Self/ retired teacher
Richmond, TX

Minor children do not have the mental skills necessary to make such life altering decisions. This is a mental health issue and should be treated as such. I'm hearing of too many regrets from transitioned persons. We as a country have major mental health issues. Those need to be addressed and treated rather than taking guns away and physically harming children in an irreversible way. Thank you.

Nancy Smith
self
Houston, TX

If the State of Texas starts funding procedures for gender transitioning, etc. Then the State will have to start funding procedures for older adults who identify as young adults. Procedures like face lifts, tummy tucks, liposuction, botox and the like. If not, the State would be discriminating against the elderly. Funding gender transitioning will open a real can of worms that the State can not afford.

Please vote FOR HB 1686.....prohibiting funding for gender transitioning. Or, frankly, any bill that would require the State to use taxpayer's money to fund a very small minority's wants that the vast majority do not want to participate in morally or financially.

Kay Sutton
Self
Lunbock, TX

I support this bill, I misread it and sent a no previously

Jane Tew
Myself
Lubbock, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Lyndi Klein
Self
Lubbock, TX

FOR!!! Do not allow our children to be mutilated

Nancy Hollimon, Mrs.
Self. Homemaker
San Antonio, TX

Please vote FOR this bill. Public funds should not be used for these procedures or treatments!

Celeste Wehrle
Self
Allen, TX

It is essential to protect our children from making life-altering decisions that they may later regret. As responsible adults, it is our duty to ensure that they have the best possible chance of leading happy and fulfilled lives. Therefore, it is imperative that we pass legislation to safeguard them from making decisions that can have lifelong consequences.

It is a well-known fact that the human brain does not fully develop until the mid-to-late twenties. The prefrontal cortex, which is responsible for crucial skills such as planning, prioritizing, and decision-making, is one of the last areas to mature. It is only fair that we allow our children the courtesy of having fully developed decision-making abilities before they embark on any irreversible life-altering decisions.

By prohibiting children from making such critical decisions until they have reached adulthood, we can ensure that they have the necessary maturity and understanding to make informed choices. Therefore, we must stand together and demand that our legislators put in place measures to protect our children's well-being and future happiness.

Evan Mahony
Self
Austin, TX

I’m a transgender Texan, born and raised, unlike many of the people you have heard from so far. I know and love many other transgender Texans of all ages, including many vibrant and thriving trans youth. I’m also a public health professional here in Austin.

I oppose this bill. The ethical principles of public health include beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, and respect for autonomy. This bill benefits no one. Rates of regret are virtually zero; this is a solution in search of a problem. In fact, it will harm trans kids and their families by not only removing medically necessary health care services from trans youth, but terrorizing them, their parents, and their siblings. This bill is not just. It targets a vulnerable minority for no reason other than spite. It does not respect the autonomy of the youth, parents, caregivers, and health care providers who work together to ensure that trans youth grow up safe, healthy, and loved.

This bill is not in alignment with the core ethical principles of public health and if this bill is approved, that will be a disgrace to this committee and to the state of Texas.

Tomi Calmes
Self
Wilson, TX

I support this bill.

Jennifer Tutanes
SBTC TERLC
Austin, TX

Let us protect our children from these irreversible harm.

Matthew Carr
Self, Financial Advisor
Lubbock, TX

I am in support of HB 1686. I believe people are born as God intended, male and female. We do not need the state at any level, especially the education system, to interfere with this. Or, use state funds to help those who wish to “transition” genders.

Andre Lemke
self; self-employed
San Marcos, TX

I am in support of this bill prohibiting children from the abuse of gender transitioning, reassignment or improper treatments of gender dysphoria. I have become aware of psychological warfare against our nation and our youth aimed at creating gender dysphoria and then promoting a solution by surgical and chemical means. This is abuse and no humane and self-respecting medical professional should be going along with this. The fact the physicians would attempt to make money from these procedures is criminal and should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Please put a stop to this madness and protect our most innocent from medical and parental abuses! Thank you!

Pam Bunch
Lee-Bunch Studio Gallery
DEL RIO, TX

We need to protect our children from messing up their lives with transgender ideas and surgeries, along with the hormone therapy treatments on minors, even with parental consent. These things can cause irreversible damage to their minds and bodies. Minors don't really know what they want, they only think of this now moment and cannot comprehend the future aspects of things. Their minds are not fully capable seeing the consequences of their actions.

Helena Liu
Self
Katy, TX

I am for this bill.

Jo Vendl, Dr.
Self, psychologist
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and cite this relevant research for how gender affirming care is evidence based to support better outcomes for mental health for trans youth. Access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide (Bauer et al., 2015; Green et al., in press). Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021).

Jennifer Stratis
Self-stay at home mom & educator
Lucas, TX

FOR this bill

Linda Merriott, Ms.
Self
Lubbock, TX

I misread and said I was against. I am actually for any prohibitions on harming children in this way. We must protect our children!

Callie Winter
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am FOR and fully support HB1686.
CWinter

Pamela Gifford
self retired school teacher
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX

I support HB 1686

Kimberly Fitch
Self
Longview, TX

I am writing to ask you to please support HB 1686 to BAN pediatric gender modification. These precious babies should not undergo any sort of sex modification. As adults they can make that choice but modification of babies, children, or teens is a gross mutilation of their bodies.

Lily Wang
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Jennifer Tutanes
SBTC TERLC
Austin, TX

Please let’s protect our kids from these irreversible harm.

Rachel Miles
Self, RN/BSN, Mother of 4 and counting
Roanoke, TX

Please SUPPORT HB 1686! I am a mother of 4 young children with another baby on the way. I worked in pediatric home health for nearly ten years. I have seen how vulnerable children are frequently used and abused by the medical system for financial gain - from medical supply companies to medical specialists. HB 1686 is an unfortunately NECESSARY piece of legislation to protect vulnerable children from IRREVERSIBLE HARM in the name of ideology and financial gain. Our children deserve compassion, sensitivity, psychological and emotional support, mature guidance, and evidence-based medicine, NOT painful and irreversible mutilating surgeries and suppression/alteration of their bodies' natural development before they can even comprehend the consequences. PLEASE SUPPORT HB 1686! Despite the loud and angry opposition, proud Texans - especially actual PARENTS - overwhelmingly SUPPORT HB 1686.

Ben Wilson
Self, I work in sales
Denton, TX

These treatments save lives whether you believe it or not. As someone who knows and loves many transgender Texans, the care they receive for gender transitioning has renewed their spark for life and given them a sense of joy and peace. These treatments are life saving and the state should not come between a Texan and their doctor. Limiting or prohibiting access to this care will result in suffering and possible loss of life. Texans should not be forced to uproot their whole lives and leave this state in order to receive the treatment and care they need. This bill puts directly removes power from the people and gives it to the state instead, something that should never happen.

Peggy Lesch
Self
Dallas, TX

Support this bill

Carol West
Self
78209, TX

VOTE FOR HB 1686

Nicole Kamkar
Self, Principal
Pearland, TX

Medical decisions should be made between a patient and their trained and licensed doctor only. The legislature has absolutely no business dictating the type of care that can and should be provided. These kids are already at much higher risk for suicide and self harm, pushing harmful legislature only will continue to exacerbate that type of harm. What will happen when one of your grandchildren is too scared to have a relationship with you because of the way that you treat people who are consistently "othered." What if one of them don't fit the norm?

Alison Vinson
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR this bill. No child is born into the wrong body. Many of those who have believed this lie and changed genders have realized they are still miserable, depressed and even suicidal. The answer lies in strengthening their true identity which will bring them contentment and happiness.

Emma Merriott, Ms.
Self
Lubbock, TX

I am for the prohibitions! Children need to be protected!

shara crosby
self
austin, TX

I am a Texas constituent who is staunchly in opposition to hb1686, a bill that is widely proven to be detrimental to trans and intersex youth. In the absolute very least, the double standard of this bill that will allow for babies who are born intersex to undergo genital surgery with the consent of a parent while denying trans youth the care that they are asking for is beyond a double standard and proves that the purpose of this bill is not in the least meant to protect children but to deny them agency over their own bodies for the benefit of those in power. How this point alone has not prevented this bill from moving forward in the legislation process baffles me. This is a disgusting and disgraceful bill that bares no representation of who Texas is, as seen in the almost 3000 names opposed to the bill vs less than 100 who were in favor. It is also extremely telling that the number of invited testimonies on March 27th were brought in from out of state, while over 450 Texas citizens were denied the right to give their testimony.

It enrages me that our LGBTQIA+ children (and more specifically - and as you admittedly or not know - our poor, black, brown and indigenous children, as always) are not only abandoned by this state, but are used as political pawns in the name of self-righteousness and power.

Gender affirming care is everywhere. Plastic surgery, hair implants, steroids, hormone replacement therapy, and erectile dysfunction therapy are a few ways that cisgender Americans can and do affirm their gender every day. As a tattoo artist, I know that tattoos also serve as a way to feel more embodied, along with cosmetics, hairstyles, and fashion. Parents may choose to pierce their infants ears at 3 months old, oftentimes identifying them as girls. Liposuction, otoplasties, rhinoplasties and breast augmentation are all available with parental consent for cisgender teens. None of these, when in service to cisgender Texans, are in dispute, making it even more glaringly obvious that this bill is carefully and specifically designed to oppress trans and intersex children.

This bill is not only violent and fascist in it's original intent of denying the basic human right of healthcare to trans children, it also serves to encourage dangerous rhetoric against them, further endangering their lives. With the most respect for your leadership as I can muster, if this bill passes, the blood of children will absolutely be on your hands and you will never be able to wash them clean.

Sandra McDonald, Retired
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

This bill protecting our young is crucial for protecting our young vulnerable minds. The outcome of these procedures is the opposite of happy flourishing adults. These procedures destroy lives….physiological confusion follows them their whole life. It’s proven. Please protect the innocent. Thank you

Dr. Bibiana Gutierrez, Licensed Clinical Psycholgist

Mother of a Trans Daughter

Alpine, TX

Continue to provide necessar and life savings care to our children and proven by research:

https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/gender-affirmative-care

https://www.apa.org/topics/lgbtq/division-54-statement-gender-affirmative-care.pdf

https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2022/statement-from-the-american-academy-of-pediatrics-and-the-oklahoma-chapter-of-the-american-academy-of-pediatrics-on-gender-affirming-care/#:~:text=Our%20organizations%20strongly%20oppose%20any,provision%20of%20gender%2Daffirming%20care.

https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/advocating-lgbtq-community#:~:text=The%20AMA%20supports%20public%20and,sexual%20orientation%20or%20gender%20identity.

https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/news-releases/aap/2018/aap-policy-statement-urges-support-and-care-of-transgender-and-gender-diverse-children-and-adolescents/#:~:text=The%20AAP%20recommends%20taking%20a,stigmatizes%20those%20seen%20as%20different.

Carmen Choate

My family and children

Katy, TX

Please save our children from irreversible damage from chemical castration and mutilation. This children deserve to have adults protect them from life long consequences of ideas that may be infuenced by social media, peers, and social pressure. This is a horrible barbaric practice that has no place in the lives of young children and vulnerable teens.

Mark Persall, Dr

Personal

Lubbock, TX

Gender transitioning is at best controversial. Children must be protected from this. Children are not equipped to understand or cope with the long term results.

JoAnn Barker

Self

Decatur, TX

I support HB 1686

Lauren Bryant
Self
Leander, TX

Being transgender is not a crime. Like any person who is part of the LGBTQIA+ community, they are born this way. To refuse a young person the ability to be who they truly are is cruel. Every year we lose countless lives to suicide because of bills like HB 1686 preventing someone from living an authentic, happy life. And for what? A person who is transgender and the things they need in order to be their best self, do not affect me in any way. My sister, has spent her entire life in Texas. We grew up together in a small town full of hate and bigotry and racism and sexism. She never found her place. She never felt like she was thriving. And it wasn't until she was an adult and finally said "hey this isn't me and this body isn't right" that we were able to support her transition. Because we didn't know. We had no education that folks could be different than a cisgender heterosexual human. My sister is just as much of a woman as I am. I often wonder if we had the resources and knowledge, could she have transitioned sooner and would that have changed the way she saw herself and the world? We will never know, but the idea of taking away the ability for a young person and their family to make the best medical decisions for themselves is absurd. Kids know when they are "different." Kids know who they are but they're not always given the resources and opportunities to be that person. Young people and their families should have the right to decide what is necessary for them, NOT the government. Puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy don't create dangers to society. This hatred for marginalized people creates monsters that are dangerous to society. This bill is dangerous to society. Anyone who wants to take the right to happiness away from a young person, is a danger to society. This bill is heinous and disgustingly anti-Texan. And to be clear, in case you forgot, the separation of church and state negates any sort of religious nonsense you may think defends this bill. Quit being weird and mean to folks who just want to live and love happily as who they truly are. Thank you for your time.

Adell Garcia
Self
Pipe Creek, TX

For

Gabriel Mora
Self
Spring, TX

I strongly support HB1686.

Nancy Bortnem
self bookkeeper
Kingwood, TX

Children should be protected from procedures and treatments that will change their life forever. It has been shown these children end up with lifelong medical care, medicines and health issues. They should be protected from anyone that tries to make physical or medical changes. At 18 or older if they choose to make that decision then that's their choice and they can pay for it themselves. Studies have shown how devastating and life changing these procedures and medications can be on a human life. Taxpayers should never be responsible for someone elses' medical treatments. Asking hard working Texan's to pay for life long treatments and surgeries is not the way my tax dollars should ever be spent!

Alvaro Estevis
Self
Austin, TX

Data indicates that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth. Using minority stress theory and the interpersonal theory of suicide, this study aims to better understand suicide risk among transgender youth. The present study examines the influence of intervenable risk factors: interpersonal and environmental microaggressions, internalized self-stigma, and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and protective factors: school belonging, family support, and peer support on both lifetime suicide attempts and past 6-month suicidality in a sample of transgender youth (n = 372). SPSS 22 was utilized to examine the impact of the independent variables on both suicidality and lifetime suicide attempt through two separate logistic regressions. Fifty six percent of youth reported a previous suicide attempt and 86% reported suicidality. Logistic regressions indicated that models for both lifetime suicide attempts and suicidality were significant. Interpersonal microaggressions, made a unique, statistically significant contribution to lifetime suicide attempts and emotional neglect by family approached significance. School belonging, emotional neglect by family, and internalized self-stigma made a unique, statistically significant contribution to past 6-month suicidality. Results have significant practice and policy implications. Findings offer guidance for practitioners working with parents and caregivers of trans youth, as well as, for the creation of practices which foster interpersonal belonging for transgender youth.

Respondents who experienced discrimination or were a victim of violence were more likely to report suicide thoughts and attempts.
Respondents who experienced family rejection were also more likely to report attempting suicide.

Access to gender-affirming medical care is associated with a lower prevalence of suicide thoughts and attempts.

Does Texas want dead kids over trans kids?

Vicki DeFord
Self
Collinsville, TX

We are called to protect our children from the wolves who seek to devour them! PLEASE don't give in to those who want to harm to harm them. These children are very vulnerable and defenseless to the irreversible damage, both mentally and physically, that is being posed upon them and WE MUST STAND TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN??

Martha Gail ONeill
Self
Houston, TX

I am against allowing children under 18 being permitted to attain gender transitioning treatment or surgery. Or public money or assistance in those treatments.

Morgan Green-Griffin
Self
Lewisville, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Healthcare decisions should be left to the individual, their parent/guardian, and healthcare team. Gender-affirming care is essential healthcare. This bill and others like it threaten the health and life of LGBTQIAP+ youth.

In 2022, Project Trevor reported that 56% of trans and non-binary youth 13-24 years old in Texas seriously considered death by suicide. 20% of trans and non-binary youth attempted death by suicide. Respondents indicated that legislation and rhetoric like HB 1686 contributed to increased suicidal thought and overall negatively impacted wellbeing. This bill and others like it will directly harm youth. Gender-affirming care is healthcare. Gender-affirming care saves lives.

Additionally, I strongly oppose HB 1686, because it discriminates against a certain population. This is targeted attack on the trans and nonbinary community. Discriminatory policies are unacceptable.

Patricia Griffith
Self
Lewisville, TX

Please vote FOR

Melissa Grimes, Mrs.
Self/ Self employed
Sumner, TX

Pass the bill

Katie Gostomski
Self- teacher
Pipe Creek, TX

Please protect our children from mutilation and harms from drugs and pass this bill! Children are too immature to make such life-changing and permanent decisions. They do not understand the consequences and that is is impossible to fully reverse if they change their minds.

Laura Skeen
Self retired
Pipe Creek, TX

Support HB1686

Xiangwen Wang
Self
Katy, TX

I support this bill! Please keep our children from those evil procedures! Those are permanent harm and cannot be reversed in their life time. Thank you.

Mindy McBroom
Self
Mansfield, TX

Please vote for HB 1686 to prohibit gender reassignment surgery for minors.

Alex Perez
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am a nurse practitioner who has been providing gender-affirming services for the last 3 years. I recently moved from New York to Texas looking for a better future for me and my family. and I had no idea that Texas was trying to pass bills like HB1686.

HB 1686 is contradictory to the American Medical Association, American Pediatric Association, and the Endocrine Society, which all support age-appropriate gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth.
If this bill is enacted, it will cause harm to many trans youth in Texas, either by forcing their medical detransition, or preventing them from receiving appropriate care, which will lead to negative mental health impacts. Or in other scenarios, will force these folks to leave Texas (who ever can afford this) and leave their family members and friends, and we all are aware how important connection to friends are for the mental and social development of adolescents.
Also, this bill would make any practice of providing this care an offense that would justify a clinician having their license stripped from them, which, in effect, forces clinicians to refuse providing appropriate care at risk of being legally attacked. This bill will both lead to transgender Texans fleeing this state and also cause health practitioners to avoid working in Texas, contributing to an already existing shortage of professionals. Gender-affirming services save lives and the lives of our youth will be endangered if bills like this are enacted.

Evan Richards
Self, disabled
Copperas Cove, TX

I am very against the passing of this bill as it is a waste of the state’s focus and DANGEROUS to the trans kids lives that do matter, access to healthcare is so important and Texas needs to stop failing at every turn. Focus on what’s important and stop preventing access to safe care.

Kathy Kent-Chick, Mrs.
self
Lorena, TX

By all means we must not allow a child to gender transition! I have so many memories of dumb choices I made in my teens while growing up in the 60's. Things that could of cost me my life, given me a lifetime of health issues due to the short sighted views of dangers or even having a recognition of others. Youth, many times, is all about self which gives a very limited over-all view. Many transitioned young people are giving the testimony that the choice they made has now ruined their lives.
Please vote to prohibit such irreversible acts or ability to take hormones for underaged-youth!
Thank you, Kathy

David Crews
Self
Lubbock, TX

I support this bill

Elaine Alvarado
Self
Canton, TX

I support HB 1686

Kendra Erwin
Self
Southlake, TX

Please help us to keep Our children safe! Most of our kids in highschool aren't even able to decide on a career or college degree, or hair color, much less a lifetime body change. My 10 year olds favorite color changes monthly! If she's not mature or old enough to vote, or drink alcohol, or get a tattoo, or hold a job, then how is she mature enough to make a decision that will effect her for the remainder of her life. This makes no sense at all! Please help us protect our kids. If they have to be under parental guidance till they're legally 18, then let them be under protection from poor decisions or influences that could be made for them as well!

Sharion Stephens
Self retired
Lubbock, TX

I vote for and support this bill.

Patti Foyt
Self / part time teacher
Cleveland, TX

Against

Carolyn Minor
Self
Cypress, TX

I am for this bill I believe when God made male and female he intended it to stay that way.

Peter Isburgh
Self/Big Tech
Cedar Park, TX

I support the intent of this bill, especially in light of the sordid history of forced sterilization abuse (even as recently as two years ago in a Mississippi penal facility for women). Medical intervention abuse has been part of our worst totalitarian episodes in the the twentieth century…what did we learn from Nuremberg? The patient must make informed consent. Hands off kids until they can reason for themselves.

Cheila McKay
True Texas Project & self
Spring, TX

I DO NOT support spending any tax money on gender transitioning procedures or treatments for ANYBODY especially CHILDREN. If an adult, it's elective & if a child, it's a heinous malpractice & crime. This is a perversion & travesty & at great cost for all involved.
STOP PUSHING ADULT AGENDAS ON CHILDREN!

Ashley Coleman
Self
Leander, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Chase Ear
Telekind
Sherman, TX

Legislators should not be interfering in life saving gender affirming healthcare

Judith Yarbrough
Christians
Midlothian, TX

Children are a work in progress. Their bodies and minds are being built and formed. Therefore, a child needs to become an adult in order to make an educated, informed decision on ANY MATTER and especially any decision regarding their body. Ex: 2 yrs ago my Grandaughter wanted to be a Princess. Now, at age 7 she wants to become a.
Veterinarian. Kids are many, many things before they grow up. Let them be kids. Don't pigeon hole them!!! They need to be able to experience many, many things before they become adults.

Chase Earhart
Self
Sherman, TX

Legislators should have no say in interfering in science backed life saving Gender Affirming Healthcare that saves millions of us Trans people's lives

Kathleen Manning
Self / Educator
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Merry Blount
self retired
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS, TX

Please PASS HB 1686. It is very important to protect children from gender transitioning.

Christine Lewis, Mrs
Self- educator
Lubbock, TX

I am FOR this legislation.

Laurie Morris
Self - high school counselor
Lexington, TX

I support HB 1686. We have got to protect our teens and adolescents from gender mutation. If they aren't old enough to vote or drink a beer, they certainly aren't old enough to make this life altering decision. Working with teenagers by profession, I can definitively say that they change their minds like they change their underwear. I can name 3 students off the top of my head who are currently identifying as a different gender than they were last semester.

Elizabeth Mahusay
Self
McKinney, TX

I’m against Providing public funds for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria - one because it is counter to my beliefs and two it is taking the control for decision making out of the hands of the parents. If children under the age of 21 can not legally drink, why would we allow them them ability to make life impacting decisions on their gender?

Margaret Holwerda
Self
Lubbock, TX

For

Desiree Cober, SSgt
Self- Military
Del Rio, TX

I grew up in Texas and joined the Air Force in Texas. I have traveled the world, have friends and am part of the LGBTQ+ community as well. I have Trans friends who have served and continue to serve. Hearing them talk about the way they felt grow up, the otherness, the loneliness, and sadness. They felt trapped in their own skin. If they had access to proper treatment and medication, it could have saved them years of mental distress.

Providing safe and supervised care to trans kids is important and LIFE SAVING. What is DANGEROUS is continuing to treat our youth like they have no idea what is going on with their bodies and their minds. Kids are smarter and have been smarter than we have ever give them credit for.

If you go through with restricting access to healthcare to these youth, you will only be hurting them. You are wanting to tear apart families from this by having people tell on parents who CARE for their children.

I joined the military to protect the people from threats foreign AND domestic. It has been proven time and time again the real threats are coming from inside the states as we continue to harm our lgbtq+ youth and other communities.

Cathy Moreno
Self
Allen, TX

Children are young and do not understand life fully.
Please do not allow children to change their gender. Do not allow this to happen!!

Jack Andrews
self - Advertising Agency owner
Dallas, TX

I am in favor of PROHIBITING the procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and the use of public money or public assistance to provide for these procedures and treatments. I am also opposed to abortion. Abortion is taking the life of a child.

However, because both of these two issues are very controversial, I think the two issues should be separated. We should focus on one issue at a time.

If the bill can be passed with both, then by all means I am for the whole bill. I would also be in favor of two separate bills addressing the issues separately: one for prohibiting gender reassignment as stated in this bill and one for prohibiting abortion.

We are the adults. Often today, parents make decisions based on the whims of their children. We as parents are to guide children. We have the wisdom to protect our children from their foolishness, not yield to things that are destructive to them in the name of loving them. Helping them self-destruct is not love.

PLEASE: This bill prohibiting gender transitioning must pass. Children must be protected! I hear more are testifying against it than for it. If true and it is because of the abortion component, then let the abortion part stand alone in another bill. Fight that issue separately if necessary. Please don't let this bill fail! It must be passed. If not, children's lives will be permanently destroyed.

Patti Foyt, Ms
Self/part time teacher
Cleveland, TX

Against

Jana Kuss, Ms.
Self; school teacher
Lubbock, TX

I am FOR and support this bill.

Janice Boeker, Mrs
Self. Hospital pharmacist
Alvarado, TX

I support this bill with all my heart.

Gwen Hanna
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

HB1686

Richard Fields, Mr.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support this bill. People ate born with a God given gender. Only reprobate minds don’t recognize this.

John Boswell, Ret
Myself
Waxahachie, TX

Please vote yes for this bill and protect our most precious
possession and responsibility. Without the healthy functioning precious but fragile life of a children there will not be a future society. Trans children will never reproduce, this is not natural for a human being. There are those who attempt to defend these procedures, but common sense should tell us all how harmful this is to the individual, to the family, to a society. This is a mental health issue and should be treated as one. Protection is our responsibility and we must take that responsibility seriously. VOTE YES AND PASS THIS BILL! PLEASE!

Kevin Newsom
Self--Musician
Kingwood, TX

Our society places a high value on personal responsibility. And one of the key foundations of personal responsibility is maturity. In order to make vital (and oftentimes life-altering) decisions, our society relies on age limits to mark points of maturity. For example: One must be 18 before he or she may vote, acquire a tattoo, or purchase a long gun. A person must be 21 before he or she can drink alcohol, buy a handgun, or purchase tobacco products. The age limits for these behaviors are indicative of the level of maturity needed to make informed choices...and hopefully understand their consequences.

It is unconscionable that children should be considered competent to make permanent, life-altering choices like gender reassignment surgery. Not only do they lack the experience and mental/emotional capacity to make such long-ranging decisions, but children also cannot comprehend the potential negative consequences of such behaviors.

The decision to amputate body parts is not one to be taken lightly. Because once this decision is made, there's no going back. As such, gender reassignment surgery, as well as hormonal treatments, can only be decided upon by a person who has reached an age of maturity. As such, I recommend relying upon the standards already in place; namely, by setting a minimum age requirement of 21 years old for these kinds of decisions to be made.

Karen Mercado
Self
Dallas, TX

HB 1686 as written is using a club where a scalpel is what is called for. If you really care about all children, you have to care about the trans children as well. In many instances, gender affirming care is absolutely necessary and needed. For that small number where it is not needed, I think there are other measures to help shore up current gender, affirming care clinics, so that no decisions get made too quickly and everyone gets their needs met. But by banning the care, across-the-board, and then removing insurance coverage for that care for children or adults is taking things in a punitive direction not a compassionate, caring measure. If this bill passes, it will only show your hatefulness and spite, rather than careful consideration and compassion for all people.

Please turn your attention to other more pressing and necessary legislation like lowering property taxes, the health of Texas power grid, gun laws, anything other than singling out and harming already marginalized people.

Shame on you.

Mary Turner
Self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Prohibit gender modification of men nor children.

Wanzhi Fan
Self
Brookshear, TX

Support the legislation

Andrea Burke
Self
San Angelo, TX

You are attempting to ban life saving health care. I’m sure you already know the statistics, but 41% of Trans youth with no supportive and affirming care will attempt or successfully commit suicide. You would not ask the parents of a cancer patient to forego life saving treatment. You would not ban the life saving care that a person under 18 needs to manage diabetes. You would not stop a parent from taking a child with pneumonia to the doctor for treatment. This is life saving treatment for Trans youth. Do not use ignorance and bias to ban life saving treatment.

Joe Acock
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the restriction of life-saving healthcare for children. This bill puts transgender children in more danger, ignores intersex children, and most importantly ignores the advice and knowledge of medical professionals. Politicians’ feelings have no place in the decisions made between medical providers, parents, and children.

Bonnie McAvoy
Self—Wife and Mom
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill

Vicki Miller, Mrs.
Self
Pontotoc, TX

I sincerely ask your consideration to pass this bill, HB 1686, preventing gender change in young children. Such treatment of young children that have no conception of the meaning of gender change, is cruel and unacceptable in our society. The end result of such will be catastrophic for our young generation.

Regina Coddington
Self
Caddo Mills, TX

SUPPORT!

Francia Vallejo
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Don Rohde
Self
Salado, TX

For

Don Kusak
self
Houston, TX

Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought this to be in dispute! Gender dysphoria is a MENTAL disease, not a physical one. We seem to be trying to solve these issues by physical means. Child mutilation, testosterone treatments, etc., etc. Why are we subjecting our precious, innocent young children to these ideologies, brain-washing, and destructive practices? I disagree with the use of my tax dollars being use for funding these atrocities. I am fully in support of HB 1686 - please see that it is passed.

Babs Miller
self
Round Rock, TX

I oppose this bill because not only does it go against best practices in all medical fields, all mental health fields, and a major purpose of government entities(which is to protect and provide for the needs of their people, but it also goes against every moral and human right code that exists. In addition, for those of use coming from a Christian perspective, it goes against everything Jesus taught. It does not take a rocket scientist to get Jesus' commandment of love and I ask where is the love for our trans youth and their families in this bill? And when they commit suicide because they could not get needed and necessary care in their own state, where is the love. I don't know where the love is , but I do know where the blood is and it's on every one who supports this bill.

Scott Webster
Self
Austin, TX

Sure, happy too, Hailee.

Here’s what I’ll send for my commentary.

Gender identity is not something that can be determined at a young age and medical interventions could have long-term negative effects on a child's
physical and mental health.

Minors are not mature enough to make life-altering decisions, and allowing
them to undergo medical treatments for gender dysphoria could lead to
irreversible physical and psychological damage. Medicalization couldinterfere with natural developmental processes and non-invasive therapies, such as counseling and supportive care, should be the first
line of treatment.

Children should not be rushed into life-altering decisions before they're
mature enough to make them. Rather, non-invasive treatments should be
prioritized.

Yvonne Henderson-Williams
Self
Abilene, TX

100% support HB 1686 and prohibiting any procedures and treatments for gender issues in children. Our daughter swore up and down for years when she was little that she was a boy even asking to be called our son. But now she is as prissy a girl as you can get and she thanks us for not treating her like a boy. She was just a child and not old enough to even know what she was saying. Children are not mentally ready to make those kind of life decisions. I am not transphobic and love all people equally. Adults that want to change their genders are not a problem for me. But children are not ready to make that decision. We must protect our kids from mutilation.

Vivian Danford
self
Kerrville, TX

Listen to a constituent for once in your life and stop making life even harder for trans kids! Please! Toss out this trash bill and talk to even one trans person, I’m begging you.

Leslie Moon
Self
Arlington, TX

This is a must pass in the state of Texas. No person is born in the wrong body.. Additionally, tax payers should not fund this type of surgery!!

Dominique Dimatteo
Self
Waxahachie, TX

This type of alteration should be limited to those 18 and older. We should not be harming our children.

Karen Kwok
Self
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill.
We have pressing matters for which public money need to be spent, like the education of our children, the protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must NOT spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.
327/3000
Submit

Jonathan Cogburn
Self. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Tuscola, TX

As a Mental Health Professional licensed in Texas, and having read a significant amount of literature on the subject, it’s clear to me that the evidence supporting gender surgery is scant and short term at best, and possible indications that is is abusive or even a form of malpractice. There is also a growing body of literature that points toward significant risks and side effects that are rarely, if ever, clearly communicated to patients and families seeking such procedures.

In order for a treatment to be indicated for a presenting problem, there should be convincing clinical data that supports the treatment in question. It is the duty of the state medical boards to protect the public from malpractice and potential malpractice, and hold providers accountable by setting limits to scope of practice. These surgeries are irreversible in most cases, and should be prohibited considering the current remarkable lack of evidence to the necessity or efficacy of these treatments, and considering the growing evidence of side effects and harm.

Janet Mosier, Ms
Self - retired
Fort Worth, TX

HB1686, and comment FOR/Support the bill.

Kristine duhaime
Self
Granbury, TX

I am for this Bill

Jennifer Underhill
Self, sales
Mission, TX

I support this bill! No child should have the option of ruining his or her life by attempting to change genders. If a person wants to try to do that, the person needs to at least have the maturity to realize the ramifications of such a huge decision. I fully support this bill.

Susan Rohde
Self
Salado, TX

Yes

Kim Audi
Self
Arlington, TX

SUPPORT!!!

Crystal Yu
self, software engineer
Cedar Park, TX

Hello,

I strongly disagree with this bill, HB 1686. I think transgender healthcare should be accessible even for everyone, including children. It's upsetting to see restrictions on medical treatments that could be life saving. Even if there are disagreements on whether or not it's life saving, these procedures can drastically improve transgender children's quality of life. It is important to note that children are not property; they have emotions and desires like adults. Taking away these treatments and gutting public funding and/or assistance is detrimental to the health and safety of these children. These treatments exist for a reason. This bill serves no other purpose than to make the lives of transgender children worse.

Janet Hollis
Myself
Aledo, TX

Please, there is no science to back up these procedures on children. We as a society have know for decades that children can not reason like adults can. Their brains are not fully developed and they are too easily manipulated. This is why we have laws to protect them and why their parents are legally responsible for them. This fact is not a debate, so why would we allow children to make life altering decisions. They can’t even legally get a tattoo or consent to sex, yet people want to allow them to change their sex? This will all one day be looked back on as horrific as lobotomies … the physician that discovered and promoted the lobotomy won a Nobel prize. Now what do we think of that procedure?

Cynthia Keating
Self
Houston, TX

I support this Bill!

Katherine Jutras
Self
Ft worth, TX

I support the bill 1686 … 100%

Vangelia Perryman
self - household engineer
AUSTIN, TX

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Vangelia Perryman. I am a Texan with a transgender child. I am in opposition to HB1686.

I have been responsible for making MILLIONS of medical decisions for my child in her 15 years of life. She has been diagnosed with several autoimmune illnesses requiring numerous teams of medical professionals to weigh in on her continued care.

However, I sit here today and tell you that the easiest course of treatment out of all of those illnesses has been the treatment plan surrounding her gender dysmorphia.

I can also tell you that at no other time have you threatened my parental right to make medical decisions on behalf of my child. You trusted me, and her medical team, to determine the best individual insulin regiment and delivery system for her as she lives with type 1 diabetes. You never balked at the experimental individualized cocktail of medication consisting of a specialized colon anti-inflammatory, steroids, and chemotherapy her medical team determined (and I agreed after much research and prayer) was necessary to treat her three rare forms of colitis - hoping for remission. This experimental treatment was much scarier to consider than the treatment for her gender affirming care. Not once have you over-stepped your governmental authority - until now when it concerns her treatment for gender identity/transgender care.

Currently, many of you are determining that it is within your rights as law makers, not doctors, to make blanket bans against parents seeking gender affirming medical care for their own children. My child is in the care of an incredible medical team consisting of a pediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, dietician, gastroenterologist, urologist, immunologist, and two different endocrinologist – none of which has raised an eyebrow at the gender affirming care she is receiving because it has been a well thought out, individualized medical treatment plan of care.

No one should be denied medical care in this state. So far, my child has never, not once, been denied the medical care she needs to live a full life. Please do not deny her that care now only because of her gender identity. Please continue to trust me to find the best medical care possible for her because honestly, her medical care is absolutely none of your business. And until recently, you have also agreed that it is none of your business.

Lisa Ross
self
Lindale, TX

It should be illegal to transition genders of children before they reach adulthood and can make a decision based on the knowledge of the pros and cons. This decision has life consequences and children cannot make this decision knowledgeably and parents should not be able to make that decision for their children. Many children will regret this decision later but it sounds good at the time. You can get children to agree to almost anything if you catch them in the right mood but they also change their minds quickly. This should be a decision for adults not children. Parents or any other adult should not be able to make this decision for them. They should make this decision for themselves after reaching adulthood.

Adeline Bearry
Self
Garland, TX

We need to prevent this bill from passing.

Jenna Burns

Jenna Burns, LPC - Mental Health Therapist

Bryan, TX

I am an expert in the treatment of transpersons, and am myself a trans woman. You would not know my story if you saw me in public. You wouldn't know my past if we spoke. And it's no one's business but mine, my husband's, and my family's. Bills like this seek to make our individual stories everyone's business. There will always be people who use healthcare in a way it was not intended, but by a huge statistical margin, trans people are not those people. There is extensive medical & psychological research supporting the necessity of trans healthcare. Research showing trans brains develop differently than the norm - showing grey matter placements, neuron counts, and brain structures for transpersons that match the ranges for the gender they identify with. People who seek these treatments, even children, have clinically valid reason to. Of course, especially in my work, it is imperative to parse out contexts, motives, & needs related to transition - but to deny it outright and force childrens' bodies to change beyond repair is simply cruel. I myself was forced not to transition until I was 18. I wasn't allowed hormone blockers to postpone the effects of puberty. As a result, I had to spend an extreme amount of time and money to make up for those changes, in a world where I was already trying to root myself and survive financially on my own, without parental support. I'm not asking you to make extreme black & white decisions. I'm simply asking you not to. To see the lives affected by your bills. The pain they cause. Know that I have already seen trans people commit suicide in my work during the past couple months, because of what these bills threaten. That is significant. I will live with the effects of these bills, my clients will, their families will. You will not. Trans Texans are still Texans. They deserve the same rights and access to healthcare every Texan does. I am a direct descendent of a a Texas Republic legislator. My husband, of a signee of the Texas Declaration of Independence. My family has been here since before it was Texas. My story as a Texan is just as valid as yours. I shouldn't have to relinquish that history and what it means to me to move to another state, simply to protect myself and my children. I deserve the rights you do. My children do as well. You would not know my background looking at me. So why does it matter to you how I got here? Why do you need me not to exist within your world? Why do you assume that God loves you more than me? That you are more Texan? What gives you the right?

Jeff Pan, Mr.

Self

Katy, TX

I strongly support HB 1686.

Kris King, Mrs.

Self

Lubbock, TX

FOR prohibiting of public funds to be used for procedures in children

Sawyer Tedder

Self

Austin, TX

It should be illegal to bar health care for those who need it. Gender affirming health care cuts down on queer self harm and suicide. Making Gender affirming care illegal will harm and kill more people. This is cruel and we as Texans should stand against this type of government overreach

Emily Clarke

Self

Austin, TX

You are going to hell if you oppress any of god’s children like this. You dont want bills created to target straight heterosexual individuals? Why would you make laws to hurt people you don’t understand?

Bonnie Neel
Self
Austin, TX

Please keep the Texas Legislature out of private conversations between doctors and their patients and parents. NONE of you are practicing physicians and the sheer arrogant "big government" overreach happening here for political theater is revolting. Trans children and their doctors and parents are some of the most vulnerable constituents you have and instead of empowering and supporting their healthcare options, you are choosing to aggrandize your own naked political self-interest and stoke the fires of culture wars OVER THE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FOR CHILDREN. Shame on you.

Marie Coe
Christian schools
Lubbock, TX

I support

Hannah Tredway
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill. I do not want any funding going to these surgeries.

Mariano Curutchet
Self - Engineer
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686. Protect children please and let nature follow its own course. Our taxes should not be spent on this criminal treatments.

Lisa Polk
Texas citizen
Colleyville, TX

Protection for our children. Children should stay children and they can’t make adult decisions as children

Emily Clarke
Self
Kyle, TX

The law of man should be equal to all individuals. You are ignorant, you are hurtful, you are going to murder so many children creating this environment in our country. It is evil in the name of GOD HIMSELF if you hurt CHILDREN you are EVIL you are EVIL u need to stop hurting gay kids like let queer kids be KIDS they will learn about being gay and queer and you should let them! Fuck you for this. Like Straight kids are not the minority. They will never be oppressed. They will never have laws against their lives.

Courtney Hamlin
self
Aquilla, TX

Child transitioning must end!

Cinda Nichols
Self/Parent
Saginaw, TX

As the adults in the room, you all in good conscience, must pass HB 1686 prohibiting gender transition. Split the bill and remove the part dealing with abortion.....create a separate bill for abortion. Under no circumstances should you approve this bill relating to gender transitioning, reassignment, or dysphroria. These are decisions only adults should be allowed to consider when it pertains to their own body. Neither adults nor children should have permission to disfigure and disrupt the natural growth of a child's body.

Janice Welch
Self/retired teacher
Lubbock, TX

I support this bill

Ginger Hooton
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote in favor of HB 1686

Lana Crawford, Mrs.
Myself
Lubbock, TX

Children are not mature enough to wrap their minds around forever. If the parents are pushing an agenda, they can wait until the children are 18….then, the child has genuine ability to decide.

Brenden Reeves, mr
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Legislators should not insert themselves in the doctor's office between the patient and provider. Legislators should not be in the business of taking away legally available healthcare. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child. And the government should never stop a citizen from expressing themselves in the way most comfortable to them, as long as it causes no harm to other citizens.

Jamie Sparks
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB 1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Lisa McClure
Self
Tyler, TX

No more mutilation of children!

Deborah Wendorf
Self
Killeen, TX

Ban transitioning.

Vicki Minden
Self
Garland, TX

I support HB1686. Leave our children alone!

Donna L Henthorn
Self
Lubbock, TX

I 100% support this bill. Children are our future. We must not support gender transitioning, reassignment, or dysphoria. No child is born a mistake!

Daphne Hoffacker
The children of Texas
Austin, TX

I have a nephew who has been overtly and obviously transgender since before he could talk. His parents were very slow to accept him, as if he had been making it up his entire life. When they finally did, he had gone through puberty and the anxiety and depression he experienced in what he called from his earliest ages, "the wrong body", were severe. This gender dysphoria overwhelmed his teenage years and he lost many opportunities to shine in every possible way because - academically, physically (he's a super sporty guy but felt uncomfortable in the uniforms that matched his birth gender), emotionally and socially. He wasn't comfortable in his own skin and it interfered with everything he did or tried to do.

His parents finally accepted his need to start transitioning and have been fully supportive as he went on to fully transition, enjoy the new body afforded to him by hormone therapy and surgery, and is now happy, surrounded by friends, and has a successful career serving our country in the US Navy.

In addition to fighting the bigotry and ignorance around these special children, which my brother and his wife embraced for years, even as they saw how much their attitudes and their community's attitudes about him destroyed him. They have to live with that and will probably never fully forgive themselves by what they put their beloved child through because they were wrongly led to believe if they simply disapproved of him or prayed for him or denied his reality, he would change. He never changed. They did. And they would be hear today, if they lived in this state, to tell you they regret all of it and would support him to be put on hormone blockers or pursue other avenues of making his transition easier, if they had the opportunity to do it again.

This bill chooses ignorance and bigotry against a tiny and amazing population of human being living in this state. Please vote against moving it out of committee.

Tyler Cammack
self
Aquilla, TX

Child transitioning must end!

Destiny Olson
self
AUSTIN, TX

My husband and I managed to successfully assist our transgender son with his transition before families like mine were marginalized and criminalized. This is our abbreviated story. Grayson, my son, began to wrestle with his gender identity around the age of 13. At that time, we lived in a smaller, conservative town in South Texas. We were avid church goers and rather involved with a conservative homeschool community. I can assure you that there was no "social contagion" influence here. By age 16, he identified as non-binary, using them/they pronouns. We found an amazing therapist for Grayson to work with throughout this journey. At some point in his therapy, he let us know that his non-binary identity wasn't the stopping point. He knew that he was a boy and wanted to align his body and soul. As a family, we began to educate ourselves. We leaned on our therapist and had multiple appointments with doctors and social workers who assisted us slowly and cautiously with gender affirming care. We were able to freely discuss this journey with professionals and with his teachers at school. His school was a safe place to transition, with teachers who wanted to see him succeed and who wouldn't feel compelled by law to report 'the child abuse'. After countless hours of therapy, discussions, and prayer, he started testosterone during his junior year of high school. From that point on, and with each month that passed, he shed anxiety that he had been carrying throughout his childhood. As a parent, I was finally able to exhale a bit. I watched him become comfortable in his own skin and it was a blessing. During his senior year, in 2019, at the Travis County Courthouse, his legal name change was approved. I watched relief wash over my child. We followed through with the change of the gender marker on his birth certificate, and all the other important documents necessary to validate his existence. Everything about his transition occurred with ease. We had successfully and prayerfully navigated an extremely challenging experience as a family. I was proud of my state. We lived in a moment in time in which the reality of our family was respectfully validated by the State of Texas.
Now 21, Grayson is a shift manager at work and makes the dean's list each semester of college. He's a kind, self-assured, hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying, voting member of our society....and his transition as a minor is part of his personal success story. The fact that we had the freedom of accessing gender affirming care, as well as the ability to discuss his options freely with health professionals and educators, was crucial to his success. I empathize deeply with families who are in the position we were in just three years ago. Please do not let this bill pass.

Elizabeth Bender
Self - Graduate Research Assistant
Austin, TX

HB 1686 cannot be passed. Gender affirming care is crucial for Texas transgender youth. Studies show that gender affirming care improves mental health metrics and decreases suicide rates among trans youth (Lee & Rosenthal, Annual Review of Medicine, 2023). The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, among other groups of medical professionals trained in the impact of such care, all agree that gender affirming care should not be banned for anyone. Gender affirming care is mental health care.

Mary K Moore
Self- retired Social Worker
Kerrville, TX

In favor

Mary Ann Gordon, MRC
Self/Retired Yourh and Family Caseworker
Lubbock, TX

The prohibitions need to stay. Counseling esp for previous abuse needs to happen.

Natasha Swinford
Self
Odessa, TX

K

Janel Davis
Self
Austin, TX

I’m strongly against this bill. I believe it would do harm and encourage my representative to vote no.

Terri Reed, Mrs
Self
Lubbock, TX

Please vote For, please support!
Thank you.

Angela Hough
self
Colleyville, TX

I strongly support bill 1686 and want EVERY possible action to be taken to prohibit procedures and/or treatments on minors.

Sheryl Stouffer
Self
San Antonio, TX

For/support bill

Kathleen Allen
Self
The Colony, TX

I'm a resident and a Mom in Texas. I don't have a trans child or even know any trans people. What I do know is, it is not up to the government to prohibit any medical or gender affirming care. That is between a child, their parents and their doctors period.

Judith Williams
Self- Church Admin
Abilene, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Sally Vick, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am totally in support of this!!! Protect our children!!

marcy allen
self / retired teacher
Lubbock, TX

FOR/ I support this bill! Protect our children!

Dawn Brown
Self/Pastor
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill. Children are not able to make such a monumental decision as minors. I do not want any of our public money to support such atrocities.

CATHERINE WEBRE-RICH
Parent
Euless, TX

I would have lost my child who was severely gender dysphoric (not delusional) had it not been for affirming care. His life significantly improved after medical treatment. This bill is harmful, and my child is highly distressed by it and others (SB 14) like it. If this bill passes we will have to move and I have no idea how I'll afford that. I'm a 3 generation Texan on my mother and father's family. My family is here and my parents are aging. I urge the house representatives to vote NO on this bill. I watched the testimony on Monday and it seems evident that there needs to be a conclusive study funded in Texas before this live-saving medical care is taken away from families, know that families will be devastated if this bill passes.

Jun Huang
Self
Katy, TX

I strongly support HB 1686!

Danielle Deutschendorf, Mrs.
Self
Pflugerville, TX

LGBTQ and Transgender healthcare is like all other - should be available to those who want it. I thought Texas as a Republican state, so shouldn't that mean the GOVERNMENT interferes LESS in peoples lives? I support making all healthcare accessible and easier for all humans. How about we work on the gun violence that is plaguing this country.

Katie Smith
Self
Mansfield, TX

I am against HB 1686. Passing legislation to stop children from receiving Healthcare will not stop transgender children from existing. This would only exacerbate Texas' already struggling mental health system. Furthermore, children do not receive gender reassignment surgery. They may receive hormone blockers or puberty blockers which is reversible. There is no difference in this than a 7 year old child receiving puberty blockers for starting their period too early. The psychological affects of passing this bill is something Texas children cannot and should not have to burden. It is the job of elected officials to protect our children, and denying them Healthcare is not protecting them from anything.

Jill Hurley, Miss
Self
Lubbock, TX

I believe that medical gender reassignment surgery should be an adults decision. Psychiatrists say that the brain is not developed until the age of 25-26, so delaying their ability to make this choice until the age of 21 is reasonable because we don’t allow people to purchase alcohol until then, but the minimum age of 18 should be mandatory.

Charlie Edmonson, Mr.
Self
Bryspn, TX

We do not need to allow these type of procedures on our children.They are irreversable,and cause all manner of problems later in life.Suicide for one,all kinds of mental troubles as well.If this is to be done they need to he 18 yrs old or older.God made us male and female.That is not to be changed.

Christopher Havins-Mariscal, Mr.
Me, myself, and I
San Antonio, TX

Stop trying to control people's lives. You have no idea what goes into the medical decisions for transgender kids and adults. They go through counseling, arguments with parents, debates with doctors. They do not need you telling them what is best for their lives. I'm gay and knew I was different by four years old. Members if the LGBTQ+ community, many of us know early that we are different. However different is bad and should be legislated. Get out of our homes and bedrooms.

Jessica Shively
Self
Austin, TX

This bill not only affects trans youth but transgender adult also. It is a cruel and very targeted law against the minority like myself. If this law is allowed to pass, you will harm and kill more people. The people that will die from the passing of this bill will be on the hands of this legislature. I will be there in person to fight this bill, and every step of the way along. Do not let this pass!

Susan Riley
Self
Temple, TX

I am for HB 1686

Ernie Garcia
Self
Pipe Creek, TX

I support this bill. Do not harm the children!

Ericka Miller
Self
Wolfforth, TX

FOR/ support the bill

Milton Brown
Self/Trainer
Lubbock, TX

I support HB 1686. Transition inducing pharmaceutical treatments and transition procedures should not be encouraged or provided to minors. We have a growing population experiencing transition regret or are detransitioning. The is a deep body of research and data that needs to be collected and studied before claiming transition treatments are safe and healthy.

VIctoria Porter
Self, University of Texas Student
Austin, TX

The government has no place in telling me how to raise my children. Texas is for small, out-of-the-way government. That is NOT this. You should focus on things that actually affect us, like how we have a freeze every year where people die. Or, the homeless problem and inaccessible housing.

Theresa Hale
Self
Lamesa, TX

I support this bill. Do Not Harm Our Children.

RHONDA GRIFFIN
- None -
ARLINGTON, TX

This decision belongs to the parents and the child's doctors. You were fine with parents determining whether their child should get a life saving vaccine or not. If you believe that...then you cannot see this any differently. You make this sound like you are protecting children, but you are not. You do not live with these children and know then intimately like their parents and doctor. Stop OVERSTEPPING....this is none of the state's business.

Lisa Connor
myself
Fort Worth, TX

I am FOR prohubiting child mutilation. God created each and every child. thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Simpson
Self
San Antonio, TX

For

Scott Griffin
Self/Sales
Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. Allowing these procedures is nothing short of child abuse and genital mutilation. We do not treat schizophrenic's by telling them to listen to the voices in their heads, why are we telling children suffering from delusions to buy into their delusions?

Byron Anderson
Self
Lubbock, TX

Why change the natural order of life, in ways that do not naturally sustain life, while further interfering with natural life. These interferences only lead to confusion which further interferes with the natural order of life. It unreasonably burdens governments and citizens by consuming dollars, time, and energy. I oppose.

Emma Anderson-White
Self, graduate student in psychology
Huntsville, TX

I am a 5th-year doctoral student in clinical psychology, with only one year left of training. From my experience and learning thus far, I can speak with some expertise that this bill will substantially negatively impact the mental health of trans children. In the field of psychology, we know from research that access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide. Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021). This bill has the potential to damage a small and already disadvantaged group, and has no benefits whatsoever. Please oppose the bill.

Harold Northington
Self
Boerne, TX

For

Patricia George
Self
San Antonio, TX

Vote FOR

Sarah Obregon
Self- SAHM
Brownsville, TX

I don’t stand by gender dysphoria or public assistance to provide these procedures. I believe the issue starts at home. What these children are exposed to. We as parents need to step up our game and be the parents we are called to be. If there was more assistance in helping broken families and broken homes with counseling and organizations for them to reach out to and not have fear their children will be taken away then maybe we could get somewhere. There is lack of communication in households and this is causing a domino effect in our childrens lives. I would rather spend money and put more effort in helping families be a better version of themselves and rise up as a whole than passing this bill and enabling this sickness and watch it progress. This is a cry for help. Seek another way to help these children please this isn’t the way.

Richard Riley
Self
Temple, TX

I'm for it

Sara Ames
Self/parent, grandmother
San Antonio, TX

I strongly support this bill! We are confusing our children putting facts before them to make decisions they aren’t prepared mentally, emotionally & spiritually to make…

Carla Northington, Mrs.
Self
Boerne, TX

Vote in favor of HB 1686

Amber Byfield
self, creative director
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Gender-affirming care is a topic that needs to be left up to individuals, families, and their doctor.

Linda Atkins, Ms
Self
Temple, TX

Protect our children until they are 18 years old. We owe our children to protect them during their ever changing lives and feelings.

Margaret Heerensperger, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I ask you to not use tax payer monies to fund these gender transitioning surgeries for children. This is not safe or healthy for children and we should be educating kids to embrace who God created them to be. We need to help children become healthy in mind and body and not offer aid in going down a very harmful path. This will ultimately cause more and more problems for them. Please

Robert Hall
Self
Tomball, TX

For. Protect the Children.

Donna Earnest
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please vote against HB1686, the “trans ban” bill. Without disclosing how I know some trans people, I know them to be along the kindest, most loving and accepting people I have ever met.

I have had conversations with them. They answered my questions about why they changed genders or why they want to. For some, their sex chromosomes do not match their body’s appearance. For others, it was more about identity. None of them made frivolous decisions or regretted their decision.

As a public school teacher, I learned that children who are miserable in their presenting gender are at high risk of suicide. I have loved ones who attempted suicide. One of my own students, a 9th grader, completed. A friend of my children completed suicide not even two years ago. It devastated me. I wondered what I could have done differently to prevent these deaths.

In the case of trans kids, there is something we can do. We can let them make the change. The risk of suicide is just too great not to.

For some of the kids, their parents do not know anything about their children’s agony. They are afraid of their parent’s’ rejection and wrath. They live in personal hell, waiting until they turn 18 to make changes. For others, they would rather die than wait that long.

For the pro-lifers in the room, let’s choose life for these children and adults. They deserve to live and be happy just as much as we do.

Valentina Brackett, CEO
American Elite Roofing
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- children dealing with gender dysphoria have no clue about the long-term ramifications of these experimental procedures. Likewise, there is not enough clinical evidence that shows how these procedures affect children physically and mentally into maturity.
- children deal with many mental battles as they experience life. To discount the fact that they are children and, regardless of how adamant they are about how they “feel”, there are many factors that affect feeling, many of which are linked to hormonal changes. That’s simply part of growing up. We need to do a better job as the adults to lead them through these difficult periods instead of trying to take a shortcut that will likely fail them in the future.

Jeffrey Marchioni
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is extremely misguided and does not provide care or protection for children. Gender transitioning, reassignment, and dysphoria are all normal experiences and should not be ignored nor hidden away. This is not an issue nor does it require prohibitions. There are so many more important issues facing Texas and this is a distraction from them. All this bill does is represent hate and misunderstanding of the LGBTQ+ community.

Richie Grant
Arklatex Assessment
Texarkana, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly. As a professional counselor of many years, I have heard the heart break of adults who wish they never had this done. There are so many negative permanent physical and psychological repercussions. There is no way a child has any idea of what they are facing. They are someone's experiment. These procedures can not be undone. They are too young for informed consent. They do not know what they want to be when they grow up. So many with gender disphoria have their issues of identity resolved by adult hood. These procedures should be left for adults only.

Julia Schaefer
self
Selma, TX

SUPPORT

Rachel Strauss
Self
Bellaire, TX

Oppose

Sherry Grubelnik
1951
Lubbock, TX

I am for this bill.

Megan Silas, Dr.
Self
Cypress, TX

As an MD and a mother, my heart goes out to any child who is suffering physically or psychologically. However, the irreversible damage caused to both body and mind by so called gender transitioning medicines and procedures will only increase suffering in those experiencing gender dysphoria. The practice of medicine must always be rooted in the truth of how our bodies are created. We can never heal suffering by destroying how an individual was created to function. By preventing the tragic mistreatment of young boys and girls by ignoring this truth, we can focus our attention on ministering to their minds instead of destroying their genitalia. Please protect children from the abuse of ideologues.

Tom and Johnnie Hughes Hatfield, Mr. and Mrs
Caring Grandparents
Dallas, TX

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL AND SAVE OUR CHILDREN.

Hugh Mc Fadden
Self
Lewisville, TX

I am for this bill. This is child abuse otherwise. You are born either a male of female.

Johnnie and Tom Hatfield
Parents and grandparents
Dallas, TX

Caring grandparents

Ellen Heerensperger
Self, Registered Nurse
Houston, TX

FOR/Support this bill.

Diana Welch
Self
Austin, TX

As a proud Texas resident and parent to a Texan born and raised, I urge this committee to oppose this bill. This bill limits the personal freedoms of Texans and asks the government to get involved where it doesn't belong. Gender affirming care is a private healthcare issue and these decisions should remain between doctors, patients, and the patients family. Thank you.

Mary Doud, Mrs.
self
Tyler, TX

This bill must pass for the safety and health of our children.

Dana Pauly
Self, Marketing Manager
Houston, TX

Opposed 1000%

Jamie Edwards, Mrs
Self
Idalou, TX

FOR/SUPPORT

Teresa Meglasson
Self
San marcos, TX

Support

James Fuston, Self Employed
Texans for Rightousness
Turkey, TX

GOD created you and I in our mothers womb! GOD doesn't make any mistakes and if the trans alphabet people would leave little kids alone; we wouldn't be having this conversation! Look at how many children end up committing suicde becaue they are so confused by those evil people!!! Do THE RIGHT THING !!! Pass the bill to protect our children!!

Chris Williams
Chris Williams
Dallas, TX

Dear State Congress Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern about HB 1686 and its potential harm to transgender children in our state. As you are aware, this bill seeks to restrict access to gender-affirming care for transgender youth, which is not only discriminatory but also goes against current medical best practices.

Transgender youth face numerous challenges in our society, including higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Gender-affirming care has been shown to significantly improve the mental health and well-being of these young people. Denying them access can have devastating consequences, including increased risk of self-harm and suicide.

It is important to remember that transgender youth are not going through a phase or seeking attention. They are simply trying to live their lives authentically and should have the right to do so without fear of discrimination or harm. HB 1686 sends the message that our state does not support and value the lives of transgender youth.

I urge you to reject this harmful bill and instead support policies that promote the health and well-being of all young people, regardless of their gender identity.

Sincerely,
Chris Williams

Mau Kwan Tang
Self
Katy, TX

FOR/Support TX HB1686..

Trisha Yardley
Self-Registered Nurse
Austin, TX

As a healthcare worker for 27 years/20 years as a Nurse in Pediatrics; I have seen the effects of what some children go through with not being acknowledged for their identity. Suicide, self-medication of drugs bought off the streets, self-mutilation...not to exclude the HUGE mental aspect. If we do not help this population this leads unfortunately down a rabbit hole in larger numbers of the public being held liable in the long run; homelessness, mental health crisis, drug use, rape/sexual health issues, etc...
I think a huge portion of this Bill is questioning the use of public funds to help these children with transition/support. If insurance companies would be held liable for covering mental health, as well as, support corrective surgery with documented concern of well being; this would help some of the situation. However the fact remains that this is a HEALTH crisis/issue. We should support people (especially our youth) in the development of healthy life decisions. We should be supportive! This is a born condition. Just like infants born without any sex organs and gene mutations...somewhere along the line there is miscommunication with the system. It is a HEALTH condition that Insurance companies should have to cover and if not covered by big name-then medical assistance...so be it. There should be funds to help assist to a certain extent for sure. I think that it is alright to allow stipulation to be placed in the youth population that there be repeated documentation from accredited life/mental health counselors stating that the path is the right direction. I hate holding that burden on the healthcare professional but documentation stating that child exhibits desire/behaviors of. Child is exhibiting hatred for ones body and has repeatedly refused identity as...In this there also should be a standard of looking into coaching from the parents, as well. We need to realize that parents hold a huge part in this to find SW/Psychologists that work with youth that are not closed off to transgender issues. These are things that should occur behind the scenes. Legislation/the Government should ultimately not play the uneducated God in decision making on whether or not to support the youth in such decision as long as it is for the well-being of that youth.
MENTAL health and well being is formed at a very young age. Infancy on through early childhood development-they are sponges. This is why they tell parents to introduce other languages and different things to enhance the strength of our youth to develop into a smart and resourceful young adults. And, quite honestly if there is a family reaching out to support the decision of transition, puberty stunting and so forth...then maybe we should listen.

Robert Labbe
self
Cypress, TX

this is necessary to protect children from a most serious procedure that will effect them the rest of their lives. So many studies are indicating that transgendered individuals regret their decision later in life. We cannot allow such a monumental change to be made with or without the child's consent.

Gina Summers
Self
Manvel, TX

Healthcare for ALL genders, transitioning or CIS.

We should not limit Healthcare.

Accessible for all genders.

Say NO to this bill.

Bradley Anderson
Brad Anderson
Fort Worth, TX

I am commenting in support of this bill HB 1686. My comment here is yet another appeal to common sense and common science that people are born either male or female. All of this insanity related to people trying to change their sexual orientation is just a tragedy bringing about mental illness, mutilation, drug addiction, suicide, other irreversible medical conditions and 28 other negative consequences. Please do not listen to a minute minority of deranged and woke operatives and please listen to the majority of doctors, scientists and parents -- normal Texas citizens who say this is insanity even thinking of people changing their genders. Vote pro HB 1686. Thank you, Brad

Melissa McMartin, Tax Payer/Texas Born
MY FAMILY
Roanoke, TX

Prohibit ALL procedures and treatments to change a child's sex. There are 2 genders: Male and Female. You do understand that these gender treatments (transitioning or reassignment) are not changing a child from a male to an ape or elephant or gay or pan-sexual. No these surgeries are changing a female to a male or vice versus. So there ARE ONLY TWO genders - PERIOD. STOP these procedures, treatments and any thing to do with changing a child.

Mindy Blankemeyer
Self
Cleveland, TX

It is not right for my tax money to pay for this. Get some Jesus and stop the madness!

Jamieson Rohr
Self
Austin, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Gender affirming care is considered an evidence based, safe and critically important practice and should be kept between families and their multidisciplinary medical teams.

Dennis Doud, Mr.
self
Tyler, TX

Childre are not mentally mature enough to make critical decisions for themselves. If a child wants a sex transition, it should be they are required (by law) to wait until their 21st birthday, meaning, parents should not be permitted to have their children's sex changed either.

Britt Campbell
Self
Terrell Hills, TX

FOR
I do not want public money to be used for any gender transition.

Lana Burson
I am a stay at home wife.
Afton, TX

I support this bill. The word children should stop us all from allowing harm to these small ones. We must protect them. They are the future of our state and we must protect, support, educate and love the children of Texas.

Becky Palermo
Myself
Houston, TX

I say vote against!!!!!

Richard Long
Self
Katy, TX

Support HB 1686 Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Barbara Kidwell
Self
Waco, TX

FOR

Charles Moore, Mr.
SELF
Childress, TX

For

Bradi Carney
Self
Arlington, TX

No monies. None. Should go for “individual” wants.
This is not a “need” for the state to provide…
There is a huge difference between “wants” and “needs” If you want to personally fund something like this…start a go fund me page..but do not place this at the tax payers feet.

Guanghui Luo
Representing myself
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Walt Pene, Owner
Self
Anton, TX

I am for this bill.

Jennifer Banks
Self
Shallowater, TX

For/Support the bill

Mickie Hurley
Self
Turkey, TX

Please support HB1686 - children are not mentally or physically developed to be capable of making life altering decisions.

Wenona Andress
Self Clinical Social Worker
Lubbock, TX

I Support this bill! As a licensed clinician who have worked with teens who are at-risk or mentally ill, these kids are vulnerable and susceptible to many different voices and agendas. " Gender dysphoria" has increased to higher percentages in the last few years not because of real identity confusion but because of social media " fads"! All children and teens are trying to develop their identities and it's normal for them to change friends, hair styles, extra- curricular activities, and to be a little rebellious. Whether a child has mental illness or not, the frontal lobe is not fully developed until about age 23. Meaning logic is often sabotaged by moods. .. Not to mention hormones! There are studies indicating hormones for gender transition can cause medical and psychological damage.At one time or other all kids are uncomfortable in their own skin. They are trying to compete with unrealistic media, or friends and sometimes family expectations. Any severe identity issues should be addressed in counseling first. Parents should be involved in treatment. Psychiatrists, MDs, Counselors should never be mandated to provide to offer gender re- assignment counseling . This service can be provided by experts in that field and for adults ONLY who have the cognitive and emotional maturity to make the decision. Moreover we should NEVER use tax money for a medical intervention that is 1. Not statistically validated. 2. Is not generalizable for the full population. 3. Is not an emergency measure.

Vanessa Rojas
Self
Garland, TX

My name is Vanessa Rojas, a cis mother of three and grandmother of two. It is our rights not only as American citizens but as human beings to be given the opportunity to be provided good healthcare and safe treatment to live out our daily lives. To prohibit this from children and adults is not only considered discrimination against a persons gender, but also inhumane and unconstitutional.

Cheri Wyman, Dr.
Self. Parent
The Colony, TX

I support this bill.

Diana Brock
Representing myself
Houston, TX

Save the children!! God has made us just as we are! Female or male
No mistakes!!
Stop mutilating our children !!

Carol Johnson
Self Presbyterian Church USA Pastor
Austin, TX

I believe that the provision of procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria for children is not an issue that should be regulated by the legislature. It should be regulated by the medical profession with standards of treatment set by professionally recognized medical organizations. While individual physicians may disagree with the opinion of the medical community, they should not be allowed to set law that goes against the recommendations of that medical community. No one doctor or legislator holds all the knowledge. Nor are individual legislators qualified to make medical decisions for society, despite their good intentions or medical degrees.
However, I do want to ensure that the doctors who treat children for gender issues are appropriately trained. The legislature can require a certain amount of continuing education for physicians who deal with gender dysphoria so that they are using the latest best practices.
In addition, the legislature may allocate money for studies on the effectiveness of the protocols for treating gender dysphoria.
Our best science does not support this bill and we should not be relying on outlier cases, tragic as they may be, to make decisions for all our children, as the authors of this bill apparently are doing.

Martha Watson, Ms.
Self
Midland, TX

Children are not old or mature enough to know what they are doing.

Angelica Hensley
Self
San Antonio, TX

3/29/2023

Jessica Langley, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill. Please protect children in Texas.

JENA GARNETT
SELF
LLANO, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686
NO CHILD IS BORN IN THE WRONG BODY

Cynthia Stafford
Christian Values
Roaring Springs, TX

FOR

Shelly Vollmar
Myself
Princeton, TX

I strongly agree with this bill to protect our children. It is imperative that we as adults stand in the gap to protect young ones who are not ready or able to make these kind of life altering decisions at this young age

Joan Lagmark
Self
San Antonio, TX

To proceed to change a child’s gender is a horrible miscarriage of medical ethics and should be forbidden by the law.

Bruce Ferguson
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Voting For this bill

Thomas Moore, Mr
Self-retired lumberman, rancher
Kerrville, TX

In favor

Jennifer Worley
Self
Emory, TX

SUPPORT

Rhonda Hill
Self
TURKEY, TX

#DoNotHarm. I support this bill.

Sarah Ulery
Self
Denton, TX

As a Texas educator, I’m appalled by HB 1686. I teach students of a variety of genders, and they are all incredible and bright young people. My students who identify as a gender other than the one which they were assigned at birth are among the students with the highest civic knowledge and involvement. They are eager to learn about the world and help others. However, I see their mental health suffer as they experience gender dysphoria, a very real disorder that, as with any mental health issue, is easily treated. I teach at a title 1 school; many of my students struggle financially at no fault of their own. They don’t deserve to have medical and mental health care stripped from them, especially when this care is quite literally life saving. As a result, I urge you to vote against HB 1686.

Cameron Betzen
Christian
Amarillo, TX

For/I support of

Elizabeth Kasper, Mrs.
Self-retired high school English teacher
Tomball, TX

HB 1686. Gender Modification of minors is completely unacceptable. Even European countries are moving away from this practice for children. If we don't allow children to make other important decisions, then why allow this? Also, that the LGBTQ+ community is against this law is inaccurate. I do not know a single gay man or woman who supports gender modification for children. Most research does not support the idea that the "cure" for gender dysphoria is gender modification. The few I am aware of have methodology issues that skewed the results. Please save our children!

Mackenzie Kelver
Self
Big Spring, TX

I am FOR this bill.

Christen Hong
Self
Austin, TX

Against. Feeling annoyed that Texas republicans have brought so many hateful bills up to try to win by inconvenience and apathy when it's obvious the vast majority of constituents are against it. Ridiculous to say you care about the safety of children and not address guns and public health ya fools

Timothy McDermott
Self/Wildlife Service/Self employed
Ackerly, TX

Please pass this bill. Do not be swayed by these activists that want to cause harm to children and their families. Gender affirming care is leaving the gender assigned at conception alone, no one can change their gender identity. Gender identity is genetically coded in each cell of the human body, this can not be changed. Thank you for your time, and I believe that you will pass HB 1686.

Lane Bell, Farm and Rancher
Self/ Farm and Ranch
Chillicothe, TX

I am FOR this HB1686

Justin Tyler
Self - Client Relations Specialist (Executive Comms.)
Katy, TX

I am whole heartily against this bill. It doesn't represent Texas values or the limited government espoused by the majority. Stop wasting Texas resources with discriminatory bills.

Maureen O'Donnell
Self/retired
Houston, TX

I firmly oppose the government supporting gender reassignment procedures and treatments. Children should not be encouraged to undertake such radical life altering treatments. This current trend is being pushed by people who are misguided, have an agenda, or wish to profit off children who are being encouraged in this direction at a young age. This is wrong on so many levels. We need to protect our children. What they choose to do as fully informed adults is another thing.

Holly Done
Personal
Katy, TX

FOR/Support the bill.

Gregory Wyman
self - Software Developer
The Colony, TX

I support and I am FOR Bill HB1686. Gender modification should not be permitted to children or adolescents. This includes puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones and surgeries.

Jackie Harris
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
Gender transition drugs and surgeries are
dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young
children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most
of them grow out of their dysphoria.
A growing number of nations, including some
that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even
curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children
with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Joseph Schuetze
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please protect our children. Once they are adults they can think clearly enough to make life altering decisions.

Gabriel Gaudern
Self (wildlife manager)
Paducah, TX

Push this bill forward. Why our world is allowing children to make decisions with life changing effects is beyond me. Scientific community brought to our attention that the frontal lobe of biological men is not fully formed until 25 yrs of age. We don't allow children who really want to drink or smoke permission to legally do so until the appropriate ages. Why would we allow children to take hormone blockers, surgerys, etc before they know what they really want in life?

Gwyn Lawson
Self. Real estate
Mckinney, TX

I am FOR a ban on medical procedures for children which alter their sex. Children need to be protected, not mutilated for profit

Roxanne Martin
Self homemaker
Lockney, TX

For

Nancy Edwards, Ms.
self retired
Houston, TX

medical care should be left to individuals and their physicians. Legislatures hav no business practicing medicine.

Matt Kemp
Self, self-employed
78723, TX

This bill and all the others like it are cruel “government overreach” that has no place in Texas or the United States of America.

Mary Regenbrecht
self
Hallettsville, TX

I'm submitting my comment against HB 1686 which seeks to ban funding and assistance for transgender youth in need of critical support and medical care. Texans need to stop the abusive, perverse, and cruel obsession with sexuality and transgender people. Children and young adults have a hard enough time with understanding aspects of maturing and with bullying of many types. Our government should not be in the business of making medical decisions, intruding on families private rights, or of promoting bullying - all of which this bill would enact. Please protect our children and respect Texas citizens' privacy and rights by throwing this bill into the trash heap.

Don Glenn
Self
Clarendon, TX

I fully support this bill.

Robin ROSENSTOCK, Dr
Self
Austin, TX

As a physician and pediatrician I strongly oppose this bill. There are numerous safeguards in place in the medical system to assess and treat children with gender issues. Prohibiting care for ANY class or type of patient is irresponsible and dangerous. There are already restrictions on what public money and assistance can be used for and this bill does not change that.

Evelyn Wood
Self
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I am very much for HB 1686. I request you support the passage out of Committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

David Palmer
Log Cabin Republicans of Houston
Cypress, TX

Log Cabin Republicans of Houston announce their support for SB 14 and HB 1686, relating to the prohibition of medical gender transitioning of persons under the age of eighteen years.
Gender dysphoric people deserve compassion and should be provided with appropriate psychological care, but early medical transition procedures can cause undue physical and emotional trauma to children. Childhood chemical and/or irreversible surgical transition negatively affects the lives of children who outgrow their dysphoria, which many minors exhibiting gender dysphoric behavior eventually do. With appropriate psychological care, waiting until adulthood to medically transition does not diminish the ability of transgender people to live happy and healthy lives.
LCR Houston believes children are the most vulnerable among us and as such, deserve protection. It is unfortunate but necessary that we issue this message of support for legislation that prohibits the medical gender transition of children, dictates severe consequences to physicians and other providers of these transitions, and bans the use of public dollars in providing these procedures. Protecting kids should not be a partisan issue. It is common sense.

Holly Betenbough
Self
Lubbock, TX

I support and am for this bill!

Valerie Wright
Self Healthcare Sales
Vernon, TX

Minor children should not have others agendas pushed upon them. God created us as males and females and that should not be changed. Children can make choices when they are of legal age but not as minors.

Megan Baker
Self
Austin, TX

I am a scientist. I firmly believe that this bill will harm the people of Texas, especially the children. Gender affirming care is supported by many medical associations and has been shown to lower suicide rates. Passing this bill would be a mistake.

Linda Fields
Self
Saginaw, TX

I am for this bill, please protect our children.

Gary Wright
Church
Vernon, TX

For

James Dowell
Self
Celina, TX

This is a good bill to stop the destructive practices to force onto the innocent, actions that produce irreversible damage to the youngest of our people

Gabriel Almaraz
Self
Austin, TX

Please do not prohibit these affirming sources of support.

Pamela Marvin
College Station
College Station, TX

Body dysphoria is a known mental health condition. These children need psychological need. To mutilate their bodies is a crime against humanity. Please stop this from advancing.

Michael Martin, Mr
Self and First Baptist church Happy Tx1686
Tulia, TX

As a Christian and conservative strait male I oppose anything that relates to changing the gender of a child . GOD affirms what sex a child is to be and it is an abomination to try to change that

Jennifer Heerensperger
Self, Financial Advisor
Houston, TX

For

Yadira Garza
Self
Weslaco, TX

Children are not old enough to decide this.

Stacy Soefer
Self
Houston, TX

Opposed!!

Jill Henson-Bell
Self
Vernon, TX

FOR/SUPPORT

Judy Y
Living Well Therapy Partners PLLC
Richardson, TX

"I am urging the Human Services Committee to pass this very important HB 1686 to the full House for a vote. It is essential that parents be involved in such a serious decision as a child choosing to have gender-altering treatments. From all I have read about this subject, a great number of young people who make this decision to transition to the opposite sex regret that decision later and end up with major depression and often suicide after making decisions to change their bodies in unalterable ways. It is very important that parents are involved in helping their child through this critical time in their lives before they do damage to their bodies that is irreversible."

Phoebe Wesley
Self, mother
New Caney, TX

Oliverson's bill is common sense. It actually does not go far enough, because gender modification of a child is child abuse. This bill only prohibits the procedures. Please oppose the "grandfather clause amendment" from senator Campbell when it is possible. It would result in many children being hastily put on puberty blockers before the deadline.

Thank you, Phoebe Wesley

Leslie Hooper
Families Engaged
Palo Pinto, TX

I support this bill. There is no way a child should be allowed public funds to mutilate their body. There are not enough case studies available about long term effects. Some have regretted this decision. Get them psychiatric therapy to help them process their gender dysphoria. This is such a recent phenomenon and we need to look at what is causing it. Is it social media and screen time? Is it being pushed in schools and curricula? Why are we just allowing mentally unhealthy children make decisions that are irreversible?

Ashley Burdine
Self, student
Bellaire, TX

I am against banning gender affirming care for minors. Many self-identifying transgender youth identify themselves at early ages, and should be allowed to advocate for themselves and their needs in a medical setting without legislative preventative interference. I was once one of these aforementioned youth, and know many other trans youth who, when they were given access to the proper treatment, were able to become significantly happier and more emotionally stable. The majority of studies on transgender care in youth indicate that access to the proper medical care significantly decreases the overall suicide rate in this population. It would be beneficial for our youth to be able to live, both as themselves and in spaces that accept them. But most of all it is necessary for our youth to keep living, no matter who they are. A ban on gender-specific medical treatment for transgender youth would affect more than just the youths in question; this will impact their families, doctors and their ability to work, and the greater medical community. It is also important to note that there are much more prevalent and immediate threats to all youth occurring daily in our country, namely mass gun-related violence. I ask for two things; first to drop this ban, and second to instead focus on banning access to the immediate, irreversible threat to our youth, that being assault weapon access.

Kelly Sieck
Citizen
Houston, TX

For bill HB1686

Anakaren Romero Lozano
Self - PhD Student
Austin, TX

Outlawing gender affirming care for people under 18 can be a life or death situation for transgender teens. Getting care to transition in your developmental years is supported by all major medical associations. Stop playing political games with people’s lives!

April Kerze
Self
Spring, TX

As a parent of young kids and long time resident, I strongly support HB 1686.

David Halvorson, Pastor

Self - Pastor

Newark, TX

I support this bill prohibiting gender reassignment procedures and surgeries.
This process is a horrific abuse to children and young adults. These are experimental procedures both physically and mentally.
There is no proof that any of this helps a child or young adult cope with whatever emotional issues they are experiencing.
God's word says, He made them male and female, in the image of God.
God made you intentionally, with purpose.
Please vote for this bill.
Pastor David Halvorson
Newark. TX

Isabel Torres

Self- mother

San Antonio, TX

I do not support gender affirming care for children that involves irreversible surgery or hormones. Children should not be making those decisions until they are adults.

Scott Smith

Scott's Quick Print

lubbock, TX

For the current bill

Laurie Bracher

Self

San Antonio, TX

FOR/Support the bill
VOTE IN FAVOR of HB1686

Linda McAfee

Self

DeSoto, TX

Please, please VOTE YES for HB 1686. Children are children, they are not knowledgeable enough to make the decision for transgender. Please, allow them to grow up to adulthood before deciding. Yes, I do believe we are created male and female and nothing is going to change that, but for a child to decide? That decision should only be made be an adult individual. Thank you for your deep concern regarding your answer.

Constance Hays, Mrs.

Home maker, mother

Kingwood, TX

Vote YES!!!!!!

Katherine Griffith, Mrs.
self, public relations professional working in healthcare
LEANDER, TX

I STRONGLY oppose HB 1686. I oppose the restriction of live-saving, individualized healthcare on for transgender youth. I believe in PARENTAL CHOICE when it comes to a child's healthcare. And you are taking away the PARENT'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE, as well as best practice healthcare options supported by major medical associations.

We are losing medical providers in Texas because of legislative attacks against best-practice medicine for transgender youth and adults. Threatening to takeaway liability insurance has a chilling effect on healthcare providers. There is a healthcare shortage in Texas, and I personally know nurses who have left the state because of anti-trans legislation. WE CAN NOT AFFORD TO LOSE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS!

I was shocked to read in the Austin American-Statesman what Rep.Tony Tinderholt said during Tuesday's committee hearing, “I’m just appalled that the Texas Pediatric Society is here telling me that these types of procedures are OK." FOR YEARS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (67,000 members) and American Medical Association have said INDIVIDUALIZED gender-affirming care are best practice, including social transition, mental health counseling, medication, and in some cases, mastectomies/breast reduction, depending on the person's needs. This response from Rep. Tinderholt just reinforces that legislators are not listening to healthcare providers about best practice, evidence-based care.

How dare you deny Texans the right to testify by adjourning at midnight. That's not democracy. It's a sham. I used to be proud to be a Texan, and now I'm just ashamed. I'm tired. Tired of both sides debating numbers and statistics. Tired of legislators gaming the system.

The point of gender-affirming care is individualized care. Can we just all agree that parents and children should have access to options? Gender dysphoria is real, and suicide rates are higher among transgender teens. Why is our state debating this? I'm scared for my friends who are parents and have transgender children who rely on this type of care.

I urge you to do the right thing and shift your focus on meaningful legislation that will protect kids, not harm them.

Marsha Dizzine
Self retired teacher
Grapevine, TX

We don’t let children watch pornography, we don’t let children smoke tobacco and we don’t let children drink alcohol. We certainly shouldn’t let children be mutilated. I support this bill.

Erin Dillon
self, rigger
Austin, TX

I'm transgender at 42. I was transgender at 4. This bill will harm children.

Christine Stevens
Self - Student
Austin, TX

Please vote against this bill and leave medical decisions to be made by doctors, patients, and parents. Consider an amendment or a different bill prohibiting the use of public money or assistance if that is such an issue, but leave private medical decisions up to medical professionals, their patients, and the parents.

Christopher Rister
Self rancher
Childress, TX

Vote yes to protect our children
These procedures are ruining lives

Ouida Sanders
Self retired teacher
Amarillo, TX

For

Cecil Edward King
Self/ supervisor
Dripping springs, TX

I support this bill

James Ly
Self
Arlinfton, TX

Violates basic human rights. Children deserve a chance to be themselves. This bill would take that away from them.

Gwenda Merriott
Self
Grand Prairie, TX

Vote FOR the prohibition of public money being used to promote or perform transitioning procedures or treatment on children.

Gregory John
self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose restrictions on state-supported gender affirming care.

Elle Holland, Parent
Self
Allen, TX

I am a school board Trustee in Allen ISD. I know first hand that children go through many changes before the age of 18. Their brains are not fully developed until age 21. It is irresponsible to modify a child's gender when they are not mature enough to make that decision. I urge you to vote in favor of PROHIBITING these dangerous and life altering treatments. Thank you and God bless you.

Sheila Clay, Ms
Myself
Plano, TX

Please vote for this bill

Patricia Bubb, Mrs.
Self - retired
Cedar Park, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children.

Kristi Castro
self (writer/editor)
San Antonio, TX

Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria. Growing up is confusing enough without planting these ideas in our children's minds.

Evelyn Rocha
Self, student
Austin, TX

The government should not be able to prohibit any procedures that a child’s parents and doctors have decided is the best for the child.

Lisa Fuston
Self
Turkey, TX

We serve an awesome God who detests leading children to a life of constant turmoil and permanent damage to heart, soul, mind and body. He created us to be male or female, no explanations needed!!!

Darlene Olson
Self
Hurst, TX

I support this bill

Katherine Lamb
Self
Austin, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of my fellow Texans--my family, friends, neighbors, children, and students that are Trans, gender questioning, or otherwise not cisgendered--to express my opposition to HB 1686, a hateful and extreme proposition currently under consideration in the Texas House of Reps.

This bill is an exemplar of hate, backwardness, and oppression, and I cannot stand for a such a bill to pass and become law in this great state, my home. I cannot stand for so many Texans, needing care, space, and safety to understand their gender and identities, to be denied such freedom. To be denied their freedom of gender identity and transition. To be denied the same freedom that I experience as a cisgendered woman. Much of what any trans person or gender questioning person wants are procedures that this House would not bat an eye at if I, a cisgendered woman, requested. So I ask: what is the difference in a trans person's desire for breast augmentation/deconstruction, and perhaps my desire for a breast augmentation/deconstruction? What's the difference between a trans person's desire for laser hair treatment and my desire for laser hair treatment? What's the difference between a trans person's hormone therapy and my hormone therapy? To be clear, all of these examples (breast augmentation, laser hair treatment, and hormone therapy, etc, etc) would be gender-affirming care for me, though I would not be transitioning to another gender. The desire for more or less breast, more or less hair, more or less secondary-sex hormones is incredibly common across traditionally cisgendered people! Why then is the same care and treatment not available to my fellow Trans and gender questioning Texans? What reason, other than hate and the desire to oppress, is there to deny the exact same medical care and treatment?

To go after any person's freedom of expression of gender is a violation of a citizen's rights, and every Texan should be infuriated and ashamed by Oliverson's attacks on this freedom. No less, this bill's intention to deny health care to minors is heartless, cruel, and a complete violation of any citizen's right to seek care for whatever may ail a person.

I urge all House Representatives to oppose HB 1686 when it comes to a vote on the House floor. Not even in its basest logic (though, what does the Texas Republican Party care for logic? Ha!) does this bill make any sense or do anything in the service of Texans. It's simply hate, simply another step to oppressing the good people of Texas, and this Texan cannot stand for it.

Sincerely,
Katherine Lamb

Suzanne King
Self teacher
Dripping Springs, TX

I support this bill!

Shannon Smock
Self
Oak Leaf, TX

I support HB1686

Fan Huang
self
Plano, TX

Support this bill.

Jody Smock, Mr
Self
Oak Leaf, TX

I support HB 1686.

Jacqueline St. Hilaire
Self
Plano, TX

This has to be stopped now. These changes should not be allowed until they are old enough to make an educated decision. Age 21, they are old enough to drink and may be mature enough to make this life changing decision.

Naylor Gray
Self - None of your business
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill. It is completely inappropriate and wrong for the State to intervene between parents, children and healthcare providers with this unneeded and intrusive legislation. If State lawmakers are worried about children and children's health and safety then I suggest they review the funding levels of Children's Protective Services, find ways to increase healthcare insurance coverage to uninsured children, improve teacher pay at public schools and find ways to get guns out of the hands of those who want to invade our schools and kill our children.

Michele Bachman
Morning Star Counseling & Psychotherapy
League City, TX

Please end the mutilation of children and minors through so-called “gender affirming care.” I am a psychotherapist. My profession is seeing a flood of minors and young people, many on the autism spectrum or with trauma history and dissociative disorders, who are seeking escape in the false promises of gender transition. All these transition treatments do is distract them from real answers: treatment for trauma or support for their neurodiversity. Please protect these children! Michele Bachman, LPC-S

Lynda S Will
Self
Wolfforth, TX

I support this bill. Birth gender changes are inappropriate for minor children.

Diana Sanders
self teacher
Kerens, TX

As an educator and parent I am concerned for the mental and physical effects these procedures will have on our children. Please Texans, protect our children by placing limits on the procedures performed on our children.

Eleanor Seline
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill and all efforts being made to give support to children going through an enormous physically and mentally difficult journey. Please pass this very important bill

Linda McCain
None
Arlington, TX

I do not want my grandchildren nor any children submitted to gender reassignment of any kind !!

Eleanor Johnson
Self
League City, TX

Please please please vote for HB 1686. Stop the medicalization of these confused gender minors. I have a dear friend whose daughter committed suicide after transitioning. If you look at the facts, suicide rates are high with these procedures. Parents should not have the right to make this decision before the minors turn 18.

Susan Burnett, Mrs
self, retired Computer Systems Analysis Programmer
Kerrville, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Jere May
Self
Grapevine, TX

For

Frances Hamlin
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Child transitioning must end!

Roy Hamlin
self
Fort Worth, TX

Child transitioning must end!

Jesse Motes
Self
Woodway, TX

I object to allowing any treatment of children to gender transitioning. I also object to discussing this subject with children by anyone other than parents. I also object to schools having literature on this subject where children could see or obtain.

Nicholas Iacobucci
Self
Austin, TX

Children should be able to find the proper care and treatments they need as designated by their healthcare provider and legal guardians. This bill would prohibit their chance to get appropriate care. Who are we to say what they should or should not get if it is deemed appropriate for that particular child by their provider and legal guardians? Why is the so called freedom party so hell bent on taking away rights? I stand firmly against this bill and I implore those with voting power to do the right thing and do not let this bill pass. For those that may be for this based on religious reasons: you should not be forcing your religion on others. Passing of this bill, and others like it, will eventually lead to more hate against the LGBTQ+ community.

Kenny Melton
Self
Celina, TX

Stop the myth. Love kids the correct way, not by making the into something they are not. Boys and Girls are created by God as boys and girls.

Jay Zuhosky
Self
Austin, TX

I'm a 46 year old trans man. I have also been a Texan for all or those years. Gender affirming care is life saving. It reduces depression, suicidal thoughts, and gives kids time to learn about themselves. Gender affirming care includes therapy which all trans people should have access to including children. This is taking away their liberties to be able to live their authentic selves in society without oppressive restrictions given by any person or government. Banning Healthcare like this will not eradicate trans people the way they are hoping. It seems as though they are trying to get rid of trans kids in hopes to not have trans adults. Most trans kids, without gender affirming care won't make it to adulthood. Their depression will increase, their suicidal thoughts will reach greater heights and parents and families will have to bury their child at a greater rate. Those who back this bill don't understand that children aren't getting surgeries to "mutilate" their bodies like they think they are. The misinformation politicians have regarding gender affirming care is creating a hateful rhetoric for others to attack trans people. For them to see us as less than. To think that we aren't "normal". Transgender is in nature and trans people have been around since mankind. We won't back down and we won't tolerate the hate. Texas shouldn't stand against Texans. Don't allow this bill to pass!

Katherine Smith
self, student
Allen, TX

Thank you. I’m here today to testify against HB 1686. This bill would take away from others care that has had a massive impact on my life. I have personally gone through the treatments that you claim to be dangerous, untested, and paramount to experimentation. They’re not. I began blockers at about age 10, and estrogen at age 14, decisions made by me, my parents, my doctor and my therapist. I cannot even begin to express how much these treatments have helped me, and how grateful I am for them. I am comfortable in my own body, I look like a woman, and feel like a woman. But other trans people aren’t so lucky, some can’t receive this treatment now, and even more wouldn’t be able to if this bill passes. By restricting this care to after 18, and forcing the body to go through puberty pthat doesn’t align with the persons gender identity, they may be consigned to a more difficult life that could have been prevented if they were given the best practice healthcare that i have received. I suggest you ask them, if they could go back, would they want the treatment and results i have experienced. I cannot speak for those in favor of this bill, but i can speak for my experience. The answer to the debate between whether or not these treatments are healthy is not to ban them outright. Not when they have led me to be incredibly healthy, and academically successful, and have my entire life ahead of me to affect positive change in the world, entirely in thanks to the treatment you now seek to ban. I urge you to consider the impact these treatments have had on my life, and the lives of countless others in the trans community. I urge you to 86 1686 (pun massively intended), for the sake of your trans constituents, and trans people throughout Texas.

P.S. One last thing. Throughout this hearing, i’ve heard a lot from all of the invited witnesses, and members of the committee about how there are people, perhaps in the minority, who authentically experience gender dysphoria. Do those people not deserve healthcare? If there is a concern about people being able to access care too early, the answer is increased regulation, not a ban.

Maria Estevez
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB1686

Clay Grier
Clay Grier LLC
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is not based on any facts and it’s sole purpose is to strip away much needed mental healthcare from our trans children. The discussion of transphobic laws is such a colossal waste of taxpayer money considering Texas is one of the worst states in the entire country in regards to healthcare and education.

Jim Steele
self
Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1686. It is our duty to protect Texas children.

Wei Wang
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Fausto Lasta
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Ashley Feik-campbell
Self
Terrell Hills, TX

Support

BYRON MYERS
self
Orange, TX

I don't how you could be in your right mind to vote for anything that would harm a child like gender transitioning. If the child is crazy enough to do this when age 21 or over, that's up to them (but it's crazy...they need psychological help). Anything sexual in school should be banned as well. Come on, think about what you are doing if you are for gender transitioning! STOP THE MADNESS!! LET KIDS BE KIDS AND PROTECT THEM FROM GROOMERS!

Sylvia Neusch
Church
Round Rock, TX

I am against the surgical procedures transitioning children from one gender to another. It is deplorable and unthinkable!

Carol Sivadge
The Body of Christ and all children
Waxahachie, TX

To all my Texas House representatives: Please vote in favor of passing this bill, and, protect the mental, physical, and emotional state of each child as they become adults by not allowing this heinous act to take place in Texas. Children are not mature enough to understand the process of what would take place in their bodies while their hormones are yet to emerge in their growth and development before adulthood. While adults may believe (erroneously) they are capable of making a sound decision on their own body's development should they like to "become" another sexual gender, they are at least adults over the age of 18. Youth and children are incapable of understanding the ramifications of this irreversible decision. We need to Texas children from permanent damage by prohibiting cross-sex hormones and body altering surgeries, or recommending them, for anyone under the age of 18. Body dysphoria, depression and anxiety, and the awkwardness of puberty are all real challenges that deserve compassion. However, we should not allow our children to be pushed by radical activist groups into experimental surgeries and drugs. This is not acceptable in any way. Please support this legislation, and vote YES on HB 1686.

Marisue Potts
Self and rancher
Matador, TX

Support HB 1686
To protect children who are too young to make decisions that affect the rest of their lives

Haihong Jiang, Eelectronic Technical
Self
Houston, TX

I support TAX HB1686.

Cheryl Jernigan, Mrs
Self, House wife
Granbury, TX

FOR/Support HB 1686

Leslea Midkiff, Mrs
Self - caretaker
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686
Ban transgender mutilation
Surgery on children in Texas

Alexie Swirsky, Mrs.
Self
Houston, TX

I am for this bill. We need to protect these children.

Linda Forrester Pitocco
Self
Conroe, TX

As a mother and grandmother and a retired police officer of over 20 years, handling cases of child abuse in various forms, this irreversible damage caused to both body and mind, by the procedures and medicines will only enhance the suffering of the child in the long run as been proven and established by documenting those who have now reached adulthood. In ignoring what God has established to be without confusion, (confusion only brought on by those who do not understand nor seek to understand) that gender determined at birth is in fact what the child is. Protect our children as they are the future, and destroying their bodies to fit the agenda of transgender is cruel and unusual punishment. Thank you.

Rachel Crenshaw
Self, therapist
Waco, TX

Support.

Zach Crenshaw
Self, tech salesman
Waco, TX

Support.

Carolyn Windham
Austin TX resident
Austin, TX

HB 1686. Vote FOR HB1686, yes to prohibit to children, these gender transition issues from being allowed, and please no tax money is to be allocated to this proposed cause. TY!

Helen A Smith
Self / Retired Bookkeeper
COLLEYVILLE, TX

I support HB 1686. Thank you.

Malcolm Boatner
self
Tomball, TX

no one under 21 should have access to gender altering drugs or surgical procedures and likewise it should be illegal to provide such drugs or surgical procedures to anyone under 21. no public funds should be utilized to facilitate gender reassignment for anyone at any age

Kaden Edwards
Self
Midland, TX

As a resident and tax payer of Texas, I adamantly oppose this bill. This bill is discriminatory in nature and a violation of human rights and freedoms. Politicians are NOT doctors NOR are they mental health professionals. If we are going to start taking away individual liberties then we need a plan in place for those individuals, because you cannot remove freedoms and expect said persons and parents to pay the SAME taxes that persons with full freedoms pay. This is FULLY unjust legislation and frankly a large waste of tax payers dollars. There are more important issues that need to be addressed. You have brought great attention to your names and reputations by pursuing a discriminatory bill and we the people of Texas are watching and will be firing you in the next election. Texas represents Freedom and Independence and the mere drafting of this bill is a disgrace upon all that Texas represents.

David Groves
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support and ask that you pass this bill.

Carrie Frain
self
Houston, TX

Please don’t harm our innocent children.

Tommie Dickinson
Self
Pleasanton, TX

Children are not allowed to represent themselves in a court of law, vote, purchase alcohol or cigarettes, sign themselves out of a government provided educational district (school) and …. Because the Texas and Federal law states that children under the age of 18 or 21 in some cases are not of a mature age-yet by all mean let’s allow them or their parents whom per case law precedent cannot represent their children in a civil action law suit-decide to alter their gender against their DNA code. I am for this bill. Tax payer money should not provide any type of funds to assistance for any type of procedures for gender reassignment.

Carol Sivadge
The Body of Christ and all children
Waxahachie, TX

Body altering procedures, such as cross-sex hormones and surgeries that remove or severely alter healthy body parts, cause irreversible damage that will impact children for the rest of their lives.

After “sex reassignment surgery,” girls and boys are nearly 20 times more likely to die from suicide than the general population.
Up to 98% of children who struggle with body dysphoria grow to accept their biological sex by adulthood.
At least 40,000 nationally known transgendered children/young adults who have gone through with these procedures are now trying to return to their original gender as they realize, they made a huge mistake. They unfortunately, are unable to have children of their own, because of these changes they previously made, and feel they were falsely encouraged and lied to.
The long-term effects of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have not been extensively studied. But it’s already clear they can lead to infertility and other irreversible harm. Additionally, the only ones who truly benefit from these procedures are the medical personnel who perform them, and they have used this as a money making scheme, similar to the abortion industry.

Do not allow children to be led down this terrible life-altering path. God loves these children. He made them according to His plan. We do not have the human right to change what He designed. Don't let this evil be on your conscience. Support this bill. Make it pass!

Thank you very much!

Joe Harrison, Pastor
Self
Libbock, TX

For

Shaoqing Wang
NA
Pflugerville, TX

Non reversible surgery should wait until old enough. At least older than drinking age.

Justin Jackson, Mr.
Coldspring
Coldspring, TX

Prohibit gender transition proced
ures.

Nicole Verkerk
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. It is cruel and helps no one.

Rusty Etheredge
self, rancher
Matador, TX

for; support the bill; do no harm; do not participate in transgender apostasy

Xue Situ
Self
Plano, TX

I support HB1686

Hui Jiang
Self, software engineer
Katy, TX

Fot/Support this bill

Rick Frederick
Self
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill and big government imposing themselves into family decisions. This is legislation designed to divide our nation and promotes hatred and discrimination.

Jean Schurwon
Self. Retired teacher
Kingwood, TX

For this bill

Madison Brown
Self
Dallas, TX

As a queer person, I can tell you with undoubted certainty that I knew I was queer as a child. In fact, the only thing that's stayed the same in my life since youth has been my queerness. Growing up in a small suburb of Fort Worth, it was difficult to come to terms with my sexuality and gender because I didn't see myself portrayed in my community. Growing up was an incredibly isolating and lonely experience knowing who I was but not being affirmed by seeing myself mirrored back to me by others. The isolation I lived with for so long and not having the resources to be my authentic self is not something I would wish on anyone. Especially not impressionable youth. Children need to be heard, seen, believed. They have every right to access affirming health care; just as any adult would. What children cannot see, they cannot be. And they deserve to have the rights and sources to be whatever they dream.

I strongly oppose HB 1686. I implore you, for the sake of our youth, the ones that are our future, to do the same.

Kristine Peterson
#DONOHARM
Trophy club, TX

agree with prohibiting treatment of children for gender transitioning etc. AND no public money should be used for this purpose

Ciera Villanueva
Self
San Antonio, TX

I AM IN OPPOSITION OF THIS BILL

Jeffrey Peterson
#DONOHARM
Trophy Club, TX

I AGREE with prohibiting treatment of children for gender transitioning etc. AND no public money should ever be used for this purpose

Judith Breslin
self
San Antonio, TX

Any legislation prohibiting individuals from any treatment, medication or procedures required to help individuals represent as their true selves should be funded as is any necessary medical or emotional care for anyone. Those treatments, procedures etc. should be determined by medical professionals and the individuals and parents involved. Government should not under any circumstances be involved in personal decisions regarding the health and well being of individuals.

Bonnie Gale
My self
Troup, TX

You wouldn't want the government interfering in any other medical issue, would you? Do you want the government stopping your parental decisions? Why is the government concerned with this? I thought Republicans wanted the government to limit it's reach? Leave these decisions up to these parents. ...or this will become a president for the government telling YOU what you can and cannot do for your children. This is not the role of government!

Lori Dyer
Self
Hallettsville, TX

This is a decision that is between a parent, their child, and their physician. The state of Texas has no reason to interfere, or make illegal, these decisions regarding gender. It is not an easy or fast decision and is made after, typically, years of discussion. Please leave this decision in the place where it belongs —with parents and their child. Stop making this an issue of fear. Very few children are transgender but the ones that are face depression and other mental health issues when they are denied gender affirming medical care.

Karen Boudreaux
Self
Tomball, TX

For the bill to stop mutilation of children and teens.

Patty Scheffler
Self
SPRING, TX

Please vote FOR this bill to prevent the use of public funds to destroy children's lives through so called gender health care. It is child abuse.

David Broussard
Self
Canton, TX

I am for this bill to stop the gender transitioning of children and using taxpayer money to do so.

Autumn Sheridan
Self
Pearland, TX

I stand against this funding

Carol Blain, Mrs
Self
Friendswood, TX

Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children!

Linda Roy
self
Matador, TX

I support HB1686. Children have to be protect from those who would work to cause them to question their natural gender.

Sophie Marianos
self, Human Resources
Austin, TX

The amount of harm done by the Texas legislature is incomprehensible. You would rather allow children be shot dead in public schools, public spaces, than allow life-saving (at times) medical treatment and resources. Passing any sort of law with the intention of not allowing people access to health care should not happen. I love this state, I love the freedoms we are allowed, the government should not be meddling in ways like this. This is the beginning of a very slippery slope. If trans youth are not allowed to pursue every option, there will be an increase risk of suicide among the community. Please take their lives into consideration. Don't all lives matter? Why do trans lives not? Doesn't life begin at conception? If so, why push people to suffer until they reach a certain age? This is an outrage. This is deplorable. Trans youth are precious, equally and wonderfully made. Have any members of the Texas legislature that claim to support prohibiting trans youth from seeking treatment ever spoken to a trans youth? Have they ever tried to understand, empathize, or comprehend the sheer amount of sadness felt by some of these people? The amount of guilt and shame that sometimes is too much, that could be alleviated if they were allowed access to these precious resources. Please consider these people and their families when weighing in from your house on the hill.

Julie Green
Self
Graford, TX

I support HB1686 will work

Terrance Ivers
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I believe that there are only 2 genders. I also believe that nature produces some humans who truly believe that they were born the wrong gender. Should an adult choose to surgically and medically alter their own body then they should be afforded the right to do so as an adult and using their own financial means. Never should a child (as defined by law in the State of Texas) ever be allowed to undergo gender transformation surgery with or without parental consent. No child shall ever be counseled on such matters without parental consent.

Caron Perkins
Self
Matador, TX

For HB 1686

Heather Aitken
Self
Austin, TX

Please stop dangerous medical intervention on the body to try to alleviate emotional and mental distress. KIDS NEED TO GO THROUGH PUBERITY AND MAKE A DECIDION WHEN THEU ARE AN ADULT. BUT STATE FUNDS SHOULD NEVR BE USED FOR ANY SURGERY LIKE THIS. whoops sorry about that caps lock.

Please support this bill.

Claudette McGuffee
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote YES!! And support this bill!! The data is coming in that this is very harmful to those who have had these kinds of procedures done.

Ashley Henke
Self
Houston, TX

Medical treatment is between doctors and their patients. The government has no right to tell families, doctors, and lgbtq people what they can or can’t do with their bodies. I vehemently oppose HB 1686.

Melena McClure, Dr.
Self, Veterinarian
Cedar Park, TX

Decisions regarding healthcare for minors should be made by the parent, child, and healthcare provider. Government has no business directing, dictating, or disallowing healthcare for our children. Gender affirming care reduces child suicide rates and rarely, if ever, involves gender reassignment surgery in minors. There is no fundamental difference between the decision to provide a covid vaccination to your child vs gender affirming care for your child, both are medical decisions which belong to the parents of those children. This legislature needs to stop pretending that bills like this are meant to protect children, when they so blatantly discriminate against a delicate oft marginalized group of kids.

Grayson Rich
Self, student
Euless, TX

As a transgender man who transitioned here in Texas as a minor, I urge you, members of the House, to vote against this bill. If the concern in allowing minors to transition lies in how effective these treatments are, I urge you to then sponsor a study into this matter instead of just a blanket ban on the principle that the available studies are effectively inconclusive - in other words, not a definite yes or no, but a "we don't know." I can tell you that from my own anecdotal experience that transition has greatly improved my life to the point I no longer qualify for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, meaning that my GD has been cured. While transition is not something every trans person needs, it was in my case; without it, I would not be here today to advocate on my own behalf, and my loved ones will agree. If this bill is to pass, you will lose young Texans, either through moving out of state or through suicide. I don't say this to fearmonger but to simply state fact - we've already seen trans youth in other states die by suicide after similar legislation passed. I don't want that to happen here, too.

Carol Bertrand
Self
Lubbock, TX

Child are born as they are, not to be changed on the whim of people.

Bill Hambright
self
Lubbock, TX

My vote is For HB 1686!

SHANNON WARREN
WAXAHACHIE DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP
Midlothian, TX

I am a life long Texan. I am a voter, a donor, a business owner, and a parent. I support HB1686.

James Timmons
Self
Northfield, TX

I support the bill

Louise Murphy
Self/ homemaker / Artist and teacher
Fredericksburg, TX

Children are children and are born into families for the preservation of the human race . They are born male or female , to be nurtured by a mother and father to grow to maturity and contribute to society for the progress and preservation of that society. Children go through stages as they grow and some because of circumstances or trauma in their families diverge from a normal path and are confused or influenced in ways that are against nature and common sense to think they are in the wrong body and can change and be happy and fulfilled by going through hormone therapy to change their gender! Ridiculous ! Science proves that's impossible. With all we know about DNA and genetics today …….. !
Stop telling kids they can be someone else , help them learn and appreciate who they are. Tell them the truth ! Stop the money mongers who want to feed off the sad and confused and traumatized children in our culture.
Vote to prohibit these negative life altering procedures for growing children who don't have the foresight or maturity to make these decision yet.
Thank you , Louise Murphy

Erika Rich
Self
Austin, TX

I am against HB 1686, HB 1952, HB 888, SB 13 and all bills that limit access to care for trans texas and discriminate against LGBTQIA people.

Corina Guzman
Self
Houston, TX

Support HB1685

Mary Michael Townsend
Self /. Business Development
Fort Worth, TX

I am pleading that, for the love of all things holy and moral and protective of children, that this bill will be made law.

We are living in a delusional world for people to believe that young children do not deserve protection from life-altering procedures that they are not mature enough to understand. Allowing genital mutilation, puberty blockers, and hormone treatments on children, before their bodies can become adult bodies is child abuse.

There is no one who has gone through puberty, who cannot relate to the feeling of being in the wrong body, or feeling unfeminine if you are a girl, or unmasculine, if you are a boy. We are made in God's image, and to destroy these little children irrevocably before they've grown into adults with agency iver their own bodies is nothing short of sacrificial.

We will be judged for this. We have a holy God, who has made every single one of these children in his image, and it is up to us to protect them. If not us, who? We must not cower in the face of evil, and we must not let threats prevent us from doing what we know to be right, and just, and honorable for our most vulnerable. In the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Silence in the face of evil is evil itself. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

I am in total support of HP 1686.

Lauren Buffington
Self
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill.
We have pressing matters for which public money need to be spent, like the education of our children, the protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must not spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.

Lisa Crawford
Self
Garland, TX

Voicing support for this bill as is.

William Breslin, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to this bill

Julie Minteer
Self
Frisco, TX

I oppose HB 1686

Vicki Hambright
Self
Lubbock, TX

My vote is For HB 1686

Kristy Edwards
Self- Grandmother
McKinney, TX

I have worked with and seen the effects of gender dysphoria and have come to the conclusion long term this reaches every part of their life IT IS A FOREVER CHANGE. THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS NO BUSINESS IN ABUSING CHILDREN IN THIS WAY!!!

Johnathan Clayton
Self
Palestine, TX

This bill is nothing but fascism. It's not about protecting children, it's about supporting Christian supremacy and even then a very narrow(minded) and self-righteous brand of it. If Texas lawmakers cared about children they'd be chomping at the bit to increase funding for WIC, childcare, adoption, parental leave, teacher pay, school improvements, park improvements, mental health services, and so much more. Instead, they want to single out already marginalized children and make their lives HARDER because they're too ignorant and arrogant to believe they might not know best for everyone else. It's absolutely appalling.

This bill doesn't operate in reality. No one is performing gender-related surgeries on children—well, except for doctors who still mutilate the genitalia of intersex children that can lead to all kids of future issues. But of course there are no bills speaking to that because it reinforces and upholds the antiquated notion of a gender and sex binary. Neither ever have been, but these dinosaurs are mad that they can't grasp that. This bill will only increase the unhappiness and trauma that trans kids face. Transition for most kids involves counseling, social transitioning, clothing changes, and eventually puberty blockers—something used by cis kids for decades and no one seems to care about that. Without these life-saving and SIMPLE treatments lives WILL be lost. And none of these treatments are permanent if a child happens to be in the <1% of people who realize they were trans after social transition! Stop puberty blockers? Puberty happens. Grew your hair out? Chop it off. This is only complicated to those who want it to seem that way.

Texas supposedly prodes itself on individualism and self-reliance, but then stands in the way of someone else's happiness? At the end of the day, it's no one's business but the child and their family. In order to get any kind of medical treatment, a kid is going to see a therapist and therefore the ridiculous notion that parents are "making" kids trans goes out the window. It simply doesn't work that way. If you vote for this bill, you are cementing forever your legacy of ignorance, hatred, bigotry, and will be remembered the same way fascist supporters around the world are remembered today.

Beth Schorlemer
Self/Retired
San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill.

Theresa Buck
None
Tomball, TX

I am for the proposed bill. We need to protect the children of our state. If someone chooses to make a decision as an adult, that is fine. Children need to be allowed to be children. Thank you.

jose barros
self
katy, TX

Support the Bill

Diane Houk
Self / retired
Bellaire, TX

I'm FOR this bill. No one under the age of 18 should be allowed to disfigure their bodies w gender-modification treatments of any sort - EVER!!

Priscilla Shields DeFrang, Mrs
self
Burleson, TX

We must protect the children and we can do that by fully supporting this bill. Children under 19 ueqrs are not allowed to gamble, buy cigarettes, drink alcohol, join the military and theblist goes on. That's because they are children. They should not be allowed to mutilate their bodies while they are children.

Maria Guzman
Self educational diagnostician
Austin, TX

Please stop using public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments

Korina Wright
Self
Princeton, TX

I am strongly against children being able to alter their biology. Any entity that is for this type of treatment towards children is condoning child abuse. I do not condone this behavior, nor shall I or the public have to pay for it. Prohibitions need to be placed to protect our children.

John Davis
self
Ft Worth, TX

I oppose this bill as it isn't needed. While the Attorney General whose abuse of power is warranted for impeachment. This Bill is nothing more then fear mongering. Rep Oliverson should resign from office and return to his closet to wear his tin foil hat.

Elizabeth Langley
Self student
Houston, TX

I am for HB 1686!!

Jing Yang
Self
Sugar Land, TX

As a concerned citizen of Texas, I am writing to express my fully strong support for Texas HB 1686. I believe this is a crucial step in protecting the wellbeing of minors in our state.

Children are in a vulnerable state and may not fully comprehend the long-term consequences of undergoing medical procedures related to gender transitioning or reassignment. It is essential that we ensure that they receive proper counseling and guidance before making such life-altering decisions. This bill will ensure that children are not subjected to procedures and treatments without proper consultation and consent from their parents or legal guardians.

Additionally, the use of public money or public assistance to fund such procedures and treatments is a misuse of taxpayer dollars. These funds should be directed towards initiatives that benefit the entire community, such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure.

In summary, I believe that Texas HB 1686 is a vital step towards protecting the physical and mental health of minors in our state, and I urge you to support this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lindsey Duke
Self
Keller, TX

I support bill 1686 and want EVERY possible action to be taken to prohibit procedures and/or treatments on minors

Marie Olavere
Self
Houston, TX

Passing this bill would prevent children from receiving HEALTHCARE that affirms who they are as they were born. This bill would most definitely cause a rise in mental health issues such as depression and anxiety which in turn would lead to an uptick in suicide rates. Psychologists and psychiatrists time and time again have researched and published peer-reviewed papers on the benefits of receiving gender-affirming healthcare. All children deserve to be seen, heard, and nurtured. Affirming their identity is one of the most impacting ways of doing so. Please don't pass this. There is no harm in letting children be themselves. There is no harm in providing necessary healthcare to children. There is no harm in affirming someone for who they are.

Alicia Bowers
Self Sales rep
San Antonio, TX

Decisions of this magnitude should not be entertained before the age of adulthood. Children are just that. Children. Not capable and fully aware of all the ramifications of making life altering decisions. If their parents aren't willing to protect them, then the State of Texas should not a party in supporting this. We are called to protect the innocent.

Cynthia Wiley, Ms
Self
College Station, TX

In support of HB 1686. Watched all day testimony chaired by Sen Hatch. Member of True Texas Project, Brazos Tea Party and BV Rep party.

C Chang
Self
Dallas, TX

Agree this bill.

Chris Yu
Self
Katy, TX

Support this

Sherry Verret, Mrs.
Self retired
Kingwood, TX

HB1686
I am FOR HB 1686

Jason Mazur
Self, carpenter
San Antonio, TX

I would like to voice my opposition to HB1686. It's 2023 and high time we spend our time and resources ending drunk driving, drug addiction, and homelessness instead of chasing windmills.
This bill seems to be written on belief instead of reason. HB1686 is not based on the prevailing science. It just can't be. I've been searching for the science that backs up Rep. Oliverson's claim that therapy is an effective alternative, but it's either not real, or is so obscure as to evade discovery. I am, however, able to finde dozens of studies of over 30000 trans youths that do back up the current medical recommendations for gender-affirming care.
Please, let's drop this ridiculous nonsensical attack on our fellow Texans once and for all.

Kyle Strongin, Dr.
Self
Granbury, TX

I would urge a vote for HB1686. This bill is needed now more than ever. As a scientist and a biologist, I am saddened and embarrassed by the increasing influence political ideologies have had on my field. Too many have forgotten their obligation as scientists to leave their biases at the door and interpret data based on hard, repeatable facts. Until the age of 7, almost 8, my son was convinced he was a dinosaur. Does that mean I should allow him to genetically modify his body to become more lizard like? People that believe children (really their parents) are capable of making this decision at an early age are inviting a future of medical issues for the affected child. Rather than allowing a child to grow and develop, gender transitioning drugs would alter the functioning of a child's body, slow or stop puberty, permanently removing the choice that child has later in life to have a family. Additional effects of long term use of these drugs are not well understood. Our current laws don't allow for an individual to drink before the age of 21 (due to maturity and bodily impact), but there are those that would allow for the injection of drugs that permanently alter the functioning of bodily systems because "feelings". Children cannot understand the consequences of their decisions in the short term let alone the long term. Those that wish to allow children to transition are pushing their own ideology on children without regard for what's best long term for the child. There are so many scientific unknowns but I can say with certainty, that studies in the coming decades will show the long term damage caused by these transitioning drugs, not only in adults, but also in the children that were subjected to them.

Jennifer Talik
Self. Dyslexia therapist and teacher
Conroe, TX

I do not want my tax payers to pay to mutilate our children, who are too young to know any better.

Becky McMahon, Mrs
Self
Keller, TX

Please don't let our children get transgender operation before they are 21 years old. They don't know what they want when they are young. Their brains are not developed to do any type of problem solving for this. Their parents are crazy if they and congress lets this happen.

Cheryl Gardner
Self
Porter, TX

I am for and support prohibiting child gender reassignment. Please don't allow this horrible abuse of children in Texas.

Taylor Duarte, Mrs.
Self
Porter, TX

A child's brain is not fully developed enough to make the decision to self mutilate in the form of gender reassignment and/or hormone therapy. Not only are these procedures extremely damaging to their bodies and mental health, some are irreversible. It increases their chance for cancer and other medical issues. Allowing a child to make life altering irreversible damage to their bodies is reprehensible. Only an adult should be allowed to consent to these procedures happening to their own body. No parent should be allowed to consent on their behalf. They must be allowed to make the decision with informed consent. Meaning a FULL understanding of what they are choosing. Children are incapable of making this decision. I support the bill so we may protect our children.

Douglas Handlin
Many organizations and friends
San Antonio, TX

I am against this measure. Please defeat this bill with your vote. Thanks

denise hays
Self
Cypress, TX

I am for this bill
There ar stories of many regretful patients who have taken these gender modifications drugs at a young age who are sick and suffering major physical conditions due to these unnatural drugs
Please leave our kids alone.

Lucrecia Serra
Self
Tomball, TX

I support the HB 1686

Brewer Patricia
Texas resident
Mansfield, TX

I fully support HB1686. Minors are too young to make life long decisions.

Faith Cain, Mrs
Self
Kingwood, TX

I am FOR HB1686-

Charmaine Adamson
elf
Lubbock, TX

I do not want public funds to be used for a child to change their sex . They are too young to make that decision.

Sarah Donofrio
self, PhD student
Houston, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1686. Trans kids deserve access to gender-affirming care. Life is difficult enough for trans kids without denying them health care. Studies have shown that access to gender-affirming care vastly increases mental health and quality of life, and providing that care early in life can save years of misery. While some people do "detransition," the vast majority of trans people are much happier having transitioned, and the choice should remain with trans youth and their families. Furthermore, HB 1686 poses immediate danger to kids who are already receiving gender-affirming care and to their doctors. Trans kids and their families deserve bodily autonomy and the access to health care supported by insurance.

Lynn Allen
Self
Burleson, TX

I strongly urge the Texas House to pass this bill. Children are not of a sufficient age to decide to do these kinds of life altering procedures and drugs. No parent or medical practitioner or other adult should ever be allowed to have the authority to have a child subjected to these body mutilations . Children are still too young to understand the consequences of these choices so it cannot be informed consent. Absolutely no public money should support this soon to be revealed disastrous fad. History will view the proponents of this abuse of children in great dishonor and any cowards that do not stand to defend children from this in the same dishonor.

Kerri Shepard Shepard
Self/minister
Fort Worth, TX

I support

Ning and Elsie Yu
Self / Healthcare
FORT WORTH, TX

We strongly SUPPORT HB1686.

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

Vidal Bejar-Padilla
University of Texas
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming care has been shown to reduce the incidence of suicide. Prohibiting this treatment will result in more childhood deaths.

Hongtao Yu
Self
Missouri City, TX

As a mother of two children, I am writing to express my strong support for HB1686. I respectfully urge you to work diligently to ensure its swift passage into law. Your leadership and dedication to this issue will make a real difference in the lives of countless Texans.

Lauren Morris
Self. Business Owner
Buda, TX

Dr. William Low wrote the book Mental Health Through Will Training. He describes symptoms and provides tools for defeating mental illnesses. His work is legendary. We must not allow physicians to butcher children. We must not allow the barking vicious dogs of society rule. Bring back state hospitals. Let's be the smart people and rid our society of these surgeons who want their Frankenstein moment. Let the kids wait till they are adults. Save James. What will they write about us? That we butchered our children before their consent? Puberty blockers at age 2? It is grotesque is it not? Dr. Low says "feelings are not the facts" and we must not give into romanticizing our thoughts as they will become atrocities. Read the book.

Michael Shane House
My family and texas
Childress, TX

It it wrong to change what gender God made

Kathleen Shelburn
Self
Mansfield, TX

3 years ago my child was 14 years old. Going through major depression with suicidal thoughts. He did multiple hospital stays, medications, so many medications to just try to keep my child from killing himself! He then came to his father and I, with tears in his eyes and told us he thought he might be transgender. Our world was spinning out of control, but then we got up and we got help. We found specialists in the field, therapists, doctors, endocrinologists, physiatrists so many who specialize in these areas. We started supporting him as him and not who we thought he was.
He's happy, taking AP classes in school, smiling, loving life and most importantly, he's alive. He's alive because we let him be his authentic self. Why do you get to decide who he is? Why do you care what's in his pants? Transgender youth just want to be accepted and loved and left alone from the hatred you spew. Let the parents and doctors decide what is best for the individual.

Isabelle Badouh, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Protect our children and take away the doctors license that subject children to these procedures.. stop this playing God. The lord made us!!!

Jana Jay
Self / Municipal finance
Granbury, TX

I support the prohibition of public funding for sex change operations for minors. I also support prohibiting minors from access to getting any type of surgery or procedure to alter their gender. Thank you

Charles Link, Mr.
Self Content Producer
Wichita Falls, TX

Let the Doctors Psychologists and Patients decide the appropriate care. This sort of care is mainstream and accepted by those who dedicate their lives to the study and practice of human health.

Yongxiang Yang
"Self"
Allen, TX

I support HB1686

Debra Green
self
Lubbock, TX

FOR and I support this bill

Vanessa Glass, Mrs
Self
Hurst, TX

No money spent on this

Tina Coppin, Mrs.
Christ the King Catholic Church
Gatesville, TX

I am highly against our Government to provide funding / assistance for gender reassignment and transitioning in minors . This is an infringement on their rights not to mention mutilation of their bodies which have not been given the opportunity to reach maturity and come to the age of making their own decisions.

Dixuan Li
Texas Resident
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686

Mary Nichols
Self
Forney, TX

Unfortunately, this bill is absolutely necessary lest we contribute to the mental health crisis plaguing people experiencing gender confusion. If an adult makes a conscious choice to altar their body whether it’s plastic surgery to appear younger, remove a rib for a smaller waistline, or breast implants or breast removal to look like another gender, that’s their business and free choice. But actually believing you can become younger or become another g castration, chemical and hormonal gender alteration and

Douglas Lamb, Dr.
Self
Midksnd, TX

I stand in opposition to transgender transitioning of minors and think it should not be endorsed by the state.

Mia Lawrenz
Self
Corinth, TX

For

Paul Trowe
Self
Austin, TX

Without this help, my friend's life wouldn't exist.

Kimberly Ison
self
Farmers Branch, TX

My name is Kimberly Ison. I live in Farmers Branch TX in zip code 75234. I was once proud to say I am from Texas. I strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity and threatening medical professionals with removal of their licenses for providing life-saving, best practice medical care. I beg you to pay attention to the science and data surrounding this issue. The terms “freedom" and “parental rights” are used by many people UNTIL it is the parental rights of someone they do not agree with. All Texans deserve protection and privacy to make decisions about their children’s well-being in partnership with medical professionals. These are sacred and private decisions being made by people who want the best for their kids! Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Michele George
Self-Housewife and former teacher
Cypress, TX

I support this bill

Riley Shepard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support

Donna Taylor
PARC, LLC
Moody, TX

I am against providing children procedures and treatment for gender transitioning, gender reassignment and the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

Cassidy Laminack
self
austin, TX

My name is Cassidy Laminack, I use they pronouns, and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist here in TX. I have 8 years experience working with trans-identified youth, adults, and their families. I am here to speak in opposition to HB 1686 and in support of trans futures.

It is my professional and clinical opinion that this bill is severely detrimental to the mental health, well-being, and physical health of countless young people and families in the state of Texas.

By supporting clients in decreasing dysphoria, however that transition looks for them in their right to personal and/or medical privacy, I find young folks more able to participate in the enjoyment of their lives. I see greatly improved mental health, increased self esteem, decreased suicidality and ideation. To decrease suicidality is to see more young Texans stay on this side of life congruently.

As a dual licensed practitioner, I operate under two codes of ethics in the Texas Occupations Code under Title 3. The state requires I do not commit malfeasance, that I act within my expertise, that I do not make false claims to patients, and most importantly that I act with beneficence. This bill would put myself and other healthcare providers in violation of our codes of ethics under Title 3.

The Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code states that medical malpractice is when a health care provider administers “treatment, lack of treatment or other claimed departure from accepted standards of medical care” that results in injury or death to the patient.

HB 1686 requires Texas professionals to wholly depart from nationally accepted standards of care. Every major U.S medical and mental health organization, from the American Medical Association to the American Academy of Pediatrics, has set best-practice standards for gender-affirming care for transgender young people and adults. The National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health study from 2021 indicated 38% of respondents identified as trans or non-binary, and that the members of those 38% who were in unsupportive environments tried to end their life at twice the rate of those who were in supportive environments. Last I understood, suicide falls under injury or death.

We know access to affirming healthcare and supportive environments literally keeps kids alive - why keep pursuing legislation that does the opposite.

As a value driven Texan, I operate under my own integrity. What I have to say, I say with my whole chest. If your name is on this bill, it is the record of your transphobia, the record of your coercion of medical and mental health professionals towards malfeasance, towards negligence, towards harm.

I refuse to practice malfeasance because I want alive kids and whole families. I refuse to practice harm because I want birthdays and graduations, I refuse to act in negligence because I can’t go to another funeral. Please do not let this pass out of committee.

Mary Jones
Self/Teacher/Parent
San Antonio, TX

PLEASE Vote For /Support HB 1686 for the protection of our Youth from the surgical mutilation procedures and hormonal therapies which permanently damage the bodies and psychological health of our youth. It has been shown that these so called “therapies” do not deliver promised outcomes and also result in a huge increase in suicide rates . Numerous voices from people who have undergone these procedures or therapies have warned that this is being piggybacked upon by the medical/ Pharmaceutical communities as a huge money machine. CONSIDER THE TRUE WELFARE OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE!!

JoAnn Placette
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Please vote Yes. Children are too young to determine their gender. They should remain the gender they were born as. When they are adults they can make decisions regarding this. I do not think public money or assistance should be provided for this.

Alexandra Zingg
Self
Austin, TX

I support HB1686

Melissa Buchan
self, BSN nursing student, NBC-HWC women's health coach
Kingwood, TX

As a BSN nursing student preparing to enter healthcare in 2024, I am concerned about the use of puberty blockers and gender-altering prescriptions/procedures for adolescents. The very idea of promoting and administering gender-altering treatments to adolescents insults two fundamental principles in medical ethics: beneficence and nonmaleficence. Beneficence requires healthcare providers to act in the best interest of their patients, while nonmaleficence requires them to do no harm. These principles are essential in ensuring that healthcare providers prioritize the needs and safety of their patients. Physicians and healthcare providers need to be attentive to the unique developmental needs of adolescents during this period of human growth and development. During adolescence, the body is going through rapid physiological changes. It is part of normal development for adolescents to explore aspects of their identity and engage in risky behaviors as they learn to navigate the consequences of their actions. These experiences help them as they continue to grow and mature into adulthood. The experience of experimentation in adolescence does not define a person and allowing minors to make body-mutilating, life-altering changes to their bodies is not only unethical, but it could also reasonably be considered malpractice. The frontal lobe, the part of the brain responsible for decision-making and executive control is still developing and not fully developed until a person's mid-twenties. Permanently altering the anatomy and/or physiology of one's developing body when a disease process is not present goes against the principles of medicine to do no harm. Please protect children from the abuse of ideologues.

Robert Taylor
Self / Retired
Woodway, TX

I am urging you to support and vote FOR HB 1686. Transgenderism in any form should not be paid for by taxpayer money or promoted or taught to our children in school no matter their age. God did not make a mistake.

Eva Ramirez
Self
Baytown, TX

I support HB 1686

Whitney Pigg
Self
San Antonio, TX

FOR/SUPPORT. VOTE IN FAVOR.

There should be no public funds used for these types of procedures.

Charlotte Parker
Self
San Marcos, TX

Vote FOR HB 1686

Xiaomei Wang
Self
Houston, TX

Children are not mature enough to make decision like this, adults have no right to make decision on their behalf, there is no reason to allow procedures like this to be performed on children.

Claudia Sarmiento, Mrs
Self
Borger, TX

I support HB 1686

YuLing Li
Self
Houston, TX

Support the bill.

Douglas Rose
self
G.P., TX

We stand for the bill.

Jennifer Grant
Self homemaker
College Station, TX

I support that children under age 18 shouldn't be given puberty blockers or have any gender altering procedures done to them. Some studies have shown that 80% of adolescents grow out of gender dysphoria. It makes sense that they wait before making any changes that can't be reversed. Also by eighteen they can operate independently of their parents if their parents are pushing gender confusion in any way.

Shan Jin
Individual
Sugar land, TX

Protect our children, support HB 1686l

Lya Gomez, Mrs
Myself
Round Rock, TX

Support HB 1686

Linda Greene
Our Lady of WLsingham Catholic Church
Houston, TX

Our children deserve protection and nurturing as they grow into the bodies God gave them at conception. That includes accompanying them throughout the confusing years of maturation, without resorting to irreversible measures that will set them on a path beyond their years to consider.

Yonglin Yang, Dr
Self
Katy, TX

I am firmly supporting or FOR this bill.

Xuemei Liu
Self
Katy, TX

I vote for HB1686 and we need to protect our young children being harmed by the sex change procedures and treatment.

Lori Campbell
Self rancher housewife
Matador, TX

I am for this bill
God made male and female only and children should not be forced to make any decision of this matter and taxpayers should not be the ones to fund it!!

Dee Babcock
Trta
Lubbock, TX

For 1886

Kristina Banasik
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1686

Douglas Perkins
Self
Katy, TX

I am a resident of Katy representing myself and I'm against this bill.

This bill is harmful to children as it denies them critical care that leads to stable and improved mental health. It has been shown that gender affirming care does not have one answer or one method that works. It takes a team of parents/guardians, mental and heath care professionals working together to help a gender non conforming child to live a rich and full life. Just like the fire triangle (fuel, oxygen, and heat) if you take away one element the fire dies, the same can be said for children. In this case, you are taking away medical care. I'm not saying that every non gender conforming child will die (some will), but they will not be the blazing fire that brings light and warmth to the world.

Let the families do what is right for them. Let them make informed decisions with their medical and mental health professionals. Please do not let this bill pass.

Mario Alvarez
Self Business owner
Monahans, TX

We have to stop mutilating minors who have no clue what adult life brings. Mature minds, past 18 are fully capable to make this decision for themselves. Nobody should allow these procedures on children. Leave our public money to be used by more useful organizations that help the entire state and not the agendas of a few disturbing individuals.

Donna Rubli
sekf
Spring, TX

This should be against the law. It is not for us to interfere with what God makes. No parent should let their child be mutilated by doctors. These children are too young to know the ramifications of their actions. We should not even consider the use of public money to be used for this abomination.

Carey West
Self
Houston, TX

I do not support public money/assistance or taxes for any procedures for transgender transitioning or reassignment. It’s wrong to ask taxpayers to pay for these procedures.

Christopher Hough
Self
Colleyville, TX

I fully support bill HB 1686

Susan Thomas
Self
New braunfels, TX

I strongly support this bill and agree that it should be any procedure allowed to change a child’s gender. There should never be any tax payer dollars spent on this.

Clint Bracher
self
San Antonio, TX

FOR/Support Bill

Public funding for the above referenced is unacceptable as these actions are predatory, damaging, not fully irreversible, and evil. The fact that public funding is currently used for such actions is an abomination and ANYONE promoting or participating in such actions should be held accountable by law. The State of Texas should make it a priority to protect our children, not physically and mentally dismantle them under false pretense, political narrative or woke ideology.

Ginelle Baker
Self
Alvin, TX

I support HB 1686

Katrina Levinson
Parents
Ausrin, TX

Children need to be allowed to be children and should be protected by their parents. These type of decision have life long consequences.

Annie Vilven
Self
LAKEWAY, TX

Please stop allowing Children to be carved up! We are losing a generation of Children.

Destinee Verastegui, Mrs.
Self
Lubbock, TX

The castration of little boys and girls should be appalling to everyone, especially parents. You congress men and women are destroying this country and we are laughing stock across the globe. This should be horrifying and these so called “doctors” that you have representing science are not doctors. There is no way that science backs any of these laws you all are trying to pass. However, God said, “what is right will be wrong and what is wrong will be write”. You congress people are just bringing the coming of Jesus. Therefore, remember all the lives you are going to be responsible for when you face Jesus.

Sonia Morales
None
Borger, TX

Disagree

Jennifer Tucker
Self
Amarillo, TX

This is common sense. Let adults do what they want to do, but we have mentally ill adults laying this life changing pressure on children. Many become suicidal after transition. Please help our children.

Cesar Castellanos
Self
Katy, TX

I am in favor of this rule, no public funds should be used to fund this type of procedures. No one should decide for minors until a they turn 18. Please support Thai bill

Xuemei Yang
Self
Katy, TX

Great bill, support it to save our children??

María del Carmen Montemayor Maldonado, Mrs.
self
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686

Debra Ramsey
Self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB 1686.

Kellie Kiel
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686

Diana Castellanos
Self
Katy, TX

I’m in favor of this provision

Leigh R Williams
Self, Self-Employed
Sandia, TX

I support HB1686. A child is too immature and lacks the knowlege to know their own authentic self to the point of knowing they would not proliferate regrets upon choices made in such an unevolved or possibly coerced state. And thus, a child should be given every opportunity of choice available, to grow and develop, uninhibited and free of alterations, that in their permanency, remove or limit those other exploratory opportunities. In seeing adults regret deeply their earlier decisions that were made for them in submission to others in lieu of self, I support this bill in it's acknowledgment that it removes the liability of such regret from the public venue, as it removes public funding from those life altering and potentially devastating procedures and treatments.

Alejandro de la Maza
Self
Spring, TX

Please do not allow children to go over drugs and procedures to alter their sex

Wendy Watel-Burno
Self
Dallas, TX

This measure will cost lives

Nicole Schultz
Self
San Marcos, TX

To prohibit people from getting the care they need is negligent and an abuse of power. It is not the states right to decide who a person is and what they can and can’t do with their bodies. As long as a person is not causing harm to themselves or others what they do is not the states business. It is not the states place to enforce opinions or religious beliefs on anyone, ever. If using the “public’s money” means less children will be committing suicide because they are getting the help and support they need, then by all means spend away. We know you’re not using that public money to stop children from being massacred in school shootings so maybe we can start with something less challenging for your brains to comprehend. Care= body autonomy= feeling safe and secure= better mental health= higher chance of staying alive= less children committing suicide. I’ve worked with many children over the years, they are not stupid or clueless just because they are young. Most of them have a knowledge and understanding of the world that is honest, simple, and pure. They know who they are and they don’t need your ridiculous laws to tell them otherwise.

Violette Pinson
Self
Austin, TX

Everyone deserves to present themselves however makes them comfortable! So many people I know and love are trans and this bill will directly harm many Texans.

Andrew Ortman
Self, Data Scientist
Austin, TX

This bill sets a dangerous precedent for the healthcare and wellbeing of transgender youth in Texas. Denying necessary medical care to individuals with gender dysphoria can have severe and long-lasting consequences for their mental and physical health. Banning gender-affirming treatments, such as hormone therapy and puberty blockers, would harm some of the most vulnerable members of our society and deny them the chance to live their lives authentically.

Additionally, such legislation undermines the professional judgment of medical experts and disregards the complex and unique experiences of transgender individuals. It is important to prioritize the well-being of minors and support their autonomy in making healthcare decisions that affect their lives.

Instead of denying care, we should be focusing on providing comprehensive and affirming healthcare for all Texans, regardless of their gender identity. This bill goes against the principles of equality and access to healthcare, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

Austin Laverty
Self and my kids
Austin, TX

Taking the responsibility from parents as to what their kids choose to become or be is overstepping the role of the government. This responsibility should be left to us as parents. We know what is best for our kids because we live with them everyday and we only want what is best for them. This bill is the government taking control of what is best for them.

Claudia Schoener
Self/Retired
Victoria, TX

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1686 by voting "YES". I am opposed to the used of public money or assistance to provide any gender transitioning. The mutilation of their bodies and the harmone treatments will cause, as we are now seeing, permanent physical, emotional and psychological damage to those who have already done this. The violent crimes and suicides of the transgenders is rising. This isn't healthcare.

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts on this bill.

Sincerely,
Claudia Schoener

Christopher yu
self
Fairview, TX

as a society, we cannot continue to allow children to do drastic surgeries and procedures that harm their physical bodies. please pass this bill and protect these children

Kristin Connelly
self, Graduate Student
Austin, TX

Trans youth healthcare is critical medical care. It is known how life-saving these treatments are for children. I hope you all have already read the statements put out by medical organizations condemning this bill-- medical organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the WHO, and the Endocrine Society. Puberty blockers and hormone therapies are evidence-based treatments that allow children to feel comfortable in their own bodies and save them from depression, self-harm, violence, and suicide.
The 'social contagion' described by Texas lawmakers is one of anti-trans hysteria. Horrifically, this is just one of countless of bills across the country designed to eliminate trans people. This thinking goes beyond hypocrisy and into willful violence against children -- which is apparently considered ok if the children are trans!
It is miserable to have to justify trans existence time and time again only to have more and more autonomy taken away by a small group of extremists who very clearly want trans people of all kinds eliminated. This bill will kill children, it is known that this bill will kill children, and furthermore, this bill will further incentivize violence against trans people. If this bill passes, I am very afraid of what the future holds for my friends and family.

Kaitlyn Dimmel
Self
Austin, TX

Please don’t pass this bill. This is inhumane. It shouldn’t matter to any of you what someone else identifies as, don’t ruin people’s lives just because you are closed minded.

Bill Steadman
Self
McKinney, TX

Please pass this bill. Minors are not of the age of consent, cannot vote, purchase or rent a home, or make their own medical decisions on anything. But a vocal and aggressive minority of people have tried to convince everyone that minors can make proper assessments about their biological makeup. This is completely wrong, gross and incredibly damaging to teach and encourage kids that they are not in their correct body. It places them under incredible emotional and psychological stress, and leads to lifelong physical consequences that frantically harm their health. Further kids don’t even understand their sex until a much older age.

Thus this agenda must be stopped. It cannot be allowed to continue as this disgusting ideological perversion is forced on kids by adults who want to control and spread a false narrative. Those who legitimately struggle with identity issues need to be lovingly encouraged and taught the truth, not force fed lies that state they should believe their feelings to their own harm.

Please pass this bill and do not allow our children to be harmed by parents who have forsaken their responsibility to protect kids, and by doctors who have forsaken the hypocritical oath to do no harm. The evidence is plain to see the drastic health consequences of transition hormones and surgeries, and the increase in suicide rates after one has transitioned. Further, the large number of people who realize they never should have transitioned.

Stop this madness, pass this bill, and hold all criminally accountable for their actions when they do this to kids.

Edward Yang, Dr.
Chinese Christian
Katy, TX

If the author wishes the country more chaos and disastrous, do such awful things against God.

Jacob Walker
self/engineer
Bullard, TX

FOR the bill.

Mark Xu, Dr
Self
Katy, TX

I support for this bill!

Sarah Perkins
Myself
KATY, TX

I am against HB1686 on behalf of myself. I'd like to speak to Dr. Oliverson. I noticed when parents of trans kids and kids themselves were coming up to testify you were paying attention to your phone and not their testimony. If you are going to do damage to these adolescents then you have an obligation to take their words to heart. I'm so sorry you have never spent time with a trans or non-binary person. It shows. I have spent time with them, so I'd like to tell you about that. I have a hard time conceptualizing the Image of God in my neighbors. I've known some amazing people in my life, but it is only in trans and non-binary people that I see the Image of God. I don't know that I can put words to that, but I'll try. Only in trans and non-binary people do I see the faces and souls of those who have fought so hard for everything they have. They've had to leave behind friends, colleagues, church family, and many times some blood family in order to be who God has called them to be. And my, how they shine! For as much as I see so much pain in their eyes, I see so much joy. It's not the innocent joy of our children before they start learning some hard truths about the world, but very similar. It's a joy that has paid a price and now takes nothing for granted. I've also never seen people who are so gracious and generous towards others because they themselves have been extended grace and generosity. These are, of course, generalizations amounting to anecdotes, but then so were all the paid travelers from afar telling of truly horrible stories they should have never suffered outside the state of Texas. Why am I spending so much time on adults? Because I know you're going for the kids first. We all want to protect kids so you can gain strength that way. But next, it's all LGBTQIA+ people. I've met people with trans kids. Kids who are too young to seek gender affirming care in the form of medicine and some who are receiving gender affirming medicine. I honestly can't tell the difference. They're all incredible kids. And I think we should listen to them, their parents, and their medical teams who are staying within the standard of care. Otherwise you're dealing in discrimination of only one group of people using these medications and hormones. That's gotta be bad for America, right? I wouldn't want you to treat my SVT as an anesthesiologist and I don't think you should be generalizing your doctor status as an expert in this field as a scare tactic. Use your good to protect ALL kids and especially those who don't come from loving homes, not one group you want to exterminate. I hope you read this and I hope you take it to heart.

Steve Adams
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Please support this bill

Tracy Uebelacker
Self home maker
Lewisville, TX

I am 100 % against gender transitioning our children. Do not reassign gender or encourage gender dysphoria to anyone. These children need psychological, emotional, and spiritual help. Anyone who pushes, encourages suggests, affirms, allows, supplies, or performs any gender transitioning, reassignment, hormone replacement treatments, or surgeries should be tried for heinous child abuse crimes against our children and the punishment should be severe as to discourage these evil practices, experiments, and ideas.

Lana Walker
self / Certified Family Nurse Practitioner
Bullard, TX

FOR the bill

Eileen Wang
Self
Sugar Land, TX

As a mother of three children, I am writing to express my strong support for HB1686. I respectfully urge you to work diligently to ensure its swift passage into law. Your leadership and dedication to this issue will make a real difference in the lives of countless Texans.

John Barrera, Mr.
Self
San Antonio, TX

We are all born uniquely. There is no right or wrong way to our birth. We are all created equally. We need to be respectful of all of our fellow human beings. The government/politicians have no place to dictate what is right for a person. Mind your own business and let people live in peace. Let's focus on major and important issues like GUN CONTROL.

Elvita Atencio, Ms
Self/teacher
Austin, TX

No

Susan Grantham
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Its passing will increase depression, suicide rates and other mental health problems for LGBTQIA youths and force their families to make exceptionally difficult decisions, such as if they can continue to live and work in our state. This bill is creating a legislatively hostile environment to these young people's identities and their supportive families. Parents and guardians are not forcing gender affirming treatments on their children. Anyone seeking the treatment or medical being prohibited by this bill is supporting the serious wishes of their child. If we endow children with the responsibility to drive a car, we should also allow them the respect to affirm their own identity, esp at a critical phase in their physical development. By requiring people to wait until adulthood to receive gender affirming medical care, we are giving elected officials more power than one's parents to decide when a person can live an identity they choose. That sounds like a removal of a fundamental freedom.

Maria Monterrosa
Self. Home and part time worker
Tomball, TX

I support HB1686

Cynthia Hogan, Mother, Grandmother
Dropped Pin
Garland, TX

LEAVE OUR CHILDREN ALONE!!
Stop this propaganda and let our children be children as long as they can. Don't put undue pressure on them, there's enough already!

Chunyu Mu
Self
Katy, TX

I agree to HB 1686

Claudia Meneses Díaz
Self housewife
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB1686

Jeannette Dianovich
self, Contract Manager
Austin, TX

As a life-long Native Austinite, I am registering my support for HB 1686, and Texas must keep moving forward and fight to ban child sterilization and mutilation ("gender-affirming care") amidst radicalized trans activists who have moved to weaponize the trans movement by turning activists into martyrs. This is not the solution to policy debate! These people are not from Texas and/or they have been recruited from elsewhere, with a big chunk of their activist arm coming from nationalist NPOs/NGOs that are not registered with the Texas Comptroller's Franchise Tax Section, such as "Equality Texas" or "Texas Freedom Network". Groomers don’t care about kids, they USE kids.

Nancy Jane Campbell
Self/Retired
Matador, TX

I am in support of this HB 1686. We are each made in the image of God, both male (he) and female (she) and as a believer in Christ, it should be understood that it is against His will for gender transitioning/reassignment.

Jeanette G Junco
Representing The Transgender Community ??
Austin, TX

I do not support this bill. Transgender children need our state support to be able to grow in a healthy, happy and safe environment. Choose LOVE. Please do not restrict support for transgender children.

Elizabeth Dianovich
self, retired
Austin, TX

I am registering my support for HB 1686, and we must ask who profits from this type of "medicine". Health care is provided to "Do No Harm". A child who undergoes radical body modification such as puberty-blockers or gender-reassignment surgery will not have developed adult gametes to reproduce. Is this the radical trans activists' goal - sterilization? Children should never be made to feel that they were born into the wrong body. Mature adults are the only ones capable of making lifelong medical decisions for themselves. Humans are impressionable, especially children. This is why advertisers don't show consumption of alcohol or tobacco in commercials. Gender-affirming care deserves its own discussion, not a footnote. Gender-affirming care is not a partisan issue nor an afterthought. This is the most extreme form of body modification we have in our world today, and the only ones profiting will be drug manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, and greedy plastic surgeons willing to put people at risk. Please reflect on this and vote in support of HB 1686.

Jake Wilson
Self - CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1686, and I've already written one public comment in favor of this bill. But after watching several committee speeches, I would like to respond to the claim many are making against this bill, that the bill hurts the mental health of transgender individuals. Mental health for transgender individuals is a very serious and important concern. Everyone, who either supports or opposes HB 1686, should agree that we need to help transgender individuals if they struggle with depression. We may just disagree on how to accomplish that goal.

So I think we need to ask the question - has the move to normalize changing one's body to be like the opposite sex resulted in people having less or more depression and dissatisfaction with their bodies?
I believe Leor Sapir from the Manhattan Institute responded well to this question in committee. Sapir said, "What we do know is that in the period of time before 2009, which is when hormones began to be offered here in the United States, we did not see wave after wave of teenagers killing themselves because they didn't have access to puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. We didn't see that." Sapir went on to say "In fact, the rates of suicidal behavior and completed suicide, over the last decade, since gender-affirming hormonal interventions have been rolled out, has increased." I believe that encouraging people to embrace their bodies as God created them will in the long run lead to greater satisfaction and happiness.

Let's say hypothetically that we have a boy who is depressed that he's not a horse, which we all agree that it's not practical to surgically make him a horse under current technologies. If this boy said he was experiencing serious depression for not being a horse, what would our response be? Would our solution be to give the boy hay for each meal, surgically place a horse tale on his body, and do all we could to pretend that he is a horse? After all these efforts, when the boy saw that despite all of this he was still not a horse, would that make his depression worse or better?

But what about another solution. What if we told the boy that God made him a boy on purpose, that God has a plan for him as a boy and as a man, and that he's going to be alright? What if we sought counseling for the boy to help him feel more pleased and happy with his natural human body? Would that be better for the boy's mental health than pretending that he is a horse? I think so.

I believe that every child should have the ability to experience adult life as the man or woman that God created that child to be. I believe they should experience that before they can make an informed decision that they want something different. I'm thankful that this bill will give many children the ability to experience life as adults without the interference of puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones. Thank you to my Representative Stephanie Klick, my Senator Kelly Hancock, and to all the legislators who are supporting this bill.

Wendy Howard, RD, LD
self Registered, Licensed Dietitian
Richardson, TX

STOP gender-altering surgeries or chemicals on our Texas KIDS / YOUTH! They are not capable of making a critical decision that will affect the rest of their lives!

Laura Davidson
Self
Turkey, TX

I believe it is worse than child abuse to allow these things to be done to children. LORD in heaven, please protect the children!! ??????????????

Michelle Yang
Self
Lewisville, TX

I support HB1686

Sandra Batard, Mrs.
Self
Missouri City, TX

I support this bill 100%

Carlos Proske
Self
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686

Chuck Tramel, Mr
Independent
Forney, TX

I’m for HB 1686.

Lois Davis, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

In favor of HB 1686

Chelsea Andrews
Self
Waco, TX

I fully support this bill. Protect kids from medical experimentation! Our kids are not lab rats for the gender ideology movement to use and discard!

Patrick Simmons
Self
Plano, TX

I do not want my tax dollars going towards gender transitioning or reassignment , especially for children. An adult can use their personal funds for reassignment if they so wish like those who work diligently and save for cosmetic surgery, but please do not use money from my taxes.

Heather Bailey
self
Austin, TX

Please do not move this bill forward, it is an invasion into family decisions that are personal and ultimately causes great harm to young people who are in need of this treatment. Today these decisions are not made lightly, and under a doctor's supervision, in consult with parents. It is hypocritical to require parental approval on other decisions regarding children's welfare yet usurp parental rights on something this critical. Teen suicidal rates are highest in those groups struggling with gender identity issues and without medical options, which are supported by parents, we will continue to see this as a tragic failure on the state's part to help those children.

Julia Cacciatore
Self
Austin, TX

"Please support HB 1686. Protect Texas children

Scott Steward
Self
Austin, TX

This law should not be passed.

Scott Steward
Self
Austin, TX

This Bill should NOT be passed.

Katya Quireza
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I do NOT want my money spent helping transgender people take puberty blockers etc. There us proof in the long run most will try to hut themselves because they most often regret it!

Savannah Yarborough
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1686, which would have negative consequences for the LGBT community in our state. As a concerned citizen and advocate for LGBT rights, I am deeply disappointed that the debate on this bill was cut short by Representative Klick, denying the voices of thousands of LGBT individuals who wished to testify.

HB 1686 seeks to limit the rights and protections of LGBT individuals in our state, including by restricting access to essential healthcare services and undermining the ability of local governments to pass laws that protect LGBT individuals from discrimination. This is unacceptable and goes against the fundamental principles of equality and justice.

It is particularly troubling that Representative Klick ended the debate early, denying the voices of LGBT individuals who were scheduled to testify and share their personal experiences and perspectives. This is an affront to democracy and free speech, and shows a lack of respect for the diverse communities that make up our state.

I urge you to vote against HB 1686 and to reject any attempts to limit the rights and protections of LGBT individuals in our state. We need policies that promote equality and justice for all, and that protect the rights and freedoms of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued support of the LGBT community.

Sincerely,

Savannah

Elizabeth Spears, Dr.
Self (Pharmacist)
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686 as a healthcare professional and as a friend to many transgender and gender-diverse people. Please listen to experts (the Endocrine Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health) as well as trans people's lived experiences. Patients and families should be allowed to weigh the risks and benefits of medical decisions with a qualified care team. Restricting access to treatments will negatively impact patients' mental health, which increases the risk for other major health problems as well as suicide. Patients denied care may also seek treatment through unregulated channels which can cause further harm. This bill is a threat to both individual and public health.

Donna Bening

faith group -retired RN in support of equality, human rights

Plano, TX

Please vote "no" on this proposal to ban gender reassignment health care. Parents in consultation with medical advice should support their youth in an understanding of their biology and care integral to it.

Nafanua Manns

Self

Harker Heights, TX

I am certainly not in agreement for using tax $ for these purposes. Please put a stop to this craziness. Thank you!

DaLana Barsanti, Mrs

Texas MOM

Fort Worth, TX

Protect the CHILDREN of Texas! GOD created 2 genders and no amount of surgery or hormone "therapy" can change biology! Chromosomes do NOT change with surgery or drugs.

Natalie Montfort
Montfort Psychology Associates, PLLC
Houston, TX

To Whom it May Concern Regarding HB 1686:

I am a licensed clinical psychologist in Houston, TX and I am in disagreement with HB 1686. As a specialist in Autism Spectrum Disorder, I also see clients with gender dysphoria. Individuals who are exploring their gender identities. Some of the individuals I have worked with grow up to be cisgender and some transgender. Research tells us that exploration of identity is an organic, healthy part of development which, if delayed or discouraged, causes harm to all people—even people who transition or experiment during youth and eventually grow up to be cisgender (Ashley, 2021).

Foregoing gender-affirming care can have tragic consequences. Transgender youth experience disproportionate levels of violence and bullying. Transgender youth are also more likely to feel less safe at school than cisgender youth, that is youth whose gender identity is consistent with their assigned sex at birth (Day et al., 2018). Access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide (Bauer et al., 2015; Green et al., in press). Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021).

Decisions about whether to seek gender-affirming care, and what specific services to utilize, must be made between a provider, patient, and the patient's parents or guardians. Such decisions are relative to the youth's individual clinical situation. Gender affirming care typically includes steps toward social transition, potentially treatments to temporarily postpone puberty, and in some instances, hormone replacement therapy (Coleman et al., 2012). Rather than allow flexibility to account for the varying needs of individuals, this bill adopts a "one size fits all" approach by categorically criminalizing the recommendation or provision of appropriate gender-affirming care. This is not a bill that will help to alleviate the youth mental health crisis that is ongoing since the pandemic, but will likely worsen it for many individuals and families.

Please let Texans make the choices they need with their physicians and clinical care teams.

Respectfully,
Natalie Montfort, PhD
Clinical Psychologist

Montfort Psychology Associates, PLLC
950 Echo Ln. #200
Houston, TX 77024
713.364.3732
www.montfortpsych.com

Pamela Moxley, Mrs.
Self Teacher
Dallas, TX

I am all for prohibitions on the provisions to allow children to have any kind of transgender procedure or hormone therapy

JAMES Kipple
SELF
Austin, TX

THIS BILL IS BAD. The legislature should look for ways to improve the lives of all Texans, not reward the bigoted, closed-minded, backward-thinking minority of self-righteous indignant TransPhobics crawling out from under their rocks to throw them from their glass houses. Pro-Life indeed --how about approaching it as Jesus would have? Be REAL CHRISTIANS and give Trans people the same consideration and respect as zygotes and AK-47s. Thank You.

HAROLD BOGGS, MR.
HOUSTON CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN COUNSELING
MISSOURI CITY, TX

HB 1686
I am a licensed family therapist in the state of Texas (#201531) With over 20 years of experience in individual and couple counseling, trauma healing, gender confusion, and suicide prevention. I have personally worked with transgender clients and clients with gender confusion and I think this bill is a step in the right direction because we must prioritize suicide prevention for these individuals. Their suicide rate is more than three times normal and gender surgery for minor children is contraindicated. Suicide prevention is a much higher need in this population and is a prerequisite. Timing is everything and we have an opportunity to save lives by passing this bill.
NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.
HAROLD BOGGS LMFT LCDC

Carolyn Hood
self
No, TX

I do not support public resources and taxpayers money being used in any manner to fund treatment of gender transitioning, reassignment or gender dysphoria in children.

Suzanne Guggenheim
Coastal Bend Republican Coalition
Corpus Christi, TX

I support HB1686 that bans gender mofification in children.

Deborah Kiblinger
Self
Spring, TX

I support the passage of HB1686.

Simon Bailey
Self, sign printer
Waxahachie, TX

I am for this bill.

Carol Widmann
Self/ retired
North Richland Hills, TX

Support

Ana Quireza
Self, teacher
Houston, TX

Minors are not equipped with the knowledge, wisdom, or maturity to make irreversible and life-altering decisions such as gender transitioning and reassignment. They are not allowed to get a tattoo or drink a beer — it makes no sense to allow them to change their bodies forever before they reach a reasonable age of consent. There are ZERO long-term scientific studies that can actually guarantee that these treatments and procedures are safe in the long run, and already there are studies that do show negative side effects psychologically as well as physically (such as bone loss). Gender dysphoria is an unfortunate condition that requires spiritual and psychological healing — NOT physical alteration of their natural bodies.

MARSHA Landry
NA
SAN ANTONIO, TX

Please support this bill. Once a child makes a decision regarding this type of procedure there is no going back. The effects are harmful, long term suffering.

Carolyn Biedenharn
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686.

Mayra Barajas, Mrs
Católica
Baytown, TX

I Support Hb 1687

Robin Maurer, Mrs
Self, banker
Grapevine, TX

Children are not old enough to make such a serious decision. I don’t think allowing them to make a decision like this is in their best interest. We are to teach and protect our children not help them be mutilated, which will be the result of a wrong decision.

Bill Bell
Self / business owner
Vernon, TX

I am for this bill.

Carrie Cunningham
Self
Austin, TX

Under no circumstances should citizens of Texas be denied life affirming medical care, this bill violates constitutional and innate rights. It also violates parental rights to ensure your child receives what could be life-saving medical intervention. Denying humanity of transgender peoples protects only the interests of those that wish to control individual human bodies. This bill is bigoted hate and Texans deserve better.

Diane Johnson
Self/teacher
Wylie, TX

Please pass this bill. No child under the age of 18 should under go chemically or physically body altering procedures. We don't allow children to vote, drink alcohol, get tattoos, purchase cigarettes or sign legal contracts.
Why would we allow a child under 18 to make such a life altering decision?
.

Marisa Williams
Self/SAHM
TX, TX

My family whole-heartedly supports HB 1686. Thank you for writing a bill that protects confused children from harm. Please vote HB 1686 out of Committee and get it on Calendars. Thank you.

Kun Yan
Self/ house wife
Houston, TX

I support bill HB 1686!

Regina Jones
Self
Leander, TX

No child is ever born in the wrong body. We must stop the barbaric practice of the unscientific mutilation of children's bodies! I'm not sure why a sane parent would want this for their child, but abuse does happen in other ways as well, so we must protect the child from abuse in all forms & that includes abuse from permanent medical procedures that are condoned by parents.

Venita Odom, Mrs
Self/ retired
Spring, TX

I support this bill 100% Our children are at risk and we must stand for our children!!

Marcia Felder, Mrs
Self, Ultrasound tech
CYPRESS, TX

I support this bill and do not want any of my tax monies used to mutilate children or teens in an effort to "change" their gender. The truth that humans are conceived and subsequently born with a specific sex (gender), male or female, is not a thought or intellectual preference that can be discarded and changed at will. I see fetuses in the womb in my job and each little baby boy has a penis and each little baby girl has a vagina. This is fact. Physical characteristics are and should be recognized as such. It is pure folly to think that surgically and chemically mutilating someone will transform them into something they are not. DNA is proof in criminal courts of law and it is proof of sex in everyone regardless of the condition of their body. . The children who experience gender dysphoria should be able to seek help that will remove the dysphoria and return their sense of self back to their true and indisputable biological gender, not affirm their confused mind.

Parents who use their own children as political pawns to push their own agenda of sexual deviancy should not be allowed to use the State of Texas or my tax monies to do so. Please pass this bill and protect our children from those whose goal it is to use them and harm them.

Cecilia Ayers
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Chad Robertson
Self
Houston, TX

Please protect our children.

David Stafford, Mr
Self
Roaring springs, TX

No

Carol Ann Roberts
Self, teacher
McKinney, TX

I oppose the passage of this bill.

Hector Vallejo
True Texas Project Citizen Advicates
Spring, TX

We need to protect our children from this transgender agenda that is promoting and confusing our children to gain political and economic gains. Parents should make educated decisions for their children and public funding should not be allowed to be used for these types of procedures. There is no scientific study supporting these procedures are healthy for children. When children become adults, they can decide for themselves and use their own money for this. If anything, funding should be used for the psychological treatment of gender dysphoria.

Jeannette Kincaid
self
Austin, TX

I was at at the hearing Monday from 6:30am- midnight and didn't get to testify. I was not given the opportunity to speak to people that are directly impacting the well being and future of child and family. I wanted to clarify a few things that kept being pushed (from some of the committee members) that are just completely inaccurate. The members continued to push a narrative that parents are going to doctors b/c they have gender confused children, only to be told they MUST put their children on medicine or their children would kill themselves. This is not what happens. Our experience (and the experiences of nearly every family with transgender children that I know) is that our children became extremely depressed, anxious and/or suicidal. This was the case for my child. I pushed back for 6 months! The distress got worse and worse- until my child wasn't functioning. Wouldn't leave the house. Started threatening to remove body parts and became suicidal. At that point I realized watching and waiting for it to pass was no longer an option. We went to the pediatrician first and got birth control to suppress periods. My hope was if we could do that one thing, my child would become functional, and maybe go back into society and maybe once they were back with friends realize they actually were a girl. But it only helped a little. He did leave the house and he was happier more of the time.. but kids at school started harassing him b/c they could tell he was transgender. One kid repetitively told him he was disgusting and all the sexually violent things he would do to my child. This constant harassment and threats to his safety caused depression and anxiety to creep back. We went back to the doctor and he was able to start hormones. These hormones brought him to life. He smiled, loves life, has a solid group of friends, is dating and in an early college program! He feels safer b/c people look at him and see a young man. They don't say horrible things to him anymore. So the doctors don't tell us the consequence of not taking these treatments is that our kids will kill themselves. We know this is the consequence b/c our kids were at that edge and we went to the doctors to pull them away from that edge. We know how unsafe life was before- and now our kids are safer living the gender they identify as. We know that taking this away will throw them back into that darkness. We know it will put targets on them and they won't be safe in society either. We have seen our children at the depths of despair, and seen this care pull them out of it.Our children are closely monitored- blood work is done every 3 months. Follow ups with pediatricians every 3 months. They see therapists regularly. These are some of the most closely medically monitored children in TX. We are telling you this care is life saving not b/c we have been told it will save them, but b/c we have seen it save them. Please don't take this away from our children.

Christine Smith, Mrs.
Self
Shavano Park, TX

I’m strongly in favor of not using tax payer money for this type of surgery. Vote for HB 1686.
Christine Smith

Adriana Penaluna
Self
Seguin, TX

I am a retired special needs para professional, mother of 4 and grandmother of 10. I support this bill to protect children and to prohibit state monies from being used for procedures and treatments for gender dysphoria.

James Del Mul, Mr
self / IT
Allen, TX

Please protect our children. Medically mutilating yourself under age should be a crime not healthcare.

Shukai Wu, Mr.
Self
Katy, TX

I support SB1686

Gay G. Rogers, Mrs.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Minors should not have gender altering treatments or surgery.

Mary Baum, Rev.
Self
McKinney, TX

As a pastor I strongly oppose HB 1686. We have several families with transgender children in our congregation and these parents are doing their best to help their children thrive. The government should NOT interfere!

Guadalupe Márquez
Self
Spring, TX

I support 1686

Mercedes Curutchet
Self
Spring, TX

I support the HB 1686

Patricia Ortega
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I'm a voting Texan. I am officially registering my opposition to HB1686 and am asking you all to vote NO on this bill. Every major medical association in the United States supports gender affirming care, and we have more important things to do in the Texas legislature than get in the way of parents and doctors. Vote NO on HB1686. Thank you.

Richard Smith
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Tiffany Flinn
Self
Frisco, TX

Gender affirming care saves lives.

Tamar Lazard
.
Bellaire, TX

Opposed 1686

Maria Lasta
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Stephanie Mandaro
Private citizen
Montgomery, TX

Texas government should not be funding or supporting maiming children’s bodies. Studies prove that this does more harm than benefit to a child’s development to make these lasting changes at a young age. I do stand wholeheartedly against this terrible movement for the medical community and federal government who are benefiting from harming our
Children. Protect them and prohibit these procedures for children. It’s their body and they should have the right
To choose when they are old enough to understand the consequences- mentally, socially, economically. Shame
On anyone who does not support this bill to protect and save our children.

Melba Vasque, Dr.
Texas Psychological Association
Austin, TX

The following are research based conclusions developed by the American Psychological Association, with which I concur:

Gender identity refers to a person's sense of gender (i.e., agender, bigender, man, Two Spirit, woman, etc.), which can be the same or different from person's sex/gender assigned at birth (APA, 2015). Supportive evidence-based interventions—including but not limited to mental health counseling, social transition support, and hormone therapies—greatly improve mental health outcomes for transgender youth (APA 2015).

Foregoing gender-affirming care can have tragic consequences. Transgender youth experience disproportionate levels of violence and bullying. Transgender youth are also more likely to feel less safe at school than cisgender youth, that is youth whose gender identity is consistent with their assigned sex at birth (Day et al., 2018).

Access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide (Bauer et al., 2015; Green et al., in press). Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021).

Decisions about whether to seek gender-affirming care, and what specific services to utilize, must be made between a provider, patient, and the patient's parents or guardians. Such decisions are relative to the youth's individual clinical situation. Gender affirming care typically includes steps toward social transition, potentially treatments to temporarily postpone puberty, and in some instances, hormone replacement therapy (Coleman et al., 2012). Rather than allow flexibility to account for the varying needs of individuals, this bill adopts a "one size fits all" approach by categorically criminalizing the recommendation or provision of appropriate gender-affirming care.

Concerns about "desistance" do not provide reasons against prepubertal social transition or peripubertal medical transition because "desistance" often occurs before evidence-based, cutting-edge transition interventions are available (Ashley, 2021).

Exploration of identity is an organic, healthy part of development which, if delayed or discouraged, causes harm to all people—even people who transition during youth and eventually grow up to be cisgender (Ashley, 2021).
For these reasons and many others, we are asking you to oppose HB1686. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions, and we look forward to working with your office on this.

Kathy Wheatley, Mrs.
Self Retired
Bullard, TX

I vote yes to this bill.

Preston Cheeks
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because I am a father of a trans youth and see believe this bill will cause unwanted and un-needed damage. Please leave medical directives up to the experts, eg: Doctors, psychologists, and most importantly the parents. Please stop using vulnerable people as political pawns.

Peggy Denson
South Texas Alliance of Republicans
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

I support Bill HB1686 to ban gender modification for children.

Jill Mazza
Self
Belton, TX

I am for this bill.

Kimberly Muncy
Self
Houston, TX

FOR / SUPPORT
Please support this bill to protect children. Allow them time to grow in their decision making and not begin processes of change.

Stephen Flores
Self
Kerrville, TX

For/Support the bill

Megan Stubblefield
Self
Austin, TX

You people continue to do the most when it comes to hatred. I staunchly oppose this bill and could sit here and write up all 3000 characters, and normally I would, but I'm tired of trying to find eloquent ways to say you all make me sick. Do better.

Michele Cadwallader
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote gor this bill to stop destroying our children

Kendall Leaman
Myself
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686

Tomas Murtagh, Procurement Manager
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support

Bonnie Osborn, Mrs
Self. Grandmother
San Antonio, TX

For/Support this bill

Lynda Martyn,
Self
Dallas, TX

Please vote FOR HB 1686 to protect our children! Thank you!

Cynthia Johns
Self
Dallas, TX

Please hear our cry. Save these confused children.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs
Republican Women
Gainesville, TX

I urge you to pass HB 1686. These procedures permanently harm young people for the rest of their lives. Young people and children are not of an age to make such decisions that alter their future. Please pass HB 1686 and influence others to do the same. I am counting on you to protect Texas youth. Taxpayers must not be expected to pay for such procedures. Thank you for serving.

Peter Stiles
Self
Austin, TX

Pass no law that interferes with a doctor and patient when such practices are medically supported by the AMA and every other professional organization. Keep government and laws out of the privacy of the doctors office.

Marshall Bewley
self
Denton, TX

As a born and raised Texan, as well as a practicing counseling psychologist, I strongly oppose HB1686. I urge you to consider following psychological science that consistently shows that gender-affirming medical care is the recommended evidenced-based approach to treat gender dysphoria in youth. It is supported by every major mental health and medical association in this country. To restrict or prohibit this care will create worsening mental health for a population of young people that are already disproportionately impacted by trauma compared to their peers. This legislation will only harm children as opposed to helping them. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1686.

Rebecca Kowalski
Self/hospitality
San Antonio, TX

I vote FOR HB 1686.

Jeff Tiffin
Self
Aubrey, TX

Against

Carmen Johnson
TXAPN
El paso, TX

I am totally against the mutilation of children. They are born just the way Almighty God made them. Please do not let this bill do any harm to our children.

Dan Kraemer
Self
Garland, TX

I support this bill. Kids should not be subject to mutilation. I cannot believe I even have to say this.

Aldo Conde, Eng
NA
Spring, TX

Oppose to children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Gail Abbott, Mrs
Self
Frisco, TX

Please protect our children from gender treatments and provide their parents the ability to protect their children.

Maureen Evans
Self
Houston, TX

I vote FOR

Nicole Basham
Self, Senior Content Strategist
Austin, TX

Medical professionals and their patients should be unemcumbered by the law to pursue life-affirming and medically necessary care, based on their physical and emotional needs, not on a political agenda. Focus on provoking a safe, nurturing environment so all kids can thrive.

Thomas English, Mister
Myself
Richmond, TX

It's a sad day to even have to address something like this. We should not be financially sponsoring any kind of transgendering of our children. When they become adults, they can pick and choose what they want but minors should be left alone. How about consentrating on an education.

Catherina Hattingh
Self
Austin, TX

Support 1686

Deborah Flores
Myself
Kerrville, TX

For the bill and fully support it.

Margaret McCaleb, Mrs.
Self homemaker
San Antonio, TX

I am against this prohibition! I am wholeheartedly against funding to help a child change genders, gender reassignment , or gender dysphoria. We need to protect our children, not aid in harming them,

Tere Kole
Self
Yantis, TX

Just say NO. This is a mental health issue.

Tammy Warren
McKinney Values PAC
Mckinney, TX

McKinney Values PAC publicly supports HB1686. Gender cannot be modified. It is chosen by God and woven into our DNA fabric. We are designed male and female, with unique abilities and intuitions that go along with our gender. To tell a child that they can change genders, or that they "should" change genders, is not only sinful and shameful, it is harmful. It is not only damaging to their long-term mental health, but any adult that pushes a child to take chemical hormone treatments to change their sex or, in the worst case scenario encourage them to go through surgery to change who they are, should be charged with child abuse. Children cannot consent. It is up to the adults in Texas to protect every child from adults who wish to do them harm. Further, children who are experiencing gender dysphoria usually grow out of it, and should be encouraged to wait until their adult years to make decisions on sex and sexuality. Thank you and God bless.

Catherine Bagby
Self
San Antonio, TX

Do NOT use public funds for these procedures!

Fausto Lasta
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB1686

Bryan Fritchie
self
Frisco, TX

Parents should not be allowed to permanently mutilate children's bodies. That is a choice that only an adult can make for themselves. If someone is not mature enough yet to vote, then they are not mature enough to understand the implications that such surgeries mean. And the government definitely should not be paying for it!

Pat Shaw
Citizen
Tyler, TX

Protecting our children from gender transitioning procedures and even influence is among my top priorities. Children need time to be children. I am opposed to the use of any public assistance and I vote.

Andrew Pressman
Self
Austin, TX

a consequence of erasure is suicide. Failing to allow people to identify as who they are will lead to more suicides.

Quincy Tredway
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support. No state funding should go to this.

Cristen Fullerton, Mrs.
Self
Frisco, TX

We need to protect children.

Dean Wurtz
Self - retired
Richardson, TX

I believe that treatments and procedures should be restricted to children under the age of 18.

Teresa Masdon, DR
North Texas Connservatives
The Colony, TX

I am a doctor serving North Texas now for decades. Because of my expertise in assisting teen depression/suicide ideation, I have first hand experience at the multi-layered damage done to a human being who has undergone any process for gender transition, or gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. The severe harm done can never be undone! I fully support HB 1686. Thank you for honoring and fully representing your voters.

Margaret Tredway
Self
Fort Worh, TX

I support HB1686

Scott Masdon
North Texas Conservatives
The Colony, TX

My wife is a doctor serving North Texas now for decades. Because of her expertise in assisting teen depression/suicide ideation, she has first hand experience at the multi-layered damage done to a human being who has undergone any process for gender transition, or gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. The severe harm done can never be undone! I fully support HB 1686. Thank you for honoring and fully representing your voters.

Kris Donaldson
Self
Houston, TX

As a social worker I have seen first hand how denying trans experiences and care has led to their societal and mental downfall. It is the isolation and shame society puts on trans people that hurts them more than anything else. It will only become a larger societal issue with suicide, homelessness, and violence if we enact more harm on this population.

Chris Hawkinson
Self
Houston, TX

I am FOR this bill!

Natalie Olsson
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I support HB 1686.

Erika Hatfield
Self
Heath, TX

I support HB1686

Cynthia Fray
Self
WEST LAKE HILLS, TX

Please do not restrict state-supported gender affirming care. This bill sadly endangers the mental health and well-being of gender diverse individuals. Vote instead for compassion.

christy fonvielle, Mrs
self
Fort Worth, TX

I am strongly opposed to any and all mutilation of children for the purpose of gender transitioning/gender reassignment, and all hormonal treatments for these purposes, and am also opposed to the use of public money or public assistance to provide these procedures and treatments.

wei du, Mrs
self
Plano, TX

for

Cissy Zhao
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill. Please do not use our tax dollars on gender transition expenses. Children's gender confusion is caused by the propaganda from this government. Our children needs to be taught to love their true identity - their biological gender.

Jillian Marshall
Self
Montgomery, TX

Pass HB1686

Stephen Penaluna
Myself
Seguin, TX

HB1686 should be voted down without a second thought!! It’s approval would contribute to the moral decay of our society!! Texas is a conservative state and remember those who voted for you to serve in our state legislature. Let Texas remain a moral beacon of protecting our children from the left, and their degenerate moral agenda!!!

Toni Neumann
self
Katy, TX

Allowing children to make such a permanent life-altering decision without parental consent is unwise and foolish. So many children in other states who started down the road of changing their gender only a few years later regret the choices they made. Many have committed suicide. This bill by representative Oliverson will curtail so much pain and sorrow by requiring parental involvement.

Brenda Hess
Self
Lakeway, TX

I am in support of HB1686!

Pamela Lopez, LPC, NCC
Self, Licensed Professional Counselor and Nationally Certified Counselor
Del Valle, TX

HB 1686 is an overreach by the government regarding transgendered and gender dysphoric youth under 18. The prohibition of physicians, and health care providers (including mental health providers) from administering gender-affirming care, including puberty blockers and hormone therapy, to transgender and gender dysphoric youth is abhorrent regarding government restrictions on individual choices (or choices for their children). The proposed restrictions or attempts to rescind personal liberties related to health care are being made by individuals without the proper knowledge or training to make such decisions, relying only on personal values and beliefs - rather than based on facts and information.

Women are already limited on what Texas will "allow" us to do regarding our bodies, and now an attack on Texas youth? Such a decision may lead to families and individuals leaving the state, rather than remaining here and giving back to the community. I implore those in support of this bill to take an empathetic point of view - and vote as if someone you love is part of this targeted community because chances are that someone already is.

For those voting and citing religious beliefs, I as a Christian cis-gendered woman would like to remind these representatives that Jesus' love did not specify any exclusions or exemptions to this; we are simply called to love as He did.

Esteban Russell, Mr.
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Robynne Warren
Self
Houston, TX

am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill.
We have pressing matters for which public money need to be spent, like the education of our children, the protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must not spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.

Carlos del Rio Gallo
self
Spring, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Enrique Gonzalez, Mr
Personal
The Woodlands, TX

I support

Rhesa Cook, nne
retired
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this bill. We need to pass this bill for the benefit of our children.

Daniel Goodwin
Self
Sherman, TX

My wife and I absolutely support this bill. Gender transitioning of children is an evil practice which is becoming too common and too accepted with certain individuals. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Rodrigo Collada
Self
Spring, TX

I support HB1686

Teresa Drake
Myself
Godley, TX

Vote yes for HB 1686. Protect innocent vulnerable children from predators and groomers. They can’t buy cigarettes or alcohol until age 21, they shouldn’t be able to make life altering sex changes before then either. And the fact that tax payer public money is even being considered to fund this is ridiculous, that is taxation without representation. Please, please do what's right and help protect innocent children! Vote YES!

Abraham George, Chairman
Collin County Republican Party
Plano, TX

In support of this bill

Osvaldo Campodonico
Self
Tomball, TX

I support HB 1686

Heather Ryan
Myself
Boerne, TX

I am in favor of no public funding for gender reassignment treatments etc using public money

Marisa Naughton
Self
Round Rock, TX

This is a social experiment that does not need to have the public money allocated. We have a need to be protecting these children and supporting them through stronger mental health services. Submitting them to these procedures and treatments is unwise and there will be irreparable damage done. The children will grow up asking, Where were the adults who were supposed to lead and protect me?

Julia Cocco
Self
Austin, TX

I am IN FAVOR of this bill. Stop using taxpayer money to fuel an industry hellbent on sterilizing children. "Gender" modification is a barbaric practice that invites harm to the children society should aim to protect. I am 24 years old and my peer group continues to be aimless, angry, depressed, and confused because the adults we were supposed to trust lied to us. Popping pills, cutting ourselves up, and playing make-believe every day is NOT the path to happiness or healthiness. Shame on doctors and adults who think medication is the solution; with "health" "care" providers blinded by greed and parents absorbed with clout for having a "trans" kid, my generation's suicide rate will continue to soar. History will look back on this insanity the same way we look at bloodletting and leeches.

Janet Neumann
self
Katy, TX

I am for this bill. It will rightly require parental consent for this type of treatments.

Carlos Nino
Self
Spring, TX

I don’t agree using public money for gender transitioning

Gloria Nkundiye
Self
Temple, TX

Performing gender transitioning procedures on children is abuse and should be punished by law.

Rachel Freedline
Self- MSSW
Buda, TX

HB 1686 is alarming, uninformed and should not be considered for legislation in the state of Texas. Restricting access to gender-affirming care will drastically increase the already staggering youth mental health crisis in Texas. A February 2022 study from the Journal of the American Medical Association found that when providers utilized gender affirming care with their youth trans and nonbinary patients (aged 13-20) this was associated with “60% lower odds of moderate or severe depression and 73% lower odds of suicidality over a 12-month follow-up." I implore all members of the legislature to allow those with professional expertise in the provision of healthcare to dictate the services provided to their clients. These healthcare services are evidence-based and research-backed. Youth in the state of Texas deserve to receive care that is congruent with best practices in the medical field.

Jenice Benedict
Self
Harwood, TX

I am in favor for supporting HB1686. - My belief is our taxes (ie. government) should not be used to promote gender sexuality and reassignment in our children. We should be protecting our children, not allowing sexual mutilation and experimentations on our precious children whore too young to be making these types of permanent decisions for their lives. How about this novel idea — 'Let our children be children.' JB

Memo Garza
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1686

Let's keep the children protected

Gary Bohannon
Self, retired
Celina, TX

Children must be protected from irreversible procedures until they are fully capable of understanding the finality of their decisions, which would be at least the same age as that which is the minimum for engaging in legal contracts. No public money should be used for this, or any other elective procedure.

Donna Morris
Self
Lago Vista, TX

No child under 18 should be given gender affirming drugs or surgery. These procedures cannot easily be reversed and as such decisions surrounding these procedures should not be made by children. Adolescence is a confusing time and children often feel pressured to fit in. Some will go to great lengths to do what they think will make them happier. Maturity can change minds and ways of thinking.

Melissa Garza
Self
Houston, TX

This is child abuse and should not be allowed.

Jason Neulander
Self
Austin, TX

Not a single medical organization endorses this approach. All this is going to do is lead to more mental health issues and suicide attempts by young trans people. Is that worth the political points that you'll score with the base? If you have any empathy at all, please do not pass this bill.

Angelica Sanchez
Self
Porter, TX

I am against the use of tax payer monies to fund the permanent and irreversible changes to children's bodies such as treatment for, and not limited too gender reassignment, gender transitioning and gender dysphoria.

Janeth Turner
Self
Katy, TX

I Support BH1686

Joshua Fryzel
Self
Seguin, TX

I support HB1686 as-is

vreny palacios
self
austin, TX

Texas legislators continue to show their lack of commitment to providing children proper education, health care, and continue to put out bills that put children in danger of higher rates of suicide. As a mental health provider, I've seen what having to live your life hiding your authentic self leads to increase in anxiety, depression, and self-injurious behavior. If TX legistators cared about our children, it would put out bills to increase mental health services, health care services for all youth. Stop dehumanizing entire groups of people to further your politial rehtoric, it's dangerous and will lead to increase in hate crimes committed towards our trans neighbors. Do better.

Jackie & Carolyn Roach
Self
League City, TX

I support House Bill 1686. We need to protect our children

Catherine Viens, Mrs.
Myself
College Station, TX

I am strongly in support of protecting our most vulnerable, the children, from medically or surgically “transitioned” to a different sex. I support this bill.

Rhonda Lee
Self
Bulverde, TX

support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Daniel Verastegui
Self
Lubbock, TX

I do not agree with this Bill! DO NOT PASS.

Marian Stevens
Self
Conroe, TX

Our children need to be protected from making radical and drastic decisions that could affect them for the rest of their lives. There are no long-term studies that support that these type of treatments benefit children with gender dysphoria. The gender ideology crowd are using fear tactics of "suicide", "genocide" and even violence to try and stop this bill. Now is a time to stop or at least slow down the push for gender affirming procedures. Many other countries have STOPPED gender affirming care for minors because they showed mental and physical adverse effects when the children became adults. Don't give into the bullying and hysterics of the trans ideology. Protect our kids.

Linda Foley
self
Sherman, TX

I support this bill because I don't believe it is right to perform life altering procedures on minors. There is evidence of a higher risk of suicide for people who have had these life altering treatments as they get older. Please support this bill, HB1686. Thank you.

James Benedict
Self
Lakeway, TX

No tax dollars to support mutilations of children. Disgusting and ghoulish to even debate this practice and mental illnesses in TX Legislation. You all should be embarrassed

Brenda Deshotel
Self
Orange, TX

Stop this insane madness!! Leave children alone until they are of legal age then let them make their own mistakes. Good grief this world has gone MAD!!!

Christopher Hatfield
Self. Husband, father, citizen.
Rowlett, TX

Physical mutilation for the purpose of removing undiseased body parts or creating false body parts with no physical function is not medicine. It is mutilation. It should never be done for anyone, but ESPECIALLY NOT ON CHILDREN. The alleged "trans" psychology is a mental illness at worst, and social conditioning at least, but certainly not a legitimate medical or psychological diagnosis. "Transitioning" children is a reckless experiment, and parents, doctors, teachers, and anyone else who promotes, encourages, or successfully "transitions" a child is a violent criminal and should be prosecuted and punished severely.

Children must be protected from this hideous practice. Any state that allows it is guilty of violence upon children and will be held accountable to history and to Almighty God.

Elizabeth Ragsdale
Self
Grapevine, TX

I am FOR this bill

Justin Lurie
Self
Humble, TX

Pass this bill, be the voice for minors and protect them

Leticia Salazar
Self
Humble, TX

I support HB1686

Barbara Jernegan
Texas Conservative Grassroots Coalition
CORPUS CHRISTI,TX 78418, TX

I am totally for this bill. How can a mere child make a decision to change his or her sex and after that they will spend their lives beholden to drugs.

Kathy Burden, Chaplain
Self
Frisco, TX

I support the bill

Monica Eldred
Self
Southlake, TX

I As a mother of 6 children ranging in ages 19 to 6, I see that during development into adulthood, children are to be guided into making the right choices and when making mistakes, corrected. However if we allow a xhild to decide his gender based on TEMPORARY FEELINGS that change into adulthood, we are giving children the same treatment as an adult but they are not, and do not understand the ramifications of their choices that is why parents should protect them from gender surgeries that are PERMANENT AND LIFE ALTERING, as well as sex- crossed hormones and other such treatments that will hinder their future health. Kids are not guinea pigs to experiment on and see the results. Growing up many children are uncomfortable with changes in their body and this is normal. It is not a desire to be of the opposite see, it is a normal part of development that needs to be accepted as part of self. Same as if you are short. Or have big feet. Or your skin has too many frecles..freckles... you need to learn to accept who you are, and that all is good with you. If children have an issue they should be counseled into accepting g their body and not mutilating it... would they now have to cut their feet since they do not accept they are to big for how they feel they should be???

Cathleen Russell-Galyen
Self retired
The Woodlands, TX

I support this bill. I do not want children mutilated for gender identity confusion. I do not want to fund surgeries for gender transformation of anyone. I believe God made man and woman and no other genders.

Vilma Aguayo
Individual
Houston, TX

SUPPORT

Mary Coleman
SELF
Waco, TX

I strongly support HB 1686.

I strongly oppose allowing procedures for gender modification for our children. I can't even believe you are discussing this. As a mother, grandmother, and nurse, I beg you to protect our Texas children from these harmful and irreversible procedures.

Please protect our Texas kids!

Mccann Northington
Self
San antonio, TX

Please pass this bill!

Vera Muckleroy, Mrs
Self
Marion, TX

I do not want to contribute gender reassignment, I support this bill.

Lea Somerville
Self
Mexia, TX

No child should be allowed to have any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.
Regarding gender dysphoria, treatments should be for the entire family to guide them to accept the child's biological gender until the child is an adult.

Robyn Daniels
Self
Tyler, TX

Please pass HB 1686. This country is going to far! Leave minor laws in place until they are of legal age. Please don't cow tow to a small percentage of the population that opposes this just because they have loud voices.

Stephen Lutostanski
Self
Round rock, TX

I, as a Texan constituent, am in favor of this bill (HB 1686) regarding banning gender modification of our children and support it passing. Thank you for taking this in to consideration.

Stacey Killpatrick, Mrs
Myself
Burleson, TX

We have come to agreement that it is illegal for children under 21 to drink alcohol, vape, or buy tobacco products. Children under 18 don't have the mental fortitude to vote, watch certain movies, or join the military. We don't trust children under 16 to drive a vehicle. Yet….. some think that children under these ages are mentally equipped to decide if they want to cut off body parts, take drugs that will affect them forever? Kids are looking for acceptance. Every kid feels weird in theor own body. Their frontal lobes are not fully developed until after age 25, and we think it is ok to allow them to make life altering decisions at 17? 16? 15? 14? 13? 12? 11? Shall I go on? It is heartbreaking that these kids are desperate for change and desperate to do anything that they feel will make them feel like the fit in, but sex change is not the answer. At least not until they are adults. Protect these children from themselves. Put laws in place that don't allow adolescent decisions to determine the rest of their lives.

ALTON BRAXTON
Self
Austin, TX

Gender-affirmimg care IS Health care, and deserves to be properly funded. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child, nor deny the identities of trans folks. We're doing our part and ask that you do yours to protect the right for trans Texans to access healthcare.

Mary Stone, Md
True Texas Project, my Christian faith, prolife
North Richland Hills, TX

I dread to see the damage that sexual mutilation will do to our children.

Meagan Fast
Self unemployed
Humble, TX

I am in support of this bill
To prevent child
Abuse and neglect

Jeralee Smith
self
Bonham, TX

I am for this bill and for providing full treatment to resolve gender dysphoria without the transition protocols. Because some Texas children will be in mid-process of transition protocols, financed by their current insurance, their treatment should be thoroughly reviewed by an objective physician's committee to determine how best to proceed with the minor's care and present those recommendations to the parents. This should include giving them whatever scientific information that was originally not disclosed to the parents and/or minor and let them re-assess whether to stop the transitioning process or continue in another state other than Texas. Should they wish to stop the transition process, the medical care needed to do so should be covered by their current insurance. This whole ideology is horrendously destructive but the needs of the children currently caught in the transition process should be objectively re-evaluated so as not to create more problems when this law goes into effect.

Sandra Lewis, Mrs.
self retired
Joshua, TX

Life is often confusing to children about a lot of difference life issues & parents often want just to 'make their child happy'...BUT we have no idea how damaging the drugs might be to these children due to length of time used! PLEASE PROTECT THE CHILDREN OF TX. When they become adults if they want to transition then...they are adults & can choose. BUT AS CHILDREN THIS CAN BE MERELY A FAD!
STOP IT NOW!!

Julio Arena, Mr
ARENA CORPORATE
Spring, TX

O

Erick Bruno, GySgt, Ret
Self/H2B Visa Case Manager/LTC & Firearms Instructor
McKinney, TX

Do we not have laws in place that make it illegal for people under the age of 18 to get a tattoo and 21 to smoke, vape, and drink? Yes we do! And let's be honest, when kids grow into adults, the decisions that would have been made would be regretted as an adult. Mutilating your body and your mind at a young age is not to any child's advantage. I remember being young and thinking Transformers and Voltron were the coolest things ever. My imagination at 5 years old would have made me think getting metal attachments surgically grafted onto my body so I could be like the Transformers or Voltron might make sense. As an adult, I would not think it would be wise or prudent. I do have tattoos and I still would not have wanted the ability to get a tattoo at 7 years old! I appreciate the fact my parents never indulged any of my imaginations of being Superman, Batman, Spiderman, or Transformers and tried to make it a reality. Unfortunately, we do have parents in this day and age that would encourage and/or force a life altering decision on a child. I whole heartedly put my support behind this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment. Have a great day!

Brenda Snider
Self (self employed)
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1686

Rebecca Knop
Self
Corinth, TX

Please approve this bill, no child should be subject to these procedures until 18 or up at their own discretion.

Jennifer Arnott
Self
Houston, TX

Children must be protected AGAINST the abuse of puberty blockers, castration and mastectomy. They are not mature enough, nor are their brains fully formed to make these decisions and understand the implications for life. We must protect the children!

Daniel Jasper
Self
Allen, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of children and protect their innocence.

HB 1686 must pass to protect our kids.

Jennifer Arnott
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686.

Frank Salazar, Master Plumber
Self
Humble, TX

I support HB 1686, I would also ask for the names of the politicians that push for this sick act to be made public.

Cristal Harris
Self
Abilene, TX

I support this bill. We as adults need to protect children from life altering decisions that carry dire consequences to their future. Changing one's physical appearance does not address the psychological issues. According to Dr. Paul McHugh, the university distinguished service professor of psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine:

"Transgendered men do not become women, nor do transgendered women become men. All (including Bruce Jenner) become feminized men or masculinized women, counterfeits or impersonators of the sex with which they 'identify.' In that lies their problematic future."

As taxpayer, I am not afforded the luxury of having public money pay for elective surgeries such as bariatric surgery. So why therefore should tax payer monies be utilized for sex reassignment surgery? Sex reassignment surgeries lead to other lifelong medical treatments, additional surgeries and potential complications including but not limited to sterilization. These procedures lead to lifelong dependency on medical treatment which places an additional burden on our already strained healthcare system.

We don't allow our children to get tattoos, smoke, drink alcohol, drive or vote for reasons of immaturity. Why then should we permit them to alter their bodies so drastically that they will never experience life as God intended it.

cynthia brugge
myself
Fairview, TX

To the Honorable Members of the House and the Senate of the State of Texas

This bill is not a matter that should be decided based on how many people send in comments or whose party your represent. The fact that we have to have a bill protecting minors and more specifically children is mind blowing in and of itself. Performing such drastic procedures and treatments on any human but specifically on immature, young human beings is a crime. This confusion these children are experiencing is from the pit of hell. Evil is evil. It is the word "live" spelled backwards. Evil is against life and these procedures are evil.

James Craig
Self
Spring, TX

Not till adult

Jenny Arthur
self
Austin, TX

This bill goes against all reputable research about gender dysphoria, and I believe the lawmakers know this. It is merely unconstitutional discrimination. These medical options for minors can literally save lives. It is not acceptable to take away a person’s right to a dignified life and medical treatment. I am a native Austinite, and 5th generation Texan, and I was not raised to discriminate.

Danielle Lopez, Ms.
Self
San Antonio, TX

Gender affirming care is between the doctor, parents and child. These are not matters that the public needs to weigh in on. They are private decisions based on personal matters. These decisions are not taken lightly. Most families take years of counseling from mental health professionals, doctors and schools before they move forward. Let parents make decisions that they feel are best for their children.

George Butry
Texas children
Killeen, TX

They progressives are destroying our nation from bottom youngest minds they can indoctrinate and castrate, cowards! They know communism will not stand otherwise. Save our children- save our nation!

John Kemp
Self
Post, TX

I am AGAINST this bill - please stop this craziness against our children , it is wrong.

Tom Bartel, Mr
self, retired
Plano, TX

I am in strong support of this bill. No public funding or support or assistance should be provided for gender transitioning for youth. This often irreversible medical experimentation attempts to change physical gender, which is not possible. All it does is destroy the child's chance for having a normal life. They will not be able to have a family or children. Please vote YES.

Colleen Hooper, Mrs
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Please support this bill and stop this current movement. Parents should be the ones to decide what would be medically impacting to their own children, who are the responsibility of the parent, not the state.
I can’t believe this is where we are as Americans.

Chris Doherty
self
Tomball, TX

In favor of this bill

Robert Hunter Morris, Mr.
None
Lago Vista, TX

This bill needs to pass! Children ages 4-18 are not allowed to vote or buy liquor or join the military and certainly don't know enough at ages 4-16 to make a decision to change their gender. They definitely should not ever be taught or told about such subjects as gender identity change in elementary school or middle school. They haven't lived long enough or developed their adult personality yet. This subject of gender identity should not be discussed till they are at least in the last few years of high school. There hasn't been enough studies done to know the long term effects on bodies and minds will be with the medications or surgery's will be if done. Especially to children who are too young to be making decisions that will affect the rest of their life.

Steven Milner
self
Austin, TX

I beg you to vote against HB 1686, which is nothing but a discrimination bill. It would cause an unimaginable amount of harm to thousands of Texas children. It seems to me that the proponents of this bill conveniently overlook the good that this kind of healthcare is doing for our youth and instead seek to cloud the facts only for their own political gain. Wrapping their cause as a need to protect children, it is instead a coldhearted ploy for votes.

Lisa Fullerton, President/CEO
A Novel idea, LLC
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception. If children were self sufficient and capable of making these decisions - they wouldn't need to life in their parents homes.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Phaedra Velasquez
Self, office worker
Kingsville, TX

I support Bill HB1686 to ban gender modification for children. A child is not mature enough to make life altering modifications to their bodies that they may regret later on.

candice a alfano, Dr
Self
Houston, TX

Banning all gender-affirming medical care for minors including puberty blockers and hormones is a form of neglect. These treatments have well-established health benefits for trans youth. The job of the senate is to protect, not to harm. Personal beliefs should not influence legislation. Data and science should, and the data are clear.

Thank you
Dr Candice Alfano

Christine Kjosa
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am for this bill. Kids are not able to consent. They don't have the emotional development to make such permanent decisions. There are many people who have regretted and said they were never questioned about their choice. The medical community is not in agreement on best practices. Social constructs should not be valid reasons to push gender confusion. Kids have always felt uncomfortable during puberty. We must stop mutilating and destroying the future that kids don't even know they want yet.

Thomas Rapp
Retired
Fort Worth, TX

Gender changing is just wrong!

Sheree Moon
Self, retired
DeSoto, TX

Thank you for fighting for our children!

Tyrone Ferrel
Self, rancher, retired Marine
Estelline, TX

Supporting this bill 100%. It aligns with the virtues and beliefs that made our state and country exceptional.

Karen Early
self
San Antonio, TX

Minors, by definition do not have enough knowledge to make a permanent life altering decision. It is irresponsible to let others profit off of their ignorance.

huaxin Zhou
Myself
Richmond, TX

Please pass the bill soon as possible

Naveen Kundanmal
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Naveen, I am a resident of Austin representing myself, and I unequivocally oppose HB 1686. I prepared this testimony for the hearing on Monday, March 27th, but I, like hundreds of others, did not get the opportunity to speak. I arrived at the Capitol at 6:30am to sign up to testify and waited patiently all day—only for the committee to end the hearing at midnight, allowing a mere hour of public testimony.

Let me start by asking, have any of you taken a gap year? When most of your friends were probably going off to college or following in the family business—maybe you felt left out? But deep down you knew that you wanted more time to yourself before embarking on a big, life changing journey right?

That's what puberty blockers allow kids to do. They simply get to take a puberty gap year or two and take the time for themselves, conversations with their families, doctor's appointments, and other evaluations without their bodies changing in harmful ways.

As an adult who has benefited immensely from trans health care, I can tell you how many hoops I had to jump through to get the care I needed. 2 letters from mental health professionals affirming my gender dysphoria and how I would benefit from this care, a letter from my GP, and a comprehensive physical examination with bloodwork. And that's WITHOUT using insurance. It is far more complicated than anything at the DMV, and for children—the process is even longer with many more administrative hoops plus parental consent every step of the way.

On the note of regret, that is a fact of life. People regret all sorts of decisions they make every day. Someone who gets their girlfriend's name tattooed on them, and they break up 2 weeks, 2 years, 2 decades later and regrets getting the tattoo, yet we don't ban tattoos simply because there is a possibility of regret.

Many other accepted life choices have significant regret rates:
Total knee replacement: 17%
Gastric band surgery: 20% (which the new American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines explicitly recommend for children)
Trans related surgeries: 0.1-1% regret rate (depending on the study).

I implore you to kill this bill. Thank you for your time.

Gender affirming surgery regret rate via International Open Access Journal of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8099405/

Total knee replacement regret rate via Journal of Orthopedic Science
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34838410/

Gastric band regret rate via Spring Open Choice Journal of Obesity Surgery
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8270864/

2023 Childhood Obesity Guidelines via American Academy of Pediatrics
https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/151/2/e2022060640/190443/Clinical-Practice-Guideline-for-the-Evaluation-and?autologincheck=redirected

Joyce Holguin
Self
Spring, TX

I support HB1686

Marjorie Franks
Republican
Dallas, TX

This is an important Bill. Children have not completely developed their Brain to understand the ramifications of Harmons & Surgeries to their bodies. They need to be able to Research, talk to professionals & make their on decisions .Please vote yes for Bill HB168
Marjorie Franks
margiefranks58@gmail.com

Anastasia Walterscheid
Self
Fairview, TX

I support HB 1886.

Lucila Seri
Tarrant County Precinct 2228 Republican voters
Arlington, TX

I am the Republican Precinct chair for Tarrant County Precinct 2228. I and the 1114 Republican registered voters in my Precinct are FOR this bill, as this is a priority of the Republican Party of Texas. This is simple. You can't vote, drink or go to war until you are 18 years old. The same should apply to gender modification surgeries, hormone blockers, these treatments, etc. BE CONSISTENT. Let the children's brains develop so they can make a fully informed decision, when they become of age, about such an extreme and irreversible change.

Jana Schutt
Self
Cypress, TX

I am IN FAVOR of HB1686

Lisa Jennings
self retired
NRH, TX

I support HB 1686

Kenaniah Snider
self
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1686

Edith Acosta
Self
The Woodlands, TX, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Freddie Williams
self ,retired
Waxahachie, TX

I support HB1686 Ban transgender mutilation bill

Deb Spencer
Self
Boyd, TX

After watching the public testimonies, I am convinced even more that I am in favor of this bill. We must stop the mutilation and indoctrination of our youth. These children are being lied to and are mentally abused. Please vote yes!

Russell Allen
Texoma Patriots/NorthTexasConservatives/Self
Van Alstyne, TX

I support HB 1686.

April Pointer
Self, self employed
Frisco, TX

I support this bill and call on the members of this committee to do so too. Gender affirming care is a genuine threat of substantial harm to children as hormonal therapies, puberty blockers, and genitalia surgeries being conducted on children, in some cases as early as eight years of age. The American Psychiatric Association has gone so far as to classify this very disconcerting practice as child abuse. This is not something we should be allowing, or tolerating, here in Texas.

I call upon the members of this committee to vote to protect our children, to side with the health of our children and not concern themselves with the societal or culturally accepted norms or practices. And I call upon this committee to unanimously vote this legislation out of committee for a vote on the floor.

It is vital that we protect our children and stop the practice of child gender modification in the state of Texas. To do so only takes your courage. Failure to do so will echo throughout future generations.

April Pointer
Frisco, TX

Elizabeth Walker
Self-retired Texas public school educator
Seguin, TX

I am IN FAVOR of HB 1686.
I do not believe we Texas residents show fund any gender transitioning procedures. I hope my opinion reaches my representatives; I will check back to see how they voted. Thank you for the opportunity and platform to voice my opinions.

Carolina Johnson
Self/homemaker
San Antonio, TX

It’s child abuse to provide gender transitioning procedures to children. There are no long term studies to prove the efficacy and safety of these treatments .

Dahlia Salazar
Self - Office Manager
Humble, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Laura Lato
Self
Humble, TX

I support

Thomas Salazar
Self, employed technical support
Humble, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686

Cindi Schrimsher
Self. Executive assistant
North Richland Hills, TX

I support this bill HB 1686

Cynthia Lasher
Self, TCGOP Precinct 2307
Arlington, TX

I support this bill. It sickens me to think that such a bill needs to be drawn up and in front of my Texas legislature because of the ignorance of some people. This is so wrong on so many levels. Remember, God does not make mistakes. If you have any soul, please pass this bill to protect our children who really don't have any idea what they are doing and to stop those parents who don't understand what they are doing to their child. Thank you for reading and listening to me.

Linda Letz
Self
Colleyville, TX

I strongly support this bill! No child under 18 should be getting ANY sex transitioning treatments!

Cathy Miller
CCDC
Corinth, TX

Please vote AGAINST

Scott Jennings
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support this bill.

Valri Martin
Self
Kennedale, TX

I agree with this bill. Children should NOT be operated on to change their gender!

John Kraner
Self
Spring, TX

I support HB 1686!!!

Wyatt Guerry
Self, credit analyst
Carrollton, TX

Children should not be allowed these procedures or treatments

Arthur Atanasoff
128
The Colony, TX

No way....mutilating children is a discussion?

Lucas Edd
Self
Beaumont, TX

I know you will do what you want to do anyway but I wanted to let you know that you were not elected to practice medicine and you have no right involving yourself in other people's healthcare. That is between them and their doctor. You are not protecting anyone. You are endangering lives.

Kim Hill
Self
Highland Village, TX

I support this House Bill and hope that our representative will also support this bill. Prayers for our State and Nation !!!

Amanda Salazar
Self - Office Administrator
Humble, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686.

“Politics matter because policies matter and policies matter because people matter.”

I Support HB1686.

Jennifer Kelley
Self retired
Amarillo, TX

Let’s do no harm to children Gender can not be assigned

James Lozano, Mr
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support this bill to prohibit care and resources to under age children.

Molly Chance
self - real estate broker
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB 1686. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Kara Guerry
myself - middle school special education teacher
Carrollton, TX

Please support this bill and save children from making decisions that will affect their whole lives when they are still too young to understand the gravity of their choice.

Scott Goodrum
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

I support HB 1686

Linda Lee
Myself
Austin, TX

HB 1686

I agree with the provisions of this bill. I believe the practice of physically transitioning minors is reprehensible and should not be permitted in Texas.

Linda Lee

Bret Chance
self - real estate agent
Flower Mound, TX

I support HB 1686. NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. This is child abuse.

Charles Cooper
Self
Joshua, TX

Please protect children, and please pass this to do so. I am a disabled Veteran who served 8 tours in numerous countries in combat. I only have 1 question. If I came to some saying I self identified as a quad amputee due to my service and am attempting to procure a DR to remove my arms and legs what would you say/do? Apply the same answer to this discussion. Thank you

German Villegas, Mr
Self
Magnolia, TX

I support

Allison Jennings
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Deborah Wilkins
Myself
Corpus Christi, TX

I attended and signed up to speak at this hearing on HB 1686 on Monday, March 27, 2023. I was never given the opportunity to speak. I am the 72 year old mother of a transgender daughter.
I oppose this legislation because it denies my child of her human rights. This is governement overreach based upon homophobic ideaology and misinformation. The shameful display by this committee. My child is a college graduate, gainfully employed, empathetic member of our society. She is not to be ignored and shunned by those indoctrinated and influenced by religeous right zealots.
Thank you,
Deborah Wilkins

Christopher Hall
Self - Software Asset Management
Grand Prairie, TX

This bill is egregious, damaging to transgender kids' mental health, and will kill and torment many children in the state of Texas. The fact of the matter is that children are not undergoing surgical transition care, and much of this bill is based on inaccurate information. Major medical associations, including the Endocrine Society, the APA, the AMA, etc. continue to show scientific, evidence-based care plans for gender affirming care that significantly helps the health of transgender kids.

Additionally, much like abortion bans, this bill will have a chilling affect on doctors and how they provide care. Doctors will refuse to offer/perform certain types of care that may be permitted under this bill for fear of retaliation by the Texas government.

Furthermore, the Texas government should be a leader in personal freedoms, but this bill seeks to further remove parents and kids freedom to access the healthcare they want and need. The government should not be involved in our healthcare decisions.

In case money talks more, Texas will likely see a further reduction in doctors, skilled workers, "Brain Drain", and tax dollars if this bill is passed. Skilled workers will choose to make homes in more accepting and medically free states, bringing with them their income, families, and jobs.

I'll end with this. Leave transgender people in peace. They literally just want to live their lives as they wish, and they aren't hurting anyone by doing so. To push bills that target such a small minority and their healthcare is evil. If you intend to remove transgenderism from public life, you intend to commit genocide. And that kind of intent will not be tolerated by Texans.

Dorothy Saka
Self
Bryan, TX

I wholeheartedly support HB 1686. No public money or resources should be used to support these types of procedures.

Jo Carter
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

I support HB 1686.

Cindy Atanasoff
Self Retired
The Colony, TX

I SUPPORT this bill. Children are too young to make a life altering decision anyway, let alone one that overrides God's intentions.

Leonor Villegas
Self
Magnolia, TX

I support

Forrest Carter
Self auditor
North Richland Hills, TX

I support for Texas HB 1686 to limit doctors in providing trans gender procedures to children under 18.

Savannah McCully
Self SAHM
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686. Please protect our children.

Patricia Cummings
Self
Lorena, TX

I support HB 1686. We need to protect kids and stop this business of hospitals, clinics, doctors and pharmacies making money off of children. Thank you.

Jill Hughes
self
Corinth, TX

Please don't allow these children have adult procedures- everything about this is wrong

Nicole Richman
Self
Pearland, TX

The decision of any medical treatment of children should be left solely to licensed physicians (who are already bound by not doing harm) and the parents.
As a parent, you can choose to have your child wait until adulthood to make these choices, or you may choose to take into consideration the harm that that may cause and make an informed decision to mitigate the risk that the child, depending on the severity of their dysphoria, may take adverse action in harming themselves.

Wilson Brooks
Self
Hurst, TX

I support HB 1686

Whitney Klenzendorf
Self
Austin, TX

Please vote yes on this legislation. The public should not be funding gender dysphoric treatments.

Jimmy Bassinger
self
Highland Village, TX

Every cell in humans contains the so called sex chromosome, the xy for males and the xx for females. The idea that you can change your body into the opposite sex is totally impossible. To allow minors to permanently alter their bodies is child abuse. I am in favor of this bill.

Louise Young
Self -retired
Keller, TX

I am for HB1686

Sharon Lindsey, Chaplain
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Vickie Farris
Self, realtor
Corinth, TX

Children gender should never be changed and Public funds should never to used for this. Totally against children transitioning, God chose their gender when they were born.

Melissa Tipton
CCDF
Frisco, TX

Our brains do not fully develop until we are 25 years of age. I am a former school counselor and I can tell you from working with kids that they are all over the place. What they think one day can change the next. To allow children to make these changes before the age of consent would be criminal!!!!!! I personally know of a student whose parent came in to talk to myself and the principal because her daughter wanted to be a boy, and the parent was asking if the student could change from wearing the traditional skirt to pants, and if she could cut her hair short This was allowed, however, the school psychologist and myself encouraged the parent to not consider anything drastic until the child was older. (This student was in the 5th grade.) By the next school year this student had decided herself that she wanted to wear skirts and grow her hair out, and within another year after that she was chasing boys. This bill MUST be voted on.

Lou Vail, Ms
Self
Knox City, TX

I support 1686!

Lexi Summers
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this limitation on children.

Maritza Diaz
INDIVIDUAL
Austin, TX

I am so glad that this bill passed the Senate, now it is in the House. I hope this important bill will pass. Our young people need guidance and no surgeries. No-one under the age of 21 should be able to have a procedure that will change their gender. Even at 21 we still have a lot of maturing to do. Many times our young people make the wrong decisions base on popularity or pressures n by their peers.
Lets do not allow our children to make the wrong choice. Thanks

Jamie Atchley
Self, retired CPA
Keller, TX

I support prohibiting minors or their parents from seeking any procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria, and I do not want public money or public assistance to be used for any such treatments. Questioning identity is part of growing up, and children are not mature enough to make decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

Florencia Iturri, Dr.
self
Houston, TX

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1686. As a psychologist I know the many detrimental effects that preventing gender affirming care can have to the mental health and general wellbeing of trans youth. Passing this bill will result in further stigmatization of trans and LGBTQ youth at large and will lead to the loss of life. Moreover, such bills prevent doctors and parents from being able to provide the care that youth needs. Decisions about whether to seek gender-affirming care, and what specific services to utilize, must be made between a provider, patient, and the patient's parents or guardians. Such decisions are relative to the youth's individual clinical situation. Gender affirming care typically includes steps toward social transition, potentially treatments to temporarily postpone puberty, and in some instances, hormone replacement therapy (Coleman et al., 2012). Rather than allow flexibility to account for the varying needs of individuals, this bill adopts a "one size fits all" approach by categorically criminalizing the recommendation or provision of appropriate gender-affirming care. By preventing us as psychologists and medical professionals from providing gender affirming care you are also infringing upon our ethical code to do no harm. All major medical and psychological associations have spoken out against bills of this nature. Attacking a minority population is unconscionable, and to disguise it as care for youth is disingenuous.

Access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide (Bauer et al., 2015; Green et al., in press). Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021). Trans youth can lead happy and healthy lives if provided with the support and treatment that we know works, individualized to their needs. But denying them that opportunity outright and further stigmatizing them only hurts them.

These types of bills also hurt cis-gender kids who are being told that there is only one right way of being a boy or a girl. Who may have to face the loss of their friends because they may die of suicide or move away to avoid being persecuted by their states. These laws will affect who is willing to do business in our state, who is willing to live here, and which professionals are willing to train and practice here. As a psychologist I know this bill to be harmful. As a human I know it to be cruel. I urge you to protect our youth by not approving this bill.

Scott Riegler, Mr.
My self and North Texas Conservatives
frisco, TX

The attack on our children MUST stop, is this even America anymore.? Please make a stand and protect our children because e the people will NOT stand for this. Thank you for your time and your help. We will be watching.

Michael Murphy
Myself
Lake Jackson, TX

Please get this passed to serve Jesus words to prosper and obey Gods word

Jana May
Self/sales
Amarillo, TX

Pleas pass this bill

John Ott, Mr.
self
Fort Worth, TX

Minors or their parents making such life-changing irreversible decisions as "gender reassignment" is a mistake in so many ways. Please vote against the funding of such procedures.

Janey Stoody
Self photographer
Springtown, TX

I support HB 1686

Sheila Coombes
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I support this bill. This is focused on protection of minors. It does not infringe on the rights of the trans community.

Stephanie Elad
Self
Frisco, TX

I am for this bill. Please stop the mutilation of children in Texas.

Wen Tsung Lin
Self plant vice manager
Sugar Land, TX

For the bill

Audra Raines
Self
Cleburne, TX

SUPPORT

Judy Henson
Myself
Granbury, TX

Please pass this bill. Most who support remain quiet because we are conversation. Let our voices be heard. We support this bill to stop gender transitioning before the age of 18.

Sharon Mohammed
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Guido Caranti
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill

Brian Williams
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 1686: I urge voting yes to this bill. The gender dysphoria hysteria has reached fever pitch and young teens who legitimately seek “who they are” are being poisoned by an agenda that has no regard for them individually. Statistically, less than 4% (I think the number is less than 2%) suffer from real gender dysphoria. However, because of the woke agenda, it is “cool” to embrace one might be trans. There are numerous incidents of young people being encouraged to have life-altering surgery at a young age, to take physically-altering drugs pre-puberty when there was no dysphoria at all. We do not need state funding to support this travesty.

Susan Valliant
4603044802
Arlington, TX

House Bill 1686 b Oliverson NO public money or assistance should go into mutilating children. Please do support prohibiting public funds for destroying our youths.

Joe Henson
Myself
Granbury, TX

I support this bill to protect the children from the harm parents are creating by perceived notions that their children are of a different sex that God has assigned them.

Teri Bates, Mrs
Self
Corsicana, TX

Please support this bill banning gender surgery of children.

William-Preston Ballard, Agent
Self
Keller, TX

I am for passage of bill HB1686. Please do not use public money to harm children with gender reassignment surgery. These procedures should be outlawed.

Lucía Caranti
Self
Houston, TX

I support this bill!

Brooklynn Weech
Self
Fairview, TX

As adults we have a true responsibility to guide and guard our minors from making decisions that have a lifelong impact by minds that will not reach maturity until mid 20’s. We do not advocate many things due to safety of our children and doing less in terms of gender is misleading for our minors. We can not undo many things in life, such as take away disabilities to those that have suffered them through no fault of their own, so why is it that it should serve to change the gender from outside appearances when in fact, the gender within can never be changed? It is absurd and arrogant to even put this matter as a priority over the more serious and pressing issues we face as a nation. Let’s protect our children, let them be children, and instead focus on the drug crisis in our nation that will take away our children.

Tonya Spell
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686.

We have to defend the rights of children and protects them against this abuse when their brains are not fully formed to make such decisions that have implications for life.

Kylie Pope
Self
Hurst, TX

I support HB 1686

Misti Johnson
Self
Frisco, TX

Never should public assistance be given to any sort of gender reassignment surgery, or any medical transitioning, in particular for minors.
This is a mental health issue that needs to be addressed with those funds!
Never should anyone under the age of 25 be able to have any sort of transitional medical care or intervention. It’s proven the frontal cortex is not even fully developed until this age so NEVER should we EVER allow someone to make life altering decisions before then.

Ian Camacho
Self - Director of Research
Waco, TX

The primary issue with granting permission of children to get gender reassignment/transition and taxpayer funds to support, aside from the moral argument, is that it is an elective surgery by a person whose brain has not fully developed to make such life altering, irreversible decisions. There is a reason that we don't allow people to buy alcohol until 21, cigarettes until 18, or to purchase certain types of medication without an age limit, because they are adults with autonomy to make decisions and understand the consequences of their actions; a child does not. Furthermore, taxpayers should not be required to foot the bill of someone's decision to alter their body in an elective procedure as it is not life saving; while I oppose abortion, at least with the pro-abortion argument one can make a case that it saves the life of the mother. Transgender surgery is not critical, let alone in a child, and therefore has no life saving benefits. Gender dysphoria is a recognized mental disorder, and taxpayers should not support this any more than they should allow for removal of limbs from those suffering from alien arm syndrome or diet plans for anorexics. If anything, it would be better to redirect funds towards increased mental health support for such children, who do not know who they are or their identities at such a vulnerable age and not to aid them in mutilating their bodies.

Donna Collins
self-grandparent
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Joselieta Lontoc
Self
Katy, TX

I agree with this bill.

Pilar Caranti
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Sarah Clark
self
Austin, TX

Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child. We're doing our part and ask that you do yours to protect the right for trans Texans to access healthcare. These choses should be between parents and the medical professionals that are qualified to care for these individuals

Rachel Fagan
self
Austin, TX

I am a parent of two teenagers in Austin, TX, and we have the pleasure of knowing several trans friends who have or are currently receiving gender affirming care. I can say without a doubt that these kids would likely not be alive today if this care had not been available to them. ALL of them had caring parents and well-trained, expert doctors involved in this treatment with only the child's best interest in mind-- the only people who should be involved in a child's mental and physical welfare. NOT the state or the government. Kids will die if this bill passes. Period. I am voicing my strong opposition to HB 1686.

dianna biscan
self
Plano, TX

This is a mental health issue.....as we know alot of these Trans are emotionally, and mentally handicapped. Look at the tragedy in Nashville where a Trans Boy killed 5 people; including 3 children. These folks don't need a vagina; they need medical help.

I support HB 1686
Dianna Biscan
7714 Element; Plano 75024

Deborah Sallee
Self
Austin, TX

I believe that the legislature has no business interfering with the parental rights and health rights of these children. I disapprove of this bill.

Susan Mack
Self/Writer
AUSTIN, TX

This bill is cruel and will kill children. Please do not move it out of committee.

Stacy Vernon
Self
Dallas, TX

As a life-long Texan and a parent of a trans gendered child, I implore the committee to listen to the recommendations of the global and National medical communities advocating gender affirming care for our children. This protects and supports our kids' emotional and physical well-being. My child was suicidal and depressed prior to gender affirming care and is now much more stable and no longer suicidal. My child now feels a hope for their future. Please, please protect all the children in our state and do not support this bill.

Sanjay Kapasi
Self
Austin, TX

I Disapprove

John Wilcox
Self, Buisiness Management
Alameda, TX

I support HB1686. We cannot allow the mutiliation of children in order to further a political agenda. It is our job to protect these children. They are simply too young to make permanent life changing decisions prior to 18 years of age.

Joyce Moore
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

This bill is an example of government overreach. A bill like this will only hurt and discriminate against these children. As a Texan, I encourage you to help and support all children, our future Texans, and vote against this bill.

Patricia romero
Self
houston, TX

I support HB1686

Jamie Honeycutt
Self
Flower Mound, TX

I am in support of HB 1686.

Lavon Weemes
self Bookkeeper
Amarillo, TX

I strongly support this bill!

Alessia Cavazos
self, librarian
DeSoto, TX

There should be no prohibitions. If a child and their parent decide that treatment is right for them, then there is no reason that they should be blocked from receiving that treatment. Additionally, there should be no blockage on how public funds are used to provide treatment and procedures, especially for adults, who make these decisions for themselves and their health. This bills is inherently discriminatory, and should not move forward.

Ken Kelley
Self retired executive
Amarillo, TX

Let’s not harm children. Gender can not be assigned. Most regret this decision. Legal liability could attach if allowed.

Lisaann Prewett
Myself
Grandview, TX

It is morally abhorrent to PERMANENTLY change an under age child condemning them to known health consequences & conditions for a lifetime! Taking young healthy bodies and destroying them for a mental illness (or more probably peer pressure) is against an moral or ethical standards we have an obligation to adhere to. Please protect our children from this unprecedented and medically unsupported treatment.

Dana Aguilera
Self
Humble, TX

I support HB1686

Annie Geer
Self
Powderly, TX

No child needs to be altering their body in any way. Kids are easily influenced, or in rebellion, or going through phases. If kids have to be 18 or 21 to do different things and those things don't alter their body for the rest of their lives then why would we allow them to do anything at that age that impacts them medically, mentally, and physically forever. Parents are to provide insurance on kids till 25 yrs old because they aren't old enough to be mature enough or financially stable. So, no one should make any decisions about their body until they're older than 25.

Susan Scruggs, Precinct Chair #81
Montgomery county Republican Party
The woodlands, TX

Please vote for this bill. Physicians cutting off childrens’ body parts is a mental disorder. What happened to “Do no harm”? They know of the serious adverse effects of these hormones, incontinence for life, brittle bones, cardiovascular issues, suicides. Stop this madness, please. Thank you. Susan Scruggs

Blair Taylor
Self, university academic advisor
Dallas, TX

This is a dangerous and harmful bill that further marginalizes LGBT+ people. You are not protecting these kids, you are hurting them. Trans affirming care is life saving. This bill attacks trans people and strips parents and physicians of the rights to take care of kids.

Katherine Caldwell
Self - marketing professional and mother
Austin, TX

I cannot stress how AGAINST this bill I am. The State of Texas is not parenting my child, does not even KNOW my child, and does not get to intercede between me, my husband, and our doctors on medical decisions made around her care. Period. How do I stop "public money" from being spent on drafting this absolute crap, that goes directly against this administration's claim to support small government? THIS is government overreach at its boldest and most unnecessary.

Aldo Bohm, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

Against this. Please don’t pass it

Deana Loper
self - legal assistant
Springtown, TX

This is to inform you that I support HB 1686, and want to thank the Committee for the hard work and consideration.

Ryan Hill
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is badly written. It places the government between parents and health care providers. 50% of trans youth have contemplated suicide and 1/3 have attempted. If this bill passes it will likely cost young lives.

Covita Moroney
Self
San Antonio, TX

We hope, and pray that the representatives of the people will use their wisdom, their intelligence, their broad view of history and society, and compassion most of all.

Sara Laas
self, retired
Ausin, TX

NO to this bill. Legislators talk about parents’ rights. Now give parents their rights and vote NO to this bill.

Kahlyne Nolde
self, therapist
Pflugerville, TX

I am writing to ask you to vote against HB 1686, a bill that would prohibit healthcare providers from giving gender affirming care. LGBTQ youth are already at an increased risk of suicide, and denying them access to their healthcare increases the risk to their lives. This also interferes with a doctor's ability to provide ethical care according to their expertise. Please vote No to HB 1686.

Noah Stern
self
Austin, TX

I am firmly against the passage of HB 1686. I believe it is directly opposed to scientifically and medically supported evidence and will be extremely harmful to some of the most vulnerable citizens of our state.

James Jennings
Self-Business Owner
N Richland Hills, TX

We will live to regret it if we allow our children to be mutilated. God forbid that we should allow them to make their own decisions on such permanent, life-altering matters before their minds are capable of making a mature and educated study of the potential consequences. Please fight for their right to decide on their own, when they are more fully capable of understanding the long-term consequences.

Brenda Rodgers
Self
Hollywood Park, TX

I firmly believe this should not happen, the public tax payer should not pay for gender reassignment, nor should minors be allowed to undergo this procedure

Laura Pratt
Self. Mom of 2.
Dallas, TX

This bill is abhorrent as written. This bill will hurt Texans that I love. Medical and mental health care that a person deems needed should be accessible to any Texan, any person regardless of their gender identity. This is an unlawful bill by design. But maybe even worse, a waste of taxpayers' dollars to debate and then have it appealed.

Rachel Gossen
self, Early Childhood Teacher & Substitute Teacher
Austin, TX

Please vote NO on HB 1686. Listen to transgender youth, their families, and mental and medical health professionals. Proper healthcare, including gender-affirming care, reduces the risk of suicide for transgender youth. We can not deny them this support.

Ryan Kjome, MD
self
Austin, TX

My name is Dr. Ryan Lee Kjome, I am a licensed physician in the state of Texas. I am a psychiatrist, and I specialize in the treatment of severe resistant depression, chronic suicidality, and PTSD. Through this work I also have become a specialist in the treatment of trans mental health issues. Because of suicidality and trauma, these folks have presented themselves to me over and over again with suffering.

I could have presented my originally testimony full of statistics and professional experience that went unheard. I could focus on the callous politico I heard speak about a completed suicide being different than the real suffering of suicidality I could easily refute his statistics. I could counter that the paucity of data is because research on trans people is lacking because we don't receive research dollars. I could go into a long and elegant description of behavioral health studies, that none of our outcomes are completely causal, that they are correlative because humans aren't rats, we have multiple variables that affect our outcomes, and no study, even those with the most elegant Bayesian statistical design will change that. That the zombie number 95% "grow out of it" is not even a real number. I could argue the ethical point that pre-arguing the point of suicide because you know its real and it is the biggest detractor from this legislation is abhorrent, cruel, and crass beyond measure. But I won't.

I will instead argue a personal one, one that bubbled up cathartically as I lay on the cold ground outside the hearing room at midnight. The story of a wide shouldered guy in 6th grade in Big Lake, planted in that space and time by a father's work in the oil field. That guy, yelled at in Walmart for "using the wrong bathroom," called fag and tranny before those words existed in his lexicon. A guy that was happy and then all of a sudden not. A guy who knew to survive he would have to assimilate, look the part. Graduating high school successfully, college magna cum laude, UT Houston McGovern Medical school, residency, research fellowship (yes I have research credentials and all that crap Monday I heard was ignorant), married, seemingly in a very heterosexual and cis fashion. Academic pursuits, professional success, parenthood. Assimilation is the key? No. Twist: this guy knew exactly who he was, stopped and tried to be a "woman" (not a medical term Mr. Tinderholt) for decades. He woke up and considered suicide almost daily, trying twice. He came out last year, and can finally be. There is no assimilation without a price. Letting people be themselves is not a bad option. This pretty good looking trans guy sat right beside Mr. Four Price in the capitol grill for lunch, and nothing bad happened to him, no contagion. Because we are all human, our true needs universal. This bill is dangerous, it is bad faith, founded on political fear not reality. As a trans doctor in Texas I find it disgusting, and designed to destroy trans people.

Alan Barnard
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Tyler Brynn, tyler903@sbcglobal.net
Self
Allen, TX

Persons under 25 are too young and lack the maturity to surgically modify their bodies into eternity.

Too many kids now have buyers’ remorse and regret having had their bodies hacked up and their perfectly healthy organs removed .

Pls support HB 1686 and don’t be intimidated.

Jim Johnson
Self
Greenville, TX

Strongly oppose gender assignment and use of public funds for that purpose

Gary Alford
Self
Denton, TX

For this bill

Cynthia Thane
no
Austin, TX

My entire family is strongly against this bill, which is beyond intrusive into parental rights. This is an alien concept to the Republican party we used to know.

Kelly Link
self
Dallas, TX

All children should have access to gender affirming healthcare. Receiving gender affirming care reduces the risk of suicide in trans youth.

Focus your efforts instead on passing legislation for common sense gun laws. Easy access to firearms is directly correlated with #1 cause of death for youth to be gun violence.

Get your priorities straight and do the right thing!

Nidhi Nakra
Self, public health consultant
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

It puts the state in between parents, children and doctors, and puts children at risk. Current statistics show that 50% of trans kids have contemplated suicide in the past year, and 1/3 of them will attempt it. Gender affirming care cuts that number in half. Children will die if this bill passes.

This is an issue of equity and social justice. Imagine if this child was yours and was denied needed medical care. Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Ray Pinson
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686.

Nafanua Manns
Women of Purpose Grp
Harker Heights, TX

Were for this bill.

Elizabeth Fauerso, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

This is discriminatory and interferes in the relationship between Dr and patient and parents and children. As a resident of Texas, parent, and tax payer I strongly oppose

Lisa Maxwell
Self
Austin, TX

Healthcare decisions should be made between patients, their families and the licensed medical professionals who best understand these matters. It is not the position of legislators to interfere with individual rights.

Erika Humke
Self / Nonprofit Manager
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I believe it will endanger the well-being of trans Texans. It sets a dangerous precedent for dehumanizing our fellow citizens and we must stand up for the rights of all in our community.

Allyson Vaughn
Self
Dallas, TX

Gender-affirming medical care is the recommended, evidence-based approach to treat gender dysphoria in youth. This legislation will harm children as opposed to helping them. Allow the parents of these children to make informed decisions with their child's medical provider as recommended by the many medical institutions that recommend this treatment.

Yuting Wang
Self
Sugar Land, TX

I support HB1686

Edlow Schwing
The schwing Team
Katy, TX

I am for this bill!!!

Jeanne Nonnenmacher
Self. Retired Nurse
Houston, TX

I support HB1686. I trust that the legislature will make the proper moral decision. Thank you!

Colette McCadden
Self/physical therapist
Frisco, TX

I support this bill.

Gretchen Charrier
UT Austin
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The state government should not insert itself in the relationship between parents, children, and their doctors. I am afraid of the harm and the potential number of children who will commit suicide if this bill passes. Support love and support families that do not conform to the "normal."

Monica Miller
Self
Hurst, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly!!

Children change their mind every few minutes. This is life altering and is wrong to do to the young!

Judith Canion
Republican Precinct Chair 2120
Dallas, TX

Please vote to prohibit child mutilization! No minor should ever be given Harmon therapy or have healthy sex organs removed! Please save our children!

Sharon Lippincott
self
Austin, TX

Among all the other reasons you are hearing in favor of defeating this bill, it will break up families. A suprisingly large number of grandparents who live here will lose the support of their children and grandchildren as those younger members are forced to leave the state in order to protect the lives and mental health of their gender dysphoric offspring. Please, please, please, concentrate on important topics like reducing gun violence, increasing funding for education, and strengthening the power and water grids and let parents and doctors determine what care their children need.

Carol Cole
Self - Retired
Fort Worth, TX

I am definitely for prohibiting these procedures which are, in my view, mutilating our children. Please vote YES to prohibit these procedures and treatments.

Rafael Pena
Self. Engineer.
Borger, TX

I support HB 1686.

Wesley Hesker
self
Fredericksburg, TX

I represent myself and I am FOR HB1686. I request that you support the passage out of committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Jane Garman
NA
Keller, TX

I support this bill & hope TX will stand strong prohibiting transgender procedures & treatments for children.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please do not be swayed by the "louder voices" coming forward to oppose this. You know the people you represent in your districts, and they have probably expressed their outrage and shock over what our children are being exposed to - both in and out of school. Those are real people living in this state that want you to do anything you can to stop this evil being imposed on children who don't know better. Please do the right thing. Passing this will hopefully be the right step towards shutting down this movement that is so harmful to all of us.

Debbie Nathan
Myself
McKinney, TX

Stop this madness. Save our children from parents that have no idea the long term repercussions of manipulating what God has created.

anne s johnson
tax payer
Austin, TX

Support this common sense bill 100%! Will help children not ruin their lives before they are old enough to make permanent life changing decisions.

Sylinda Glass
People for logical thinking
Granbury, TX

I believe it s insane to say a child should decide such biological matters at a young age! I totally agree with hb1686!

Lloyd Belville
Sself
Carrollton, TX

I am in favor of and for HB 1686. Chemically and surgically modifying minor children to change their assigned sex is criminal and satanic. No minor child has the mental abilities to make such a decision themselves. We know that insurance companies set rates for car insurance to reflect the immaturity in thinking by minors even until age 25. And these procedures cannot change nature. They remain boys ands girls genetically. No public money should be allocated to support gender modification procedures and it should not be allowed for minors until they reach adult status and can make their own decision. Please pass this bill with haste for the sake of my grandchildren and their children.

Kim Dean
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The state of Texas should not interfere with families, doctors and their health decisions. Keep the government out of our medical decisions.

Melanie Buhrman, Mrs
Self
Austin, TX

This comment is in support of banning any modification prior to adulthood. We have an obligation to our children to allow them to be children. Not to be sexualized unnaturally prior to adulthood.ALL humans experience confusion about who, and what we are as we are growing up, we must ban anyone who wants to legally mutilate children or chemically put things into their bodies to change their make up. There are many things that are correctly restricted prior to adulthood. Tattoos alcohol smoking even renting a car driving a car. These restrictions are not banning the use. We are delaying until adulthood where people can make their minds up and even then they are legally allowed to make their own mistakes. Once they are adults in our society, they can freely make up their mind. What is correct for them. The science is showing that many of the young people who have experienced various aspects of gender modifications at young ages subsequently come to regret it.

Kayla Murphy
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I am a RN since 2006 and I was a school nurse for 5 years. (Before I learned that vitriol principals lie and hide events from parents). The students I observed that were troubled, mentally challenged, cutters, violent, molesters of other children, and the ones we put on suicide protocols were almost all children of progressive gender confused parents. It is just a fact that kids that are mutilated and prescribed meds have severe mental problems and the parents are so involved in this progressive movement they can't see right from wrong. These teenagers deserve to have a normal upbringing and when they are old enough to get a job, vote and have opinions of their own and want to spend their own money for these progressive programs they can.

As for the sheer number of these protesters. I can assure you that just because they are there and scream the loudest doesn't mean they are right or have a majority. Every family I know if working right now and can't take off to Austin and furthermore don't want to be around those loud activists.

Harley Payne
Self
Carrollton, TX

Not allowing people, especially children, access to gender affirming care in inhumane. The sad thing is I believe you know that and you simply do not care. Politicians have nothing of actual value to offer citizens so they whip them into a frenzy over non-issues. "Nevermind the allegations that Governor Greg Abbott demanded energy costs remain as high as possible as the state froze over and people died, some people born with a ding dong are more comfortable being called a girl!"
I'm sure people who read this will just dismiss it. "Oh well being Trans is fine but do they need surgery" is what they'll say and we'll come back with "In some cases yes. We should let Doctors who have actually studied the field decide what's best for a specific individual because all credible medical research into this topic has proven it saves lives, and furthermore banning these treatments for children would also cause harm to children who identity as the gender they were assigned at birth as they need to make use of such surgeries and hormone treatments as well." But the conversation always ends there only to repeat later. Because people who support banning Gender Affirming care do not care about facts, logic, or the lives of children.
As far as tax money goes, the "religious freedom" argument is bull and we all know it. Jesus ate with lepers, he isn't going to condemn you for allowing Trans parents, parents of Trans kids, and just general tax payers the dignity of their life saving care with funds they also contribute to.

Rachel Ozanne
Self, history instructor
Austin, TX

Please do not pass this legislation. The medical profession, including the American Medical Association, has confirmed that medical treatment for transgender people, including children, can be provided safely—and can be life saving. The majority of citizens of Texas do not want this law. Please, please listen to doctors and their transgender patients, and do not pass this harmful and unnecessary legislation. I submit these comments on behalf of myself, as a private citizen, and do not intend to represent anyone other than myself.

Miriam Luetje
Self / nurse
AUSTIN, TX

I do not support this bill and strongly urge the committee to vote against it. The government should not be involved in individual's healthcare choices.

Autumn Zevely
Myself
Richardson, TX

I am against and child undergoing gender reassignment treatments. It’s incredibly abusive and unethical. If they want to choose as an adult with a fully formed brain, fine, but not as a child.

JEFFREY MAYS
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. I have lived in Texas most of my life, and Austin for the last 20 years. I raised 4 children, so I am an experienced parent. I also value Texas' former inclination toward personal freedom which is steadily being eroded by a new censoriousness and intrusion in personal matters that government should not concern itself with. I oppose the imposition of government will in matters like gender dysphoria which belong between doctors and patients. Government should focus on traditionally and historically acceptable areas of concern such as security—especially needed in the wake of the ongoing trend of mass shootings, regulation of corporate attempts to exploit people and natural resources, and caring for the poor and needy.

Linda Kim
Self, Fiber artist
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. All people, including children, are free to choose.

Danny Stimson
Self
Richardson, TX

Support

Patty Witte
Self, retired
San Marcos, TX

This is a morality issue for myself as a Christian.
Also, it does not allow the child to grow and develop into an adult who is capable of obtaining the knowledge and maturity they need to make this permanent decision.

Faith Hale
Self, teacher/minister
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB1686

Children ought to be protected, and it’s the job of adults to determine what is best for them. Children don’t always know what’s best for them, that’s why they have parents.
Studies have shown that gender reassignment surgeries and other related treatments harm children both mentally and physically. Many who underwent such surgeries as children are now experiencing deep regret years later, but the damage has already been done. We should listen to those who’ve been through these experiences and protect the children of this generation.

Jacqueline Sharrow
self / stay at home mom
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Alejandra Briseno
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I’m a voting Texan & want to register my opposition to this bill. Every medical association supports gender affirming care. There are more important issues our TX legislature need to manage.

Nina Nolen
Self
Round Rock, TX

In SUPPORT OF HB1686. No Child is born in the wrong body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm
Their brains aren’t finished developing until their late 20s. Let them decide then.

Jennifer Staton
self
Houston, TX

please pass this bill. Children under 18 are to young to make permanent decisions for themselves. That is why they can't legally smoke til 18 or legally drunk til 21 or legally drive til at least 16. Let's protect our children because if we don't one day they will grow up questioning how the adults allowed them to do this when they change their mind in their 30s or40s wanting to start a family or something. Protect our Texas Kids. Thank you.

Malinda Lyda
Self
San Antonio, TX

I support HB 1686. Please do not allow out children to be used as experimental medical pawns.

Kimberly George
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support this bill.

Melia Stamps
University of North Texas
Denton, TX

This bill would have catastrophic impacts to young people. Speaking as an educator in a high school, the sort of problems that this bill thinks it addresses simply do not exist. They are propaganda-laden fiction. Even if this bill must pass, it needs significant amendments. For one, grandfathering in children already receiving care. For another, children from other states shouldn't be unable to continue their care in Texas under the equal protection clause. Additionally, psychiatrist's prescription of gender affirming care should not be prohibited. I assume that I cannot prevent the Senate from passing this horrendous, disgraceful bill. But at least amend it so that it is not remembered as a blot on American history when it is inevitably repealed.

Melinda Finch
Self
Porter, TX

Please STOP transitioning children! Aren't you glad you weren't transitioned as a kid? Most of us are glad! Even though I was a Tom boy growing up…I'm sure glad my mom didn't transition me! This is evil!

Alicia Villarreal
Self- Music Director
Pflugerville, TX

My bachelors degree is in music education, I taught choir in middle and high schools in Austin for 4 years. I continue to teach young singers in my work with a local youth choir, and as a music director at University United Methodist Church. Many young singers in choirs are members of the queer community.

I've had the privilege of shepherding students through the minefield of being a gender non-conforming middle school child. For many of these kiddos, access to gender affirming care was an unachievable dream. They mostly wished and hoped for other students to be kind to them, for teachers to respect their pronouns and allow them to wear uniforms that aligned with their gender identity, for their families to accept them. The parents who are testifying today to defend their child's right to gender affirming care are magnificent outliers- many children are desperate to have the level of support that they offer to their kids. Many of these parents will tell stories about how long it took them to understand their child's gender transition needs, these are not decisions taken lightly or made hastily.

I want to speak to my own experiences of gender dysphoria. If you were assigned female at birth, I'm sure you can relate to feeling the need to constantly police your body. How am I sitting? Do I look small enough, feminine enough? The dysphoria I experience is similar- but much magnified. It's the certainty that everyone in the room is staring at you, clocking your discomfort, aware that your body is wrong. It can consume your awareness, making it impossible to think about anything else. It can make it impossible to leave your room, to dress yourself, to even exist around other people. And even at its best managed- it is a constant hum of discomfort, background noise that I have to intentionally tune out in order to work or rehearse. Trans kids deserve the ability to focus on school, on friends, on singing or dancing or playing sports. And if they are blessed enough to have parents who help them access the care that frees up their brain space to live their lives fully, why would anyone want to prevent that?

While I do not personally believe that your faith should guide your political decisions, I have lived in the reality of the faith permeated society that is Texas for the majority of my life. So I want to speak now as a trans person of faith. I know that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. I know that the entirety of who I am, and who my young trans siblings are, including our gender and sexuality, is inherently worthy of love. I believe that God hears the cries of their trans children, and has answered our prayers with the doctors who provide care that saves our lives. God is present in the love shown by parents who seek help for their trans children, in the love of doctors who aid trans children. At the core of my faith is Gods love and care for all of their children. This bill is antithetical to that love. I urge you to oppose HB 1686.

John G Maltabes
Self
Austin, TX

Why do you think you know better than the AMA and the personal doctors of these trans kids. You aren't medical professionals, yet you act as if you are. Don't even think you know better than the parents of the trans kids, who live with them 24/7. If you really want to protect kids' lives, why not ban assault weapons and enact a three day waiting period to buy guns, and limit the amount of bullets that you can buy at any one time. Leave trans kids, their doctors and their parents alone.

Holly Johnson
Self/Sales
Austin, TX

I'm in favor of this legislation.

Marisa Dollar
Self
Spring, TX

Na

Rich Wilson
Self
Sanger, TX

I support this bill.

Karen Gilbert
Mama Bears Rising
Conroe, TX

Vote for the bill!

Alejandra Briseno
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a voting Texan, our legislators have more vital & life threatening issues to manage than HB 1507.

Dawn Campbell
Self. Stager
Little Elm, TX

Please protect children! We all know that children cannot make such life altering decisions at this age. Certainly no federal or state funds need to be allocated for such.

alisa strickland
Self -AR Snr Associate
Dallas, TX

Transgender children deserve the right to grow up authentically with any medical interventions such as puberty blockers or hormones to be prescribed by the excellent doctors of Texas.

This bill is bigotry. This bill will cost children's lives

Abel Lomas
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Our government has no right to ban children or their families the right to identify as a particular gender or to transition to their identified gender.

Jeanette Campbell
Self
Little elm, TX

No no and no. There is no way children understand the ramifications of such a life altering decision. This will not make them happy. How many times will they change their mind about their favorite color or interests… This is a movement to ruin our children and confuse them. Please do not allocate state funds for this manipulation.

Stephanie Pancioli
Pipeline
Houston, TX

I fully support this bill

Barbara Clay
Self Voter
Dallas, TX

I fail to understand how the party of small government has decided it is qualified to practice a variety of medical specialities. These issues are not your business. The people need care not hostility not the uncertainty that comes with government interference with healthcare. This bill should not pass.

Cheslea Taylor, Mrs.
Self/Homemaker
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Kevin Lucas
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

I strongly urge this bill to be withdrawn or rewritten. The bill in its current form assumes that there are no medically valid reasons for any procedures on a minor relating to gender except those when very specific chromosome based test results are received. Psychological test results, any future new forms of gender related physical test results and (most importantly) risk of suicide in the minor must then legally all be ignored, regardless of the medical or any other evidence. There are no exceptions for any other evidence or reasoning that may be important to the health and life of the minor. This is bad law practice.
- at the very least, allow a judge to hear evidence why it is in the best interest of the minor's health and life to allow a gender related medical procedure.

Debra Watson
Self
Denton, TX

SUPPORT

Gender transitioning is flat-out wrong and is ruining society and humanity and, in fact, already has! It is absolutely wrong to use public funds toward this absurdity!

Jeanette Jones
Self
Wylie, TX

I support this bill.

Serena Storm
Self - Event Planner at Rice University
Houston, TX

I am FOR the passing of this bill. Children do not have developed brains at young ages to understand the world or themselves. Additionally, public money and assistance should be used in numerous other ways to keep children safe, and allow them to grow up to when they can make life altering decisions for themselves.

Alexandra Webb, Dr.
Self
Dallas, TX

As a physician, I urge you to remove this bill from consideration and allow professionals to provide evidence-based care to at risk individuals

Frances Kirby, Ms
Self - Retired
Princeton, TX

Not in favor of altering minor children's gender! Any alterations can be made after a child reaches adulthood!

Kathryn Masterson
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly disapprove of this bill. The state should not be dictating medical care that is best left to trained, credentialed medical doctors and the parents or legal guardians of minors.

Nikki Henrichsen
Self/Homemaker
Sugar Land, TX

I am in SUPPORT of this bill and need to voice my support for it. Until a child is 18, NO one should have the right to force gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria without the parents' consent. No public money or public assistance (in other words, my tax dollars) to provide those procedures and treatments.

Jason Gosser
CCDF
Little Elm, TX

I am in support of this bill. Minors are too young to be making life altering decisions that can’t be reversed. These types of decisions need to be made when they’re an adult when they have more life experience. More than likely they’ll grow out of it or they could change their mind. We definitely should not be using public dollars to assist in any type of transiting, reassignment, or dysphoria!

Sue Battles
Self
Irving, TX

I support HB 1686 .

Brenda Bonser
self
New Braunfels, TX

I do not believe public money should be used for any procedures or treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria for children of any age. I do not believe this should be taught in the schools and that parents should be the only ones making decisions for their children on all of these issues and on all health issues.

Stephanie Crise, Dr.
Self
Mckinney, TX

Please vote YES for this bill

Daniel Miller
self
Austin, TX

As a citizen of Austin, it appalls me to think that the government is trying to overreach this heavily. Texas is all about less government overreach, but this bill clearly increases the level of government overreach. Why are we focusing on taking away something that adds positive value to someone's life. We should be focusing on introducing bills that actually afflict and affect the vast majority of children in the state, like the abysmal education system, our failing foster care system, and increasing levels of childhood poverty. Do better. I am ashamed of all you.

Erna Schnebly
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support this bill to protect our children from the consequences of making a decision they can never undo. Familes are stressed enough. Let kids be kids. They can make this weighty decision when they grow up.

Danny Miller
Common Sense America
North Richland Hills, TX

I know common sense is not a big player (especially in the government) any more, but someone has to be the adult here. You can’t drink, can’t vote, but can decide if you want to cut your pecker off or add one. Are you kidding me? What ever happened to just being a “good old homosexual “? The rest of the civilized world is laughing at USA? While we’re debating this, everyone else is debating who’s going to be IN CHARGE. GOD BLESS AMERICA!!

Merton Rosenberg
?
Frisco, TX

Globalists are trying to reduce our population. Every child they can get a gender change cannot reproduce. Parents absolutely have to be involved before any child can get a sex change.

Steven Garman
N/A
Keller, TX

Allowing children under 18 years of age to decide to have gender reassignment surgery or permitting medical personnel to perform such procedures is simply insane and should not be allowed.

Jennifer Alvarez
self
Sherman, TX

I have children, and I would hope that if there was a medical need for their well-being that the government would stay out of it. This is a healthcare decision taking place in a family, from the party of small government you would think those presenting such ideas would be adverse to having the government so involved in a family healthcare decision.

Dottie Fortner
Self
Robstown, TX

In favor of

Maxine Garcia, APRN
self
Little Elm, TX

Procedures which are not lifesaving should only be performed on consenting adults. No individual should have their body changed without the maturity to understand the long-term effects on their bodies, especially when it pertains to procedures that are non-revisable. The laws should be in place to protect children until they become of age to make their own informed decisions that will affect the rest of their lives.

Martin Porter
Self
Flower Mound, TX

Yes vote for HB 1686. This a good start in stopping this disgusting practice. Next laws need to be passed making it a crime to perform any of these procedures and treatment to kids. Punishment should be jail time for all involved including for doctors, hospitals, clinics, parents, teachers, insurance companies, medical staff, judges, politicians. Jesus told us to take care of his children. It is a shame we need to pass such laws to protect our children. Up to this point our society raised our children with moral clarity and common sense. We have let evil take over. God will judge us on what we did to stop this evil.

Kim Gutierrez
self - National Retail Account Manager
Austin, TX

Children who have identified themselves opposed to the gender they were born require even more care and should not be prevented from accessing care.

Julie Caceres
Self
Fort Worth, TX

FOR

Robbie Pearson, Ms
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please support this bill.

Ruth Lopez
Self/Homemaker
McKinney, TX

I am for HB 1686. We must speak clearly and strongly as Texans, that we are for protecting every child. Defend the defenseless. Do not appropriate one cent toward this irreversible mutilation of body, mind and spirit.

Payton Doss
Self
Keller, TX

For

Janet Gavitt
Self / Customer service
Dallas, TX

Healthcare decisions need to be made by physicians and parents, not politicians.
Gender affirming care IS Healthcare

Lisa Parker
self - content developer
Austin, TX

Why is the public health committee spending time on this issue when so many children are dying from gun violence? Every medical and social support organization recommends gender-affirming health care as a best practice for children with gender dysphoria. Why do the sponsors of this bill think they know better? If you move forward with HB 1686, children will die. Let the people who know the most about these children help them make decisions - their doctors and parents. The state doesn't belong in the relationship between children, doctors, and parents. Thank you.

Jsnet Wright
Self
New Braunfels, TX

I support Hb 1686

Robert Lopez
Self/ Network Engineer
McKinney, TX

I am firmly for HB1686. God bless Texas.

Bryann Zielinski
Self
North Richland Hills, TX

On April 20th, 2020, at 6:30pm my husband shot himself in the guest room of our home. From that moment my whole world shattered. Everything about the life I lived, the person I was, the beliefs I held all splintered into a thousand jagged pieces. Surviving the suicide of a spouse is a particular kind of cruelty.
When I first learned of the astronomical suicide rate among the LGBTQIA community, I knew I could not remain complicit or silent. I will not be a party to making another family live through the suicide of their loved one. The majority of the lawmakers proposing the anti-gay and anti-trans laws in Texas call themselves christians. The gospel good news, as evidenced by the New Testament, brought people running towards Jesus—not away from Him. The good news isn't good if it leads people into shame, self-loathing, self-harm or suicide.
Ignorance of science/biology & religious bigotry are fueling laws like SB1686.
Did you know that 1.7% of the population is born intersex? If you don't know the science behind intersex, you have no business passing legislation that affects them.
Did you know that 5% of the population are transgender or non-binary. In our school system alone, that is 2.5 MILLION transgender students.
What does 1.7% & 5% look like? In a church of 500, there are 8-9 intersex individuals and 25 people who are transgender/non-binary.
In a high school with 5,000 students, 85 are intersex and 250 are transgender/non-binary.
In a stadium that holds 80,000, 1360 were born intersex and 4,000 identify as trans/non-binary.
In a room of only 60 people, 1 will be intersex and 3 will be trans/non-binary.
Did you know the Jewish population in prewar Germany consisted of .75% (less than 1%) yet we all know how that ended. During the first six years of Hitler's dictatorship, Jews felt the effects of more than 400 decrees and regulations that restricted all aspects of their public and private lives. State, regional, & municipal officials, acting on their own initiatives, also issued many exclusionary decrees in their own communities. Thus, hundreds of individuals in all levels of government throughout the country were involved in the persecution of Jews as they conceived, discussed, drafted, adopted, enforced, and supported anti-Jewish legislation.
SB1686, and those like it, bears a strong resemblance to the German tactics in the 1930s. Germans used Christian ideology to justify their actions & I am seeing the same in Texas today. Much like 1930s Germany, families are being separated as individuals flee texas for safety and needed healthcare.
As a Christ follower, as a TX parent & lifelong resident, I am begging you to reject SB1686 because ALL people are human. ALL people are precious. ALL people are fearfully and wonderfully made. ALL people deserve dignity. And ALL people deserve life. If you call yourself pro-life you cannot take action that drives UP the suicide rate. If you say you value life, you must value ALL life!

Sean Nelsobn
Citizen
Trophy Club, TX

I (and 3 other members of my household) am in full SUPPORT of this bill, we cannot continue to allow the gender insanity and mutilation of children.

Justin Minsker
self
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill.

samantha armbruster
self
san marcos, TX

I oppose HB 1686 because I feel finding help is something everyone should do more of and am against anything that would lessen the resources anyone has to receive the help they feel they need.

Ashton Guerry
Self
Carrollton, TX

None

Molly Plunk
Self/retired
Sulphur Springs, TX

I am for HB 1686, PROHIBITING changing the gender of innocent children. Please, save our children!

Gale Duran, Dr
Pro life
Corinth, TX

Every person has the right to life please stop with gender changes

Ivan Rivera
Self
Lake Dallas, TX

For

Donna Smith, Ms
self
Denton, TX

No child is born in the wrong body! We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. Stop childhood gender mutilation! Thanks, Donna Smith

Travis Towell
Self financial planner
Abilene, TX

No sterilization/mutilation of kids please.

Nettie Reynolds
Self/Writer
Austin, TX

Children are dying by guns every single day. I reject the need for this bill, I support all those who are fighting against it. As a previous hospital chaplain and a person of faith I find this unconscionable in how parents and children with real needs are being attacked daily. I reject the conservative drive to regulate womens' bodies, trans bodies and gender reassignment issues. Shame on your for your partisan efforts that harm so many. Please do not vote for this, I ask you.

Kim Klinge
Self
Frisco, TX

Against

Lynda Prejna
Self
Cypress, TX

Stop!

Donna and Tim McElmurry
Self administrative asst.
Katy, TX

For

Lisa Dumestre Brown
Self - Music Educator
Spring, TX

Puberty Blockers

At younger and younger ages, hormones in kids start raging and they have mood swings, and often depression (I certainly did) …..the way it's been since the beginning of time. We all had to muck through those painful years, and I would never want to re-live that time period. Too many kids (and many parents) are looking for any kind of relief or excuse to run away from it. When kids are younger, they are unequipped to make a profound life-altering decision during that time. Like everyone else, they need to learn to just suck it up and endure what nature created. Then, once they come out on the other side (usually in mid-to late 20s), it is their choice. Even though I disagree with the concept of transitioning, they are adults, and it's none of my business.

On a related topic, and something I vehemently oppose, is the ability for anyone in an educational organization to have ANY influence on the subject. That responsibility lies squarely on their parents…..period.

There are too many examples of regret later for their transformation. After they go through the procedure, there's no way to undo the fundamental changes they made (to their body's natural physiology), making them incapable of performing basic functions of their original gender (ie, breastfeeding). Until their bodies and brains are fully developed, they can't make fully educated, logical and rational decisions, and should not be allowed to transition biologically. And most important, parties outside of the parent/guardian relationship, need to butt out of the family's business.

Stacie Holt
self
Smithville, TX

These procedures should be available to all children experiencing these issues. Without treatment, these children are far more likely to commit suicide and/or other self destructive behaviors.

Janelle Marvin
Self
Dallas, TX

I am against HB 1686. Our government has no place intervening in medical decisions between a patient and a doctor. Please do not allow this HB to go forward.

James Branden, Mr.
Self
Carrollton, TX

Against

Kevin Ton
Trans rights for procedures/ self
Despegó, TX

Hi, I would like to inform you about the impact affected by the trans community regarding very sensitive topic of bodily transitioning, and how many in their community have morris syndrome know as 46 XY androgen insensitivity syndrome which is when a person would have a high level of testosterone and other male sex hormones, but the testosterone does not affect the foetal cells that usually develop into male sexual organs because of a mutation in the androgen receptor gene. These people do not have internal female sexual organs, and form testicles that remain concealed in the abdominal cavity. Most girls with androgen syndrome unlike others discover through puberty. These special cases would enable them to menstruate or bare children. Girls with this abnormalities are estimately diagnosed at the age of 7 or 8 years old and some at 34 have not been diagnosed. The comparison to older age vs younger development is because these developments by women are almost normal compared to younger. Women with gonadal dysgenesis have a mutation in the SRY gene of the Y chromosome that encodes for a protein known as the testicular determining factor that normally results in the testicles developing in the early weeks of foetal development. In the absence of the protein, the testicles do not develop and female sexual organs that are almost normal develop instead. The women do not develop secondary female characteristics such as breasts, but they have a womb, so with appropriate hormone treatment and fertilized egg implantation they can actually become pregnant and give birth. The problem with this is that if the ovaries are not developed ,and if the overies are not remove will result in developing ovarian cancer. It is important to note all of this procedures is to help people with indifferent bodily function be comfortable with living a humane life of comfort without discrimination. Thank you for your time.

Stephanie Humphreys
self
Austin, TX

- Please focus on issues that concern the betterment of the greater population - such as food insecurity and affordable housing!
- Why is the public health committee spending time on this issue when so many children are dying from gun violence?

Laura Wolovits, MD
self, pediatrician
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 1686. As a Texan, as a physician, as a pediatrician- supporting gender affirming care is evidence based and the standard of care. Please keep the government out of the doctor's office. Please allow physicians to do their job. Please allow parents to take care of their children.

Linda Durn in, Ms.
self
Austin, TX

Dear Representatives, I support the BAN for Gender Modification on children or actually, anyone. I am a Medical Technologist (ASCP) and trained at MD Anderson in Houston, TX. I also did Biochemical Research at Audie Murphy Hospital in San Antonio. After listening to the hearing on Monday, March 27th, I realized that the correct psychological therapy has not been given to these people as it was in the past. By giving the blockers and hormones to these individuals, it is apparent to me that many devasating effects will happen to these poor unsuspecting children and people. I have not seen pharmaceutical studies that have determined the long range effects which I fear will be horrendous such as cancer, bone loss, dementia, etc. I see a collision course with these hormone changing drugs on the body. We are playing with an emotional fire storm with our children and adults. Many of these results are permanent and cannot be reversed. What I do see is a Drive Through Window with a prescribed main stream menu for psychotherapies, blockers, surgery, and hormones that will effect these peoples' lives with no consideration of their future. The Pharmaceutical Companies, therapists, and doctors are putting money before the welfare of their patients. Please vote to BAN Gender Modification. Thank you, Linda Durnin

Suzanne Klinge
Self
Little Elm, TX

I support this bill! Thank you

Aurel Garza-Tucker
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is ridiculous and shouldn’t be passed. Let parents and physicians make decisions for their own children without unnecessary interference.

Ashton Guerry
Self
Carrollton, TX

I support this bill because these procedures are irreversible and therefore should not be an option for a child under 18 years of age.

Dan Klinge
Self
Little Elm, TX

I am in SUPPORT of this bill.

Julie Mack
self, software developer/ceo
Austin, TX

Please don't pass this bill. This is a decision to be made by parents. My brother's child is trans and I'm sure would be dead if they hadn't transitioned. I don't understand it all but I can tell you they are much much happier now.

Jimmy George
Self
Manchaca, TX

Why is the public health committee spending time on this issue when so many children are dying from gun violence?

Patricia Goforth
Self Real estate broker
Austin, TX

Strongly Oppose this bill. Medical decisions for a child need to be between a parent and their medical professional. As a parent, guiding your child as they struggle with depression or suicidal ideation is a huge role and choosing a treatment that is safe, effective and approved by the FDA is ideal. Limiting parental options in how they can assist their children will only cause children to continue being depressed and suicidal. WE NEED POLICIES THAT SUPPORT AND PROTECT FAMILIES, NOT LIMIT OPTIONS.

A 2020 peer-reviewed study by The Trevor Project's researchers, published in the Journal of Adolescent Health, found that transgender and nonbinary youth were 2 to 2.5 times as likely to experience depressive symptoms, seriously consider suicide, and attempt suicide compared to their cisgender LGBQ peers.

Capturing the experiences of nearly 34,000 LGBTQ youth ages 13 to 24 across the United States, with 45% of respondents being LGBTQ youth of color and 48% being transgender or nonbinary, The Trevor Projects fourth annual national survey is one of the most diverse surveys of LGBTQ youth ever conducted.

These data provide critical insights into some of the unique suicide risk factors faced by LGBTQ youth, top barriers to mental health care, and the negative impacts of COVID-19 and relentless anti-transgender legislation. This research also highlights several ways in which we can all support the LGBTQ young people in our lives—and help prevent suicide.

Additional statistics from the National Institute of Health: Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.

Medical recommendations can come fro doctors and other medical professionals following FDA approved techniques (except the designated hate group ' american college of pediatricians' which has 1 employee according to wikipedia and is just a lobby group, not a college). Medical recommendations is outside of the scope of politicians level of expertise.

Dennis Johnson
Self
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

Tirzah Spencer
GCISD Parents PAC
Grapevine, TX

Gender reassignment is nothing more than trying to fix a mental disorder by cutting off healthy body parts. It won't work. Using public funds to mutilate minors is despicable and in no way gets to the root cause of why the child allegedly wants to change sexes in the first place.

If you don't pass this bill you'll be spending taxpayer money to cause irrevocable harm to children. Years later our society will awaken from this craze to see that we've destroyed countless lives so someone else could make money. That's what this is—an industry to make money. All they want is to get at the largest purse—taxpayers—and they don't care how many kids they cut up.

Supporting HB 1686 is vital to protecting our children!

Kathy Sawyer
Self
Weatherford, TX

I stand very strongly in support of HB 1686. I beg you to protect our children.

Laura Echols-Richter, Rev
Self/ pastor
Frisco, TX

I am submitting comment to strongly oppose HB 1686. | strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Bonnie Bogert
self- project manager
Conroe, TX

I would like to voice my opposition to HB 1686 which is a dangerous and deadly attempt to override the judgement of parents and medical providers to deny essential medical care to trans children and young adults. Attacks on the freedoms and liberties of Texans is wrong. Study after study by MULTIPLE credible medical associations has demonstrated that gender-affirming care improves mental health and overall well-being for transgender people, including youth. A 2020 study found that access to pubertal suppression treatment was associated with lower odds of lifetime suicidal ideation among transgender adults. Similarly, research conducted by the Williams Institute concluded that risk of past-year suicide attempts was lower among transgender people who wanted and received gender-affirming medical care. Stop trying to assume that you know what is best for transgender youth and their families and stop interfering in allowing them to obtain what might very well be life saving care.

Becky Pacheco
Self
Katy, TX

Please support thisbill.

Rebecca Williams
Self - librarian
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill
There are many reasons to oppose this bill.

- It puts the state in between parents, children and doctors.
- It's badly written.
- Children WILL die if this bill passes.

The last point might sound like an exaggeration. It's not. Current statistics show that 50% of trans kids have contemplated suicide in the past year, and 1/3 of them will attempt it. Gender affirming care cuts that number in half.

Joshua Klinge
Self
Frisco, TX

The medical community should not be allowed to mutilate the bodies of minors, which they incorrectly call transitioning. Nor should any public funds be contributed to this mutilation.

Armando Quireza
Befree4ever
Spring, TX

I don’t like my paid taxes to be used on anything that has to do with gender transitioning or any gender dysphoria

Paul Schmidt
Self
Austin, TX

Laws like this are regressive and dangerous for the lgbt+ community. The limitation or denial of health care for trans children, only decreases the quality of life for trans youth and their parents. If the legislation was really concern about the welfare of children they would reform gun sales and restrict the sale of ar15s

Theresa Pellecchia
Self
Murphy, TX

I am in full support of this bill. We have an obligation to protect those that can not protect themselves.

Lincoln Neiger
Self
Lockhart, TX

It is not the state's place to dictate the actions of a resident, minor of otherwise, in regards to personal health decisions. Publicly funded health programs should have no say in the care provided between a licensed health professional and a patient. To act in support of this bill is anti-democratic.

Linda Fulmer
Concerned Citizens Defending Freedom
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote FOR this bill!! Thx! We must protect our children from evil!

Isadora McKeon
Self, consultant
Austin, TX

Stop the profound hypocrisy and allow Texas parents to make decisions about what is best for their children. Keep government out of the private lives and choices of Texans!

Lynette Hart
Self
Richland Hills, TX

I SUPPORT house bill 1686. Children under 18 should NOT be making permanent gender decisions !

Diane Stephens
Self
Arlington, TX

I support HB 1686.

Noel Gaulin
Self
Austin, TX

This bill harms Texas children. This bill harms Texas families. This bill discriminates.

nancy Espaillat
personal
Dallas, TX

I am opposed to this bill. A childs heath care and personal decisions should be kept between the child, their parent and their doctors. This is not a public discussion. Why wont our elected officials solve actual issues that affect most citizends instead of spending time, energy and money on things that are none of their business.

Kerry Lowery
Myself
Colleyville, TX

I support HB 1686

David Blankenship
Self
Austin, TX

Every medical and social support organization recommends gender-affirming health care as a best practice for children with gender dysphoria, why do the sponsors of this bill think they know better?
- The state doesn't belong in the relationship between children, doctors, and parents.

Rowena Dasch
self, executive director
Austin, TX

This is not the place the Legislature should be spending its time. Leave medicine to the doctors and stay out of it.

Chris Mack
self, software developer
Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. I am opposed to allowing an intrusive government get between the decisions made by a parent and the board-approved physician of their choice. The definition of "freedom" is NOT the freedom of the powerful to force their will on the rest of us.

Esther Early
Self - Bookkeeping
Fort Worth, TX

For

Jacquelyn Elbel
Texas Psychological Association
Dallas, TX

I am a psychologist and believe it is important to follow the research regarding this issue. Transgender youth experience disproportionate levels of violence and bullying. Transgender youth are also more likely to feel less safe at school than cisgender youth, that is youth whose gender identity is consistent with their assigned sex at birth (Day et al., 2018).Access to gender-affirming care has a positive relationship with the mental health of transgender youth and lowers their risk of depression and suicide (Bauer et al., 2015; Green et al., in press). Transgender youth who have access to gender-affirming medical care experience improvements in mental health and often show mental health comparable to their cisgender peers (Toomey et al., 2022). Additionally, the distress experienced by youth who are provided treatments, but then decide to discontinue them and grow up to be cisgender, is significantly less than that which is experienced by transgender youth when such treatments are delayed (Ashley, 2021).Decisions about whether to seek gender-affirming care, and what specific services to utilize, must be made between a provider, patient, and the patient's parents or guardians. Such decisions are relative to the youth's individual clinical situation. Please do not legislate this important health issue. Children's lives are at stake.

David Byrne
self
Corinth, TX

I strongly believe and request that my state representatives vote to prohibit the use of public money or assistance to any gender transitioning, reassignment,or dysphoria surgeries or tretaments. Further, such surgeries or tretaments should be prohibited altogether in the State of Texas.

Baylee Neff
self
Abilene, TX

I am a transgender man. I was born in Texas, live in Texas now, and I want nothing but to support my Texan siblings. The government has no place in barring a legal medical providers ability to treat it's patient. These policies are not in the name of protecting the youth, transgender or not. It is in the name of exemplifying power over the citizens of Texans. Over medical professionals, over decades of research, over parents, over patients, over children. This bill will not prevent children from being transgender. I am a transgender adult man. When I was a 4 year old, I was just as much of a boy as I was a girl. I never felt comfortable presenting as the social idea of what a woman is. I didn't know what transgender was, but I knew I wasn't a girl and I spoke openly about that very often. If I had an accepting family, years of suffering would have been replaced by feelings of comfort and acceptance. Contemplation of suicide, feelings of depression and anxiety took up so much of my childhood because I simply did not have access to the words, environment, or care that I needed as a boy who was born in a female body. There are children who die because they did not have access to therapy, medication, or social support. This bill is not from a place of protection, of righteousness, or of legal scientific concern. This sets a dangerous precedent which overrides, once again, any form of privacy, professionalism, or care in the medical fields due to a minority of individuals biased and false perceptions of what affirming transgender youth is.

Lloyd Longer
Self
Cypress, TX

I am a citizen of Texas and I strongly support this bill. Children should never go through surgery or chemical manipulation because someone thinks they are confused about their gender. God made two genders, male and female. Adolescents are in a state of confusion as the go through puberty and this is well documented. Parents need to guide them through this difficult period in their life to see them emerge into fully functioning adults on the other side.
No surgery, no chemicals. Just love and emotional support.
Sincerely
Lloyd Wayne Longer

Sarah Tutjer
Self
Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill completely and wholeheartedly.

Gail Evensen, Ms
Self
Houston, TX

Comments for HB 1686 by Oliverson (3000 character limit) *
1 am a Texas resident and am FOR this bill.
We have pressing matters for which public money need to be spent, like the education of our children, the protection of our citizens and border security and processing. We must not spend our resources on procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria.
327/3000

Holly Williams
Self
Roanoke, TX

I am for the bill and I feel like we need to protect children at all cost.

Betty Taylor, Mrs
Christ Jesus our Lord
Brownwood, TX

Gender modification is in rebellion against the God who gives us life . It is harmful not only to the individual but to families , communities , states, and our nation .

God whets His sword against the evil doer .

Let’s stop pretending and going along with this foolishness (Romans 1), and rather humble ourselves before the Judge of the universe .

Thank you . Betty Taylor

Valerie Smith
self
Midlothian, TX

I support HB1686 and not only do I not want the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments, but do not want to allow minor children to have the treatment. This is a decision that should be made by each individual when they become an adult.

Fred Smith
self
Midlothian, TX

I oppose the use of public money or public assistance to provide procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria

Tina Beam
Self
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686. Please protect our most precious and vulnerable children.

Jeff Marx
Self
Cedar park, TX

Gender transitions on minors represent child abuse. No child under 18 should be permitted to undergo major changes to their body before their minds have developed sufficiently to understand their decision. Allowing children to transition results in the current high rate of transgender suicide.

Nadia Zaidi
self
Austin, TX

I was born and raised in Texas by immigrants who insisted every day that we were very lucky to be here and that this is the best country in the world due to our liberties and freedoms. This bill makes me question who this supposed freedom and liberty is really for.
As a trans person who works at a non-profit clinic here in Austin that provides gender affirming care and who also studies sex therapy in graduate school, I consider myself well-situated to understand the impact that this bill would have for fellow trans Texans.
Studies have shown time and time again that gender affirming care is life-saving care, and removing access to it would be extremely detrimental to the health of trans people seeking to transition.
More than 90% of people who begin transitioning as minors keep transitioning as adults.
Contrary to popular belief, the "trans agenda" is not to make cis children trans. It is to provide trans children with the opportunity to become trans adults instead of becoming a part of the overwhelming suicide proportion of trans children who do not have their identities respected. Giving children the right to advocate for their own health (with the permission of their guardians, of course) is imperative to introducing the autonomy we boast about in this country.
Please consider continuing to give these children a chance at the lives they deserve.

Abigail Ommen
Self
Aubrey, TX

I do NOT support this bill. It is disgustingly discriminatory and will lead to many young people committing suicide. These decisions should be entirely between a child, their parents, and their doctors. The government has no place in it.

Javier Canon
Self
Katy, TX

I support HB 1686

Holly Novak
Self, former geologist
Spring, TX

My name is Holly Novak and I represent myself. I strongly oppose HB 1686. Trans and intersex Texans, like ALL Texans, deserve the right to make their own healthcare decisions without government overreach. Additionally, we as parents deserve our right to make healthcare decisions for our children, under the guidance of doctors and with our adolescent's informed consent. In reference to consent, this bill expressly allows surgeries on very young intersex kids and babies who can't give consent. I firmly oppose this.

I'm the loving mother of a wonderful 18-year-old transgender son who has benefitted immensely from appropriate medical care. Our journey began at the age of 3. While helping him dress, my son shocked me by saying, "Mommy I am a boy." Through childhood, he consistently preferred toys, clothing, and activities that our society typically associates with boys. When his body began to change at the onset of puberty, his gender dysphoria caused him great distress. He went through full puberty, and it didn't change the fact that he is trans. When he came to me at age 12 and told me he was trans, I told him we loved and supported him, but I cried in private. Both my husband and I worried a lot about his safety and future.

From the time puberty began and for the next 5 years, he went from being a high-achieving and very social kid and became isolated, very anxious about daily activities, and his school performance began to slip. He suffered greatly, being unable to experience his authentic male puberty alongside his peers.

Our family's decision to pursue necessary health care was made with careful consideration over a few years. We worked with a highly qualified team of doctors and mental health providers. My son describes his care as a "re-birth." He doesn't understand why any human being would want to make him unnecessarily suffer and wait until age 18 to BEGIN living his life fully as himself.

I believe some people in this legislative body don't want my son to thrive, but I'm here to tell you he is thriving. He's living life to the fullest and will attend college this fall with an academic scholarship. As parents, we all want to keep our children safe, healthy, and happy. Access to necessary healthcare has enabled this for my son and ALL Texans deserve access to this care. Please, I am begging you, oppose this bill.

Kelly Klein
CCDF
Lewisville, TX

I support this bill…please please keep our children safe from this indoctrination… let them be children and when they are adults and are able to truly understand what all this about…thank you for your time

Tammy Heeren
Self
Weatherford, TX

I support HB 1686. This is not a prejudice or phobia on transgender adults who have the right to do what they want to their bodies. My support is to protect innocent children who are not equipped to make such a life altering decision and should not do so until they are an adult if they so choose. Please protect innocent children from trans sexual surgery. We don't allow children to view pornography, we don't allow children to drink and smoke so why is such a thing even on the table to allow children to make their own decision on trans sexual surgery? I am in support of HB 1686.

Trista Collins
Self. Pharmacist.
Fairview, TX

Support. No child is born in wrong body ! No gender modification should be allowed.

Kimberlee Christensen, Mrs.
Self
Forney, TX

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak For this HB 1686.
There is no way the adult Trans community should support this. Or any adult protecting children. I know adults who don't even know what they want to be when they grow up!

Kids are not capable of such life altering decisions. 18 years and older, adult do as you please.

This is a form of predatory grooming!
Why in the history of mankind has gender been an idea? A trend to get attention?

Reps- you will absolutely be accountable for these decisions and will be replaced if you vote Against this!

Kimberlee Christensen

Reba Russell
Self
Amarillo, TX

I support this bill prohibiting surgeries, treatments/ mutilation of children for gender transitioning! We must protect our children, they are worth it!!! End it NOW!

Beverly Watson
Self / retired
Bedford, TX

Please stop gender transition procedures on children under 18 years of age. I still cannot believe this bill (and conversation) is necessary. What has happened to common sense and dignity? Please value children over dollars.

Remi Caruso
Self
Houston, TX

This is a direct violation of the rights of transgender people in this state. Passing this bill is putting transgender people as less then American citizens

Karla Pardo, Voter
Self - Parent
Dallas, TX

Dear Representatives,

I'm writing to you regarding HB 1668.

The idea of a small government is that it passes less laws, and when laws are passed they should help aid & protect people, not harm them. Less than 5% of the US population identities as Transgender, but somehow representatives have found time and energy to create laws that harm and belittle families. Loving family members seek professional help because they want to save their children from self-harm. Families want resources, access to professionals, guidance etc. from people who are qualified to give support, not from politicians. Families deserve the right to access resources without being shamed or harmed. Families don't make the decision to provide growth hormones, puberty blockers etc. the same way some politicians write laws (with bias, lack of understanding, and proper research) , families seek help from professionals because they care about their children. While you might not support your own child, don't take the rights away of parents who love their children and want to see them happy. Public funding is needed because so many people in Texas don't have access to private healthcare, public funding is needed because everyone deserves the right to the pursue of happiness. Say NO to this law or any other that takes away the autonomy from parents to provide appropriate healthcare to their families.

Melissa boggio
self and retired
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686

Brendan Lynch
Individual
Houston, TX

PLEASE VOTE IN FAVOR of HB 1686

Derek Quinn, Mr.
Self
Roanoke, TX

NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm

The weakest and most vulnerable are being targeted by groups representing Progressive interests to foment gender confusion for political gain and control. It is wrong to encourage this confusion in young children at their expense. No one under 18-years of age is capable of making a permanent, life-changing alterations requiring medications and surgery to experiment with their immature and likely confused perceptions.

Ladislao Loera
myself
Austin, TX

I don't understand why we would waste government resources to make someone's life worse. I thought Texas cared about it's citizens. Feed hungry folks, make sure no one freezes to death when the grid goes down, as it always does. Spend time making people's lives better. Texas is better than this, and if you vote for this, regardless of whether or not you were born here, you are not a Texan.

Gil baumgarten
self
Houston, TX

Making permanent decisions about such issues as an impressionable child who might later regret such decisions is wrongheaded from the start. But using public funds to sponsor such activities is absolutely wrong. Conscientious objection should be allowed and I am in favor of HB 1686 on those grounds

Feleshia Porter
Self
Dallas, TX

Please protect trans kids access to Healthcare. Mental and physical health is not just for cis people. Transgender mental and physical health is needed to combat the hateful rhetoric and legislative harassment our politicians assault them with.

Kathryn Bartel
self
Plano, TX

I am in great support for this bill. These mutilations performed on children are child abuse. Children are not mature enough to make these decisions. The suicide rate in these transgender children is extremely high. Do not use public money or public assistance for these inhuman procedures.

Lee Ezzell
Self/ financial services.
Frisco, TX

This should not be passed. Oppression occurs when something is legislated against because it is not understood. Leave this decision up to the families and medical providers who have spent much more time looking into the situation they are in than anyone else has. The language of this bill will have massive knock on effects that will be detrimental to any child who is seeking mental health treatment. DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.

Charles Helms, Mr.
Self
Houston, TX

I agree with HB 1686 which bans the use of state and/or federal funding for gender transitioning procedures.

Tina DeGeorgio
Self - retired
Houston, TX

Was it a transgender just killed 6 people. Changing the gender that God gave us won’t help cure people with mental illness. By the time they realized it was a wrong decision it will be too late.

Blake Johnson
Self, Minister
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Ana Nolasco, Mrs.
Self
HOUSTON, TX

I support HB 1686. These procedures and treatments to our children (and for adults) are contrary to God's law.

Cindy Coleman
Self
La Vernia, TX

I support House Bill 1686

Susan Schaefer
Self
Little Elm, TX

No child should be subjected to permanent body mutilation surgery or medications/treatments that permanently ruin their bodies until they are mature enough to make those decisions for themselves. If they can't drink alcohol, or buy a gun, because they are not mature enough, then they are certainly no mature enough to have parts of their bodies permanently removed at less than 18 or 21.

Carmen Prince
self
Coppell, TX

I, Carmen Prince, support HB 1686 because WE the citizens of Texas do NOT WANT to use public money or public assistance to provide immoral procedures and treatments to children who are
suffering from mental problems. Mutilation of their private organs will not satisfy their mental problems. In 8 or 10 years We will see hundreds of law suits against the clinics, hospitals and
physicians who provide those services. The law must provide punishment for those physicians who are allowing this craziness.

STOP THE MUTILATION of children's genitals who do not know the true consequences in the future.

Thank you for listening,
Carmen Prince
Coppell, Texas

Sherri Marx, Mom
Self
Cedar park, TX

Children are not and should not make life altering decisions before the legal age of voting, of joining the military. To permit children to transition genders I in irreversible ways should be illegal because it is tantamount to child abuse. Guidelines on actions that may be taken could de-mystify the angst of gender dysphoria.
I AGREE THAT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PLACED ON MINORS AND PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS WITH REGARD TO GENDER TRANSITIONING ISSUES.

Kayla Soto
Self- compliance analyst
Princeton, TX

I fully support HB 1686. We currently have laws in place for sale of alcohol, sale of tobacco, tattoos in order to protect the minors of this great country. Just because we are able to do something doesn't mean we should. If an adult sells alcohol to a minor they are fined. The effects of drinking alcohol for a minor are less concerning than the medications these children are taking when their brains are not even capable of comprehending the severity of what they are taking. As adults, we should be concerned about our future generations health and well-being and if we care about them enough to not consume alcohol and tobacco under the age 21, why do we not care about life altering medications? Think back to when you were a child, tween, teen. Are you still in the same mindset as when you were a child? No, the brain develops and understands inherent risk as we grow older. A child cannot fully understand the implications of mutilating their body at such a young age when their brain and body are still developing. If we punish adults whom break the law when selling alcohol and tobacco to minors, why are we not punishing the doctors/adults who allow these children to take life altering drugs or have surgeries where they are mutilated?

William Miller
Self, Pastor
Jacksonville, TX

Please prevent the surgical mutilation, hormone therapy, and/or puberty suppression of children.

Diana Sanchez
Self-Retired
Euless, TX

FOR/Support the Bill

Karl Schafer-Junger
Self
Frisco, TX

Please stop childhood mutilation. Civilized society has long protected the young. These irreversible procedures - made at such a young age - will doom many a child to a lifetime of damage. The perverse incentives that the medical community has for carrying out such procedures should not be funded using Texas tax dollars - at the very least. TY Karl

Charleen Burghardt, Mrs
Self
San Antonio, TX

Strong against gender suegery in children.

Bianca DiChiara
Self
Hurst, TX

I support HB 1686

Carmen Brooks
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1686. Public money should not be used for transgender procedures, treatment or care of children. Studies show the devastating effects of transitioning as a child and realizing the devastating consequences when the brain has fully developed.

Jason Hanson
Self
Lewisville, TX

We must protect our children from all those people who want to do them harm. This bill must be passed. It is unconscionable to allow the willful mutilation of children by their parents or “doctors” for any reason.

Paul Effinger
Self
Leander, TX

Do Not Let Our Children be subjected to Queer theory by govelament mandate. Please protect our children's sanctity of gender they were born with.

Heidi Brown
Self
La Vernia, TX

It is a travesty that parents are able to surgically change a child. This is a decision that should not be allowed until someone is an adult.

Joe Vitela, Mr
Self
La Vernia, TX

I support HB 1686

Raymond Wilson
self
Willow Park, TX

I support HB 1686. I do not want children to have procedures and treatments for gener transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and/or the use of public money or public assistance to provide those types of procedures and treatments.

Leslie Hughes
Self
Falls City, TX

I SUPPORT HB 1686 which limits trans gender procedures on minors

Randy Nabors
Self
Falls City, TX

I support HB1686 which limits transgender procedures on children.

Alice Baker
SelfHB
Brady, TX

I support HB 1696!

Ernest Robbins
La Vernia Church of Christ
La Vernia, TX

I support HB 1686

Marty File
Self, Secretary
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:

· Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.

· These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child’s hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.

· Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.

· A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

* We must not approve of nor support medical procedures that will mutilate our children's bodies.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

KIMBERLY WILLIAMS, Ms
Texas Republicans, myself, my family and God!
La Vernia, TX

I support restricting anyone under the age of 21 from getting transgender surgery. In fact I object to ANY surgical reassignment.

Robert File
self/retired
Amarillo, TX

I support HB 1686 by Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering “gender transition” medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
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- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Margaret Stephens, Mrs.
self, mother
AUSTIN, TX

Every medical and social support organization recommends gender-affirming health care as a best practice for children with gender dysphoria, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American College of Physicians, and the American Medical Association. Why would y'all try to pass a bill that goes against recommended best practices of medical professionals? Do y'all really think you know better than doctors? If you want to save children' lives, start requiring background checks for firearms so we don't have another incident like Uvalde.

Shirley Nunnallee, Ms
Self
La Vernia, TX

I support Texas HB 1686,

Kaitlin Winkler
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Legislators should not insert themselves in the doctor’s office between the patient and provider. Legislators should not be in the business of taking away legally available healthcare. Legislators should not strip the rights of parents to choose the medical care they believe is in the best interest of their child.

David Leatherwood
Self
New Braunfels, TX

Let the children be what they were made !! Teachers should teach not program!

Ida Cook
personal
McKinney, TX

Please pass HB 1986 and put a stop to the genital mutilation of our youth.

Bertha Jauregui
Homeschool
SPRING, TX

FOR

Derek Jones, Mr.
Self Aviation
Denton, TX

I am FOR protecting our children and the non-use of our money to endorse or provide this ongoing crime.

Melinda Lynch
Self
Houston, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of public funds for gender transitioning procedures in the state of Texas.

While I understand the importance of supporting individuals in their personal journeys, I believe that it is not appropriate to use taxpayer dollars. These medical procedures are typically elective in nature, and should therefore be funded through private insurance or personal funds. Thank you

Lori Pulido
Self
Seguin, TX

I support HB 1686

Diana van Ek
Self
Houston, TX

My name is Diana van Ek, I am from Houston, and I oppose HB1686. I am the parent to two amazing daughters, a 24-year-old trans daughter and a 19-year-old cisgender daughter. Like so many other Texans, I came to the Capitol on Tuesday and registered to speak my testimony to the committee. The number of Texans that showed up that day to support transgender rights and parents' rights to seek medical care for their kids was incredible. Sadly, the committee decided to quell so many of our voices, and instead chose to hear questionable testimony that supported the bill author's views. And so much of that "preferred" testimony came from people that don't even live in the great state of Texas. Texans support parents seeking best practice care for their transgender children. Each child needs an individualized course of support. And trained professionals need to have the range of treatment options available.
My own trans daughter has left this state. Texas was her home. This is where her childhood friends and her family live. She has been educated in this state. She is an incredibly smart and beautiful person that had to seek refuge in another state to feel safe and validated.
When she came out to me and my husband, we were indeed caught off guard. We quickly let her know we loved her and would do everything we could to support her moving forward. As she began seeking support through mental health professionals and medical professionals, we saw her emerge as a happier, more confident young person.
My husband and I have learned so much about gender expansiveness and gender dysphoria. Do we understand everything? No, but we are open and learning how to support our daughter.
Support trans kids. Support families trying to seek out the best care for their kids. Vote NO on HB 1686

David Rakes, Mr.
Retired
Arlington, TX

I support this bill. It is essential for protecting children.

Lynn McCoy, Lady
Self
Plano, TX

Children need to grow and be loved! Decisions regarding who they want to be are for them alone when they are adults! For parents and others pushing gender changes on children and youth that is the worst form of child abuse imagineable!

Katharine Walston
self
Burleson, TX

Please seriously consider supporting this bill, HB 1686, to prevent countless children from making life-altering decisions that can be permanent. While these feelings may be valid, they may not be permanent and a permanent solution for a temporary problem is the wrong solution. Also, if this is a decision that is agreed upon by the family, it should not have to be paid for with public money or assistance. Thank you for your attention.

Paula Rigling, Mrs.
Self/Conference Planner
Round Rock, TX

I write in opposition of this bill that would prohibit life-saving, age appropriate gender affirming care for Texas children. Trans children, their parents and their physicians are the only ones who should be making medical decisions for the child's care.

Brad Finch, Mr.
Self
Seguin, TX

I support HB 1686

Julie Nichols
Self, Compliance officer at a financial services firm
Grand Prairie, TX

I am against this bill. The decisions regarding medical treatments and procedures for children should be made by the guardians of said children and the medical professionals they're working with. The government has no right to interfere without substantial, research-supported evidence of such treatments and procedures being harmful. At this time, all of the data shows that withholding these treatments and procedures is actually more harmful than providing them. Additionally, restricting the use of public money or assistance to provide these procedures and treatments puts an undue burden on those in the middle and lower classes. Many of these gender reassignment, transitioning, and dysphoria treatments and procedures are costly, yet they are just as life-saving and essential as other medical services. Failure to acknowledge the reality of dysphoria and the subsequent mental health challenges that arise when treatment is withheld can only be described as cruel. We need to treat children who identify as transgender with kindness and empathy, and we need to stop telling their parents, physicians, and counselors that they cannot provide the help that is needed. We need to protect their rights instead of treating them like outcasts or criminals.

Sandra Pittman
Concerned citizen
LA VERNIA, TX

I support HB 1686

Janet Marcum
self - CPA
Dallas, TX

Today's youth are proving to be one of the most self-aware and accepting generations our world has ever seen. The need for legislation to equally support the emotional health and physical well-being of ALL people is paramount for individualized, personal care. I sincerely hope you will OPPOSE HB 1686, which would no doubt interfere in and impede very personal and private medical decisions for children and families.

DARLA Wilburn
none
Garland, TX

No child is born in the wrong body, and it amazes me the fact the reasoning portion of the brain isn't fully developed will probably 22 years of age and they think a child can make this decision. Parents are criminal for allowing this.

Saundra Williams
Self, office manager
Sanger, TX

I am against this bill.

Mary Annette Lucksinger
Self, writer, summer camp director
Austin, TX

I am a writer, summer camp director, and former writing teacher at St. Edward's University. I am also mom to two children, one of whom is transgender. I ask you to please oppose HB1686 that would deny parents and families the ability to make the best medical decisions for their children. I am happy to serve as a resource if you have questions for a family who has dealt with a transition process that relied on the support of so many, doctors included.

My husband and I feel grateful that we were afforded the care that helped our child to become truly himself, especially after a very rough transition that led to severe depression and suicidal thoughts. I never expected my bright, social child who excelled at school, art, and music to be one who considered ending his life. He comes from a supportive family and it seemed his life was all right. But puberty hit hard and he had to face a lot about himself at that time. If he had known the world to be a friendlier place to the LGBTQ+ community, I am certain that he would not have spiraled into depression at the age of 15. That is such a hard spot to be as a parent, especially when your child had grown up being so confident, caring, and intelligent. It was the support and inclusive environment that surrounded him at school and at home that opened the way for him to become the strong and resilient person he has become. He also did the work. Now a sophomore in college, he is once again the confident, friendly, cheerful, take-on-the-world person we knew him to be, and it was so good to get that back. It was a long journey, and hormone therapy was part of what it took for him to be able to feel whole.

I fear for children who would be denied that opportunity — the chance to be themselves — if such a bill were to pass. Such a bill does not just deny access to health care to some, it denies all transgender kids the opportunity to live in a safe, supportive environment where they feel valued. Please represent all of your constituents, especially those most vulnerable, and oppose HB 1686.

Susana Gonzales
self
TOMBALL, TX

FOR

Imelda Vigil, Ms
Love Health Youth
Spring, TX

This is an important bill to keep our children safe on so many levels. I strongly support this bill. The truth is that we are born either XX or XY and that must be communicated and reflected accurately on our birth certificates. If a child is marked incorrectly, then it will create issues with identity, put them at risk for potential mutilation and/or chemical castration. Additionally, if the child is assigned an incorrect sex on the birth certificate and changed their mind in adulthood, then that bell can never be un-rung. Our brains do not fully develop until we are in our mid 20's, so to put this immense pressure and stigma on a child is pure child abuse. Our job is to protect our children and educate them, they are on their own when they become adults, so until they are grown WE are making the decisions for their identities, not them. Children are sponges and easily influenced. When kids struggle with identity then the adults have the opportunity to shape who they are and who they will become. If the identity issues persist then seeking non-woke therapy is crucial in assisting the kid with gaining insight into who they are. Please vote to pass HB 1952. Protect the children that are being abused with extorting their identity AND protect the kids that are at risk of losing scholarships because of lies. All children need to live in the truth and need to be protected from these perverted lies.

Annabel Blanco
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote for this bill

Lynn Marie Mallery
Self
Coppell, TX

I oppose HB 1686!

Jelka Jonker
Self
Austin, TX

I' am writing to express my strong support for allowing gender affirming care for children under 18 years old. Access to appropriate medical care, including hormone therapy and other gender affirming treatments, can be life-changing for young people who are struggling with their gender identity.

Denying these treatments can have serious negative consequences, including increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. It is essential that we prioritize the health and well-being of our young people by ensuring they have access to the care they need.

Furthermore, research has shown that gender affirming care can lead to better mental health outcomes, improved self-esteem, and better social functioning. Allowing young people to access this care can help them live happier and healthier lives.

I urge you to support policies that allow for gender affirming care for children under 18 years old. Let's work towards a future where all individuals, regardless of age, can live as their authentic selves.

Sincerely,
Jelka Jonker

Merleen Miller
Self
LaVernia, TX

I support HB 1686.

It is a disgrace to subject children to these types of procedures! It would be a Disgrace to fund or perform these procedures.

Rhonda Bone
Self
Lavernia, TX

I support this bill.

William Droke, Dr.
Self. Retired
FRISCO, TX

We.must prohibit gender modification procedures on minor children. I am in full support of HB 1686

Jeremy Fike
Self
Huntsville, TX

I strongly encourage support of this bill for the safety of future generations.

Lance Bohrnell
self, Director of Corporate Project Management
Allen, TX

I am FOR the passage of HB1686. And I am against gender modification for minors.

Frances Douglas, Dr
Self, Psychologist
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1686. I do not believe that the government should interfere in treatment decisions made between children, their parents, and their healthcare providers. This is clearly a violation of parental authority. The government is on a slippery slope when lawmakers attempt to determine what is appropriate treatment for anyone over the medical recommendation of the person's treatment provider.
Critical decisions about a child's welfare, including decisions about treatment for gender affirming care should be made thoroughly, thoughtfully, and by those with the only the intent of finding the best possible course of action for that child. For these reasons, I oppose HB 1686

Hannah Roberts
Self
Justin, TX

I support HB1686

Stephanie Perdue
Central Texas Pride Community Center, LGBT-Rex. Self
Copperas Cove, TX

Your deliberate attempts to slow down anx select testifies us shameful. You will not silence us, you will not erase us, and we will hold you accountable.

Do not advance this bill out of committee

Tara White, Ms
Tara White
Austin, TX

Trans children have the highest rate of suicide among people under 18. Why would you deny them care that can and does prevent suicide? Why can't people who are hurting no one live their lives as they see fit? Hormonal therapies that treat other conditions besides transition will inevitably be restricted along with HRT for trans kids. Don't those people deserve health care? I vehemently oppose this bill.

Dayna Corley
self
Fort Worth, TX

I support HB 1686

Kari Brock
Self / Self employed
Amarillo, TX

I fully support this bill and what it stands for.

Kathy Pinson
Self
Colleyville, TX

Please do not allow this permanent life altering procedure on those under 18.

Julie Goode
Hubby and self
Frisco, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. In fact, if they feel this it has been pushed on them. Please increase autism checks, depression, need for counseling. Do not allow Texas children to be mutilated. Every child deserves to grow up healthy! Please let them make a life altering choice after 18.
God bless, Julie Goode

Jessie Lewis
Self
Austin, TX

Gender affirming care is life saving. I am a therapist and can testify to the fact that the suicidality rate is higher in trans kids than their peers and risk of completion is extremely high for trans kids who are denied gender affirming language and care. This is a dangerous bill and children will die because of it, if passed.

Cathy Stroud, Mrs
Cooke County Conservatives
Gainesville, TX

I urge all legislators to support HB 1686. Transitioning children chemically or by surgery is absolutely wrong!. Our children must be protected. They are too young to make such a life altering decision. Please support protecting our Texas children and support this bill.

Cheryle Priolo, Precint Chair
Self- Radiologic Technologist
Farmersville, TX

Please support this needed legislation to provide our Texas chlldren the opportunities to fullfil their best potential without decisions being made for them that have no significant study determining the long term outcome of the recipients.

Edward Kopas
Self
Austin, TX

This goes against two (2) tenets. Most medical experts believe that in many cases procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria , are indeed appropriate. And cutting off public money/assistance is not indicated.
Secondly, this kind of treatment is a private matter and should not be lenited by law.

Jill Rutherford, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

I am commenting against this bill. Freedom in our country includes keeping medical decisions in the hands of patients, parents and doctors, not the government. Please vote against this bill.

Diane Accrocco
Self
Houston, TX

I SUPPORT HB1686

Nancy Maclaine
Retired
AUSTIN, TX

I am opposed to this bill. Evidence indicates that gender affirming care for transgender people can be life-saving. These people did not choose to be in the wrong body. GOD made them and we should acknowledge and honor that. There are many more important issues for the house to act on, like property tax relief and paying the teachers and education staff.

Leslie Harper
Self/retired
Pflugerville, TX

Please do not pass HB1686. These children and their families have suffered enough. They need the support to be the gender they were born to be.

Susan Van Haitsma
Self, retired
Austin, TX

It is clear that proposed legislation such as HB 1686 only adds to the discrimination already experienced by children who identify as different from the gender assigned to them at birth. We already have enough evidence that the mental and physical health of children suffers when they are not treated according to the gender identity they feel inside. I believe that most adults want children to grow up in an environment that supports and encourages them. A law like HB 1686 would do the opposite, and I strongly oppose it.

matty jernigan
self / social workers
austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as it targets a vulnerable population and endangers them. Under false, pretenses, this bill aims to further demonize and harm individuals seeking medical care that should remain protected between them and their doctor.

Any Santana
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

David Good
Self
Sanger, TX

Please pass this bill and protect Texas Children. This may save thousands of children. Texas is late to the game in providing laws that protect children.

Serena Kialoa
Self
Katy, TX

Trans lives matter! We will not stand for the discrimination again trans people no matter what stage of life they are in!

Emily Pybus, Dr.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Support

ROBIN FERNANDEZ
Self
Spring, TX

I support this bill opposing gender modification, mutilation or hormonal therapies being available to any minor.

This is an adult decision that should involve careful consideration and consultations from medical experts.

Jean Kenas
Self
Carrollton, TX

Children should not be changing their gender as they are not mentally capable under the age of 18 to make such a decision.

Rodney Abraham, Mr.
Self - HVAC Sales & Technical Services
Carrollton, TX

To my Texas House Representative/s... Please support HB1686... "Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments"... makes all the sense in the world. I can't imagine why we even have to go through this.

I don't know what else to say about this issue other than that the providing of these services to certain minor children by so called medical professionals is complete INSANITY...! LET THE KIDS GROW UP... THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH LIFE EXPERIENCE TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THIS...! If this bill doesn't provide for the prosecution of the providers of the medical procedures discussed in HB1686, It should not stop short of saying that the providers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and then they will be jailed for 10 years minimum with no early release. So, YES, I support HB1686... and I am asking that you do as well.

Marcela Robbins
Self
La Vernia, TX

I support HB 1686

Gloria Davidson
Self
Crowley, TX

For /Support

Cathy Bennett
Self / family
Fredericksburg, TX

Ban this bill regarding children and procedures that will change their lives forever. Do not allow children to be influenced by feelings of adults who feel this is good. Please protect children for heavens sake!

Marc Wiegand
Self
San Antonio, TX

For

Larry Baber
self
Weatherford, TX

I don't believe in any gender transitioning or reassignment of children or on the use public money or assistance of any such procedures or treatments for an under-age child. Too many childhood day dreams can be misinterpreted as true desires of a child to be of the opposite sex. I urge the Committee to move this House Bill to the floor for an up and down vote

Ana Cecilia Martinez, Mrs
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

John Godfrey, Dr.
Self / Licensed Psychologist
Austin, TX

Dear Committee members:
As a health care professional of 28 years I am against HB 1868. Foregoing gender-affirming care can have tragic consequences. Transgender youth experience disproportionate levels of violence and bullying. Transgender youth are also more likely to feel less safe at school than cisgender youth, that is youth whose gender identity is consistent with their assigned sex at birth (Day et al., 2018). I commend you to a recent article in the Washington Post that surveyed the outcomes for individuals allowed gender affirming report: https://wapo.st/3Kn3OZN
Most trans adults say transitioning made them more satisfied with their lives. The Washington Post and KFF surveyed one of the largest randomized samples of U.S. transgender adults to date about their childhoods, feelings and lives. I realize that many well meaning folks misunderstand what "gender affirming care" consists of for those under 18 years of age. They worry that irreversible steps are taken prior to adulthood. This is not the case. Allow families the autonomy and authority to care for their children under the care of their physician. Please reconsider supporting this bill and turn your attention to issues of health and safety that actually need to be addressed and do not harm our children and trans community.

Lina Quintana
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Eboni Staten, Ms.
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Cecilia Coffino
Self retired
Harker Heights, TX

Prohibit

Jimmy Bunn
Republican Party
Celina, TX

Please do not allow this injuring of children. They are not of age to make such a decision . Government money should funding this crazy procedures

Leslie Thaxton
Self. Bookstore Clerk
Dallas, TX

I support Bill 1686 and hereby vote YES!

Robert Good lwin
Myself
Keller, TX

Please support this bill.

Rowland Osborn
"self"/ retired
New Braunfels, TX

- Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
- These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
- Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
- A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.

For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Erik Bjornstrom
Self, civil engineer
Plano, TX

I fully support this bill. Stop these dangerous procedures!

Michelle Taylor
self / homemaker
Lake Kiowa, TX

I am in support HB 1686.

Elizabeth Dunn
Self
Bedford, TX

Legislation such as this will cause so much harm and is grossly overreaching. This is a made up issue that is a waste of time abd tax dollars.

Ashley Essary
self
Austin, TX

Parents deserve the right to make medical decisions for their children, and trans kids deserve access to healthcare that affirms their identity. Please give parents and children the freedom you as a Republican advocate for and vote AGAINST this horrific, overreaching bill.

David Johnson
Self
Fort worth, TX

I oppose HB 1686

Allyson Mason-Herr
Search
Austin, TX

Gender-affirming healthcare is an evidence-based best practice. Every medical and social support organization recommends gender-affirming health care as a best practice for children with gender dysphoria; why do the sponsors of this bill think they know better?

Erin Cogburn
Self
Tuscola, TX

I support prohibiting these procedures for minors. Research shows that individuals who receive these procedures have a significantly increased likelihood of suicide. The mental health and safety of our children must be kept paramount.

Further, brain development must be taken into consideration. Minors do not have the brain development to understand how big this decision is and the long term impact it would have on their life. These decisions should be left to individuals with the proper brain development which will not occur until into adulthood.

Further consideration should be considered for adults with Münchausen syndrome. How can a doctor confirm that the decision for surgery is not being made by a parent instead of their minor child?

There are entirely too many concerning items related to allowing gender reassignment surgeries for minors. Please protect these children and prohibit these surgeries from taking place in Texas.

Ylez Orozco
Self/Student
Dallas, TX

I am against passing the HB 1686 bill that would harm the lives of many Texan Trans youth, adults, and their families. Do NOT pass this bill, as a Texas resident, I believe Texas should be safe for trans community members to be who they are most authentically.

Wanda Holcombe, Mrs
Self Retirec Educational Onsultant
Georgetown, TX

All children of any age should have the right to obtain public money or assistance to care for a medically diagnosed health care treatment by a registered medical physician or facility.

Joann Dickenson
Myself
Austin, TX

Trans rights are human rights!

Union Beooks
Self
Austin, TX

This bill will harm children who already fought so hard to be truly themselves. Please don’t do this.

Glenys Criscione
Self
Ovilla, TX

Children can wait until 18 and make a decision.

Andres Rizo
Self
Fischer, TX

This is ridiculous and a discrimination against freedom of choice for our children.
We strongly oppose this bill. It would cause nothing but harm to the same people it claims to protect. It hurts families and it makes kids be more confused and more rejected and feel out of place.
Please do not pass this bill.

Amie Brown
Self
Austin, TX

Against this bill and everything it stands for.

Do better to protect the youth of our communities, instead of targeting more of them!

Deanna Stinebaugh, Ms
Rockwall Republican Women
Rockwall, TX

I am in support of this bill.

Nicole Soumbeniotis
Self/Business owner
Austin, TX

This should be between the child, the parents, and the doctor. It's not any business of anyone outside of that and it DEFINITELY is not the business of lawmakers. Why not focus on preventing children from being shot at school since that's an ACTUAL threat to their well being. Just a thought.

Louis Tipton
Family
Seguin, TX

I support HB 1686

Betty Waller, Mrs.
Prince of Peace Catholic Church/ Pro-Life
Houston, TX

Please support HB 1686 by Oliverson . I, Betty Waller, support this bill, HB 1686. Thank you for your attention on this bill.
Sincerely, Betty Waller

Zane Hayspell, Mr

Self, ARTS

Austin, TX

When it comes down to it, we are all human beings just trying to make it in this world. Why make it any harder on an individual being themselves? We are all american, why cant we all be loved no matter who we are or how others perceive us? Living with a terrible healthcare system, difficulty in keeping our family's heads above water, why must we be so vane and not care for our children and who they are.
I send positive energy for those who dont want change and those for it.

Carole Reuter

The Peoplle

Seguin, TX

I am against HB 1686

Emma Johnson, Dr.

Self retired university professor

Thrall, TX

I support HB 1686. All the gender reassignment is doing is mutilating children. We are against children being mutilated in other countries and here in the US it is being done.

Kristin Cash
Private Citizen
Dallas, TX

My name is Kristin. I'm here to testify as a private citizen in support of this bill.

I'm here because I believe if I were a child growing up in today's society, my behavior and appearance would've been noticed, and I would've been targeted for transition.

IWhen I was a child , I dressed like a boy, I looked like a boy and acted like a boy. If you asked me what I wanted to be when I was a child, I would've said Luke Skywalker…

As I grew into my teenage years, I embraced my feminine side. I was feminine in my appearance. I dated boys and thought about girls…

My life would not exist as it does today if there had been outside interference trying to help me by transitioning me at an early age.

Transitioning would not have been my choice. I believe well meaning adults trying to help would have would have caused me great harm.

I ended up marrying a man and having a biological daughter. Who's grown up to be a beautiful woman and I am very proud of her.

During that marriage, I came out to my husband as a lesbian.

Once that happened we decided that I should try conversion/ reparative therapy, which included attending an Exodus International Conference, otherwise known as X gay ministry.

This experience caused a lot of trauma.. With that, I decided to get a divorce and "come out" as my real self which was an openly gay lesbian.

I've been in my current relationship with a woman for 15 years. I dress and look according to what makes me feel good and feel comfortable.

It bothers me to think that if I were a child today that my choice would not exist based on the current culture and thinking.

It bothers me even more that my daughter would not exist had I been encouraged and allowed to transitioned to a boy at a young age.

I was able to be a kid first then decide how I wanted to live my life or alter my body. I made those choices as an adult. These kids should have that right as well.

I still think it would be cool to be Luke Skywalker. But what I am is a Woman, a Mom, and a Lesbian.

I went through a lot fighting to be my authentic self. I had to fight hard to be a Lesbian… the fight was worth it. It was my path and I'm extremely grateful it was not interfered with at an early age.

As I said before, well meaning adults would have gotten my choice wrong if they tried to help me back then. That's why I'm here and that's why i support this bill.

- [ ]

Des Way
Self— Student
Houston, TX

Gender affirming care saves the lives of trans children. It does not turn cisgender children trans; it enables trans children to grow into trans adults. Studies done by the Trevor Project have illuminated just how greatly access to supportive care impacts the lives of trans youth, greatly reducing depression, anxiety, suicide attempts, and thoughts of suicide. The choice to transition is up between the individual, their doctor, and their parents. The government has no right to go against what is advised by every major medical board and deny this life saving care.

Carole Moring-Reuter, Chiropractor
Reuter Chiropractic PLLC
Seguin, TX

I am FOR HB 1686

Hannah Beson
Self, Supply Chain Manager
Houston, TX

I do not support children receiving these procedures as minors, especially with tax or public money. Children are not capable of making such a life-altering decision that is irreversible and we should not be encouraging or allowing this.

Luis Robles
Self social media specialist
Jersey village, TX

Healthcare for trans youth needs to include medication for gender dysphoria. A person’s body develops during puberty, and many of these changes are permanent. Hormone blockers are safe and can delay puberty so that a person can take the time they need to figure out what they really want. Preventing the access of this kind of care would create undue stress for trans youth. Furthermore, it is only trans youth that will be forced to wait to grow up into the gender they know themselves to be. Cisgender children are allowed to grow unhindered. This bill is dangerous to all trans youth.

Kate Rice
Self
Austin, TX

This should only be up to the medical practioners and the families/patient seeking treatment. Gender affirming care is a human right that is being blatantly condemned by those who call them selves representatives of the people. It is discrimination and pure evil.

Kim Schrader
Myself and children in this state
Amarillo, TX

Please do what is morally right. Please stand up and fight for these kids. Children do not have the mental maturity to make decisions regarding their gender. Jesus said, anyone who harms a child is like putting a milk stone around their neck and jumping into the sea. Jesus is real! Keep these children safe!

Taylor Snider
Self; director of finance
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1686

Megan Soetaert
Self (project coordinator)
Round Rock, TX

Hello, my name is Megan Soetaert, I am from Round Rock, TX 78665. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. I urge the Texas legislature to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

John Bieltz
Self
El Campo, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. We cannot allow our children to be groomed by crazy leftists. No child should be allowed to alter his/ her appearance to a different sex. Just because it can be done, doesn't mean it should be done.

Megan McDermott
Self - International Development Researcher
Austin, TX

This bill is an affront to basic human rights and civil liberties and neglects the individual agency of those directly impacted by gender reaffirming care. The only risk to individuals or society at large is this kind of disgusting, prejudiced, bigoted legislation.

Ana Belville
Self, Retired
Carrollton, TX

I am wholeheartedly FOR passage of this bill.

Amy Knop-Narbutis
Self
AUSTIN, TX

Gender affirming healthcare saves lives, reduces suicide risk, and is a personal decision between a child, their caregiver, and their physician. This is costly (both in lives lost and resources wasted) government overreach with no public health purpose.

Kimberley Coronado
self
FRISCO, TX

I am FOR prohibiting children to be modified. GOD and only GOD decides what sex a child will be. BOY or GIRL there are NO OTHER CHOICES

Kyla McKay
Texas Impact board member
Pasadena, TX

As a Presbyterian elder and Texan of faith, I am opposed to this legislation. Medical decisions should be between patients (and their parents, in this case) and medical doctors. Appropriate medical care is LIFE-SAVING for trans kids and they deserve to have long, full, thriving lives. Our state has so many real problems to address, it is ludicrous to prioritize interfering in children’s medical care when legislators are not qualified to weigh in on such things. Jesus said that what you do to the least of these, you do to him. Trans kids are the least of these in our society, and they bear God’s beautiful, wildly creative image. Let’s help them survive.

Patricia Laughlin, LVN
Self /Nurse
Houston, TX

As a nurse and as a mother I oppose HB 1686. Gender care is healthcare and the delivery of such care should be left at the discretion of the medical establishment. Oliverson is on the wrong side of history.

Raeann Rojas
self, analyst
Round Rock, TX

Hello, my name is Raeann Rojas, I am from Round Rock and my zip code is 78665. I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1686. I strongly oppose the restriction of healthcare access to people based on gender identity. Transgender people are vital members of our communities and deserve the same freedoms as everyone else. Medical care should be between a patient, their doctor, and their parents only. There should be no restrictions to ANY care, especially healthcare that is supported by a medical professional. I urge the Texas legislature to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.

Hayli Friebel
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Please do not harm children.

Jasmin Arce
Self
Austin, TX

As a US citizen and Austin TX resident I believe EVERYONE deserves healthcare.

CJ Cruz
Self
Austin, TX

The proposed legislation (HB1686) to ban gender-affirming care for transgender youth raises several concerns. This type of care is evidence-based and endorsed by numerous medical associations, and banning it would go against their consensus.
Research shows that gender-affirming care has positive impacts on mental health and well-being; denying it may contribute to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender youth.
The legislation infringes on the rights of patients and their families, undermining their autonomy and potentially leading to further legislative intervention in personal medical decisions.
Additionally, banning gender-affirming care could have negative economic consequences, as providing appropriate healthcare for transgender individuals is associated with increased workforce participation, productivity, and reduced healthcare costs.
Lastly, this legislation sends a harmful message of exclusion and intolerance, which contradicts efforts to create a more inclusive society. Instead, focus should be placed on fostering understanding and acceptance, allowing all individuals access to the care they need.
As a citizen and resident of Texas, I implore this body to vote against this legislation.

Brook Chambers
self
Austin, TX

Hello, My name is Brook Chambers and I’m a deeply concerned citizen testifying against house bill 1686. I am a born and raised Austinite and Texan who has studied, practiced and taught social work here. I have experience providing mental healthcare to trans youth and their families through my work as a therapist and experience providing in-the-moment crisis counseling to trans youth with suicidal ideation and acute mental health crises. I am a primary witness to the hell that is navigating systems in this state and country as a trans and/or gender-questioning child. There is no lack of data on this- you know by now that transgender youth experience high rates of suicide and suicidal ideation. The reasons for this are far from black and white. They are complex, multidimensional and related to many different biopsychosocial factors, just like all other aspects of the human experience. I have talked many trans children down from planned suicide attempts and am intimately aware of the complexities therein. I’m not here to tout causality, but to point out that hb 1686 does not make space for these complexities and a black and white approach, an all-out ban, will never be adequate in actually improving the lives and health of Texas children and families. To the contrary, it will cause harm. What is black and white here is that it is best practice to provide active care, support, and nonjudgment to youth who are at risk for suicide and their families. It is not best practice to rob them of their agency and ability to make decisions based on their own lived experience and available medical expertise. This bill, and bills like it, will result in further alienation for youth who are already at risk. As a multi-generation Texan, I value the freedom and autonomy that this state claims to uphold, including the right to make the best health decisions for myself and my family based on the expertise available to me. This bill robs the most vulnerable Texans of that right. If it passes, it will be a factor in the deaths of many Texas trans children. I urge you to consider that you don’t have to fully understand or relate to the trans experience to save children’s lives here. Please don’t advance hb 1686.

Mary Novoa
Self
Magnolia, TX

It is sad to see children destroying themselves over a fad that big pharma is the only one profiting from. Meanwhile families are being destroyed. Minors cannot consent because their prefrontal cortex is not fully developed and so they should not be able to get gender reassignment until they are adults. I think 21 is an adequate age just like alcohol and other laws. These processes are irreversible and detrimental to their health. If we believe in human rights we should believe in protecting our children from irreversible harm.

Selina Franke
Self
Austin, TX

The government shouldn't have power to determine what a child thinks, or how they express themselves. These decision to transition doesn't come lightly nor do they happen over night. Children should be supporting in finding out who they are. Being force into the cis roles will cause lasting emotional damage and further withhold our community back. If you truly care for kids you must care for ALL of them. Please oppose HB 1686.

Lindsey Hill
Self, program manager
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Doctors and parents deserve the discretion and respect to treat their children based on the needs of the individual child, and banning health care of any form for any person takes that doctor patient trust and respect away. I am afraid this bill will result in children already under extremely high risk for self harm to see themselves as having no other option than to hurt themselves. I believe protection of vulnerable populations like those with gender dysphoria requires leaning on qualified and experienced medical professionals, not setting arbitrary one size fits all rules from the level of state government. Republicans should stand for reduced government interference, this is not the type of legislation that small government stands for.

Amrita Starche
Self. Mother.
Austin, TX

The right to bodily autonomy is a foundational right. Parents and their children, along with their physicians and psychiatrists/psychologists are the only ones who should have the right to even offer opinions in these matters when requested. Allowing other voices to take supersede that right opens us all up to medical interference from any unrelated and unqualified person with a dissenting opinion about how we care for our bodies and treat our medical conditions and is a dangerously slippery slope. Vote No on HB1686.

Vinita Dowell
self
Celina, TX

Children's mental and physical health is at stake. Children need to be of age (at least) to make their own mind up on what life changing procedural changes happens to their body, God created us in HIS own image not what we think our image should be.

Leigh Fisher
Self, writer and teacher
Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose this terrible bill. I understand that transgender people, and transgender children in particular, have become a political punching bag, when instead, they should be treated as God’s beloved and holy children.

As a proud Texan and a Christian, I am impelled by the example of Jesus to treat all persons with love and dignity but to especially care for those who are marginalized, Today transgender children are marginalized by religious establishments and society.

Please vote against this terrible bill. in the next primary election I will actively campion against any persons who voted in favor of torturing innocent children and families.
Protect our children
Protect all of gods children
Protect trans children

Charlotte Long
Self
Fort Worth, TX

These hormones can have irreversible side effects on children and adolescents. Opposing medical treatment for healthy children does not negate offering loving and supporting emotional care.

Brittain Sobey
self - manager
Austin, TX

Statement by AAP: There is strong consensus among the most prominent medical organizations worldwide that evidence-based, gender-affirming care for transgender children and adolescents is medically necessary and appropriate. It can even be lifesaving. The decision of whether and when to start gender-affirming treatment, which does not necessarily lead to hormone therapy or surgery, is personal and involves careful consideration by each patient and their family.

Leave these decisions to medical professionals, patients and their family. The government has no place in this.

Brittany Lohman
Self/bartender
San Marcos, TX

This is a bill made for the sole purpose of hurting trans people. If protecting trans children is what is desired, then this is not the way to do it. People know themselves more than a bunch of out of touch members of the congress. Let them make the decision that is right for them. The members of congress are not medical professionals and this bill proves that they do not care about trans people. This bill violates bodily autonomy and does it proudly.

Stephanie Denton
Self, school district employee
Sugar Land, TX

There should be NO gender transitioning until a child is an ADULT. Age 18 is the age to vote, and enlist in the military. Parents should NOT be allowed to change the gender of their child, in any circumstance. Please vote to protect children, and not allow mutilation of children!

Vicente Delarosa, Mr
Self
Austin, TX

HB 1686 is a great example of a bill that overreaches into Texas citizen's lives. All major medical associations agree that gender affirming care, whether that be changing clothes and hair, blockers before puberty or low dose hormones at the time of property, are appropriate and life saving for trans minors. Not only that, but this law explicitly allows for the continued practice of surgeries to "correct" intersex children without their consent. Intersex Texans do not need to be "corrected" and especially not just mere hours or weeks after being born. Taking away informed medical choices from families and with trans children who are of age to be advised and make medical decisions while simultaneously continuing with nonconsensual surgeries that have been proven to be detrimental to intersex people, usually done on them before they are even old enough to speak, is hypocritical. This law is not about protecting kids, but rather, upholding a status quo of a binary which does not exist in actual scientific reality. I urge you not to pass bill, and know that if you do, we will make sure to vote you out of office and fight you every step of the way. Do better.

Kat Williams
self - technical support
Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose the heinous and dehumanizing house bill 1686. Transition is life-saving health care.The only regret I have about my own medical transition is that I didn't do it sooner.
Minors, their guardians, and their doctors are the only people with a right to influence a minor's medical treatment - this bill is government overreach at its most damaging. Please toss it in the dumpster of history where it belongs.

Barbara Frandsen
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

Is it the job of government to dictate medical procedures to parents? Traditionally, Texans have not thought this was government's prerogative. Historically, all parents have had the right to work with physicians, as together, they determined the healthiest paths to take for their children. Accusations of child abuse threaten to shred the stability of those families who sincerely want to take the right actions to bring fulfillment to their children. Even worse, the risk of children being turned over to the Texas Foster Care Program must be the worst idea in history. Our foster care program is in terrible shape. If you want to protect children in Texas, please repair the Texas Foster Care Program.

Kade Hermes
Self
Lindsay, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children.

Chloe Lewis
Self
Gainesville, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children

Kaitlyn O'Neill
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this. Protect trans kids & give them life saving care.

Michael Hermes
Self
Lindsay, TX

Please pass this bill and protect our children!

Sharon Hermes
Self
Gainesville, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children.

Patricia McClard, Mrs
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I support this bill.

Sylvia Lewallen
Self
Beaumont, TX

Please vote to protect our children up to 18 from any gender modification procedures. They must be protected from making life-altering changes before they truly understand the long-term effects of their decision. Thank you.

Jon Hall, Col (USAF, Ret)
Self-Retired
College Station, TX

protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. This is Texas. We are Texans. We protect our children, not offer them to the gods of social liberalism and the horrors of unspeakable actions/surgeries that in many cases can never be undone. This should be unanimous, and shame on those who would think or vote otherwise. Choose Texan. Protect the children!

Kristine Sproul
Texas values
Marble Falls, TX

Please heed the consequences

Billy Esparza
Self/manager
Dallas, TX

I support HB1686

Laura Esparza
Self/Legal Assistant
Dallas, TX

I support HB1686. Thanks

Hannah Thornton
Self, administrator
Austin, TX

Trans kids have an increased risk of death by suicide because of the violent hatred they face daily and because they are being systematically denied life affirming care. I support the availability of these procedures for all people including trans youth.

Rebecca Brown
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Changing the sex of a child is child abuse plain and simple. Why are we changing.there sex when they aren’t allowed by law to even drink vote or drive

Teri Duke
Duke household
Colleyville, TX

We support the passing of HB 1686 which limits transgender surgeries on children under the age of 18. Please please stop the madness!

Justin Cover
Self
Rockwall, TX

Please get the protection of parents protected. The crazy left have lost thier minds.

Sehra Moone
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the bill HB 1686, which seeks to prohibit the provision of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria to certain children, as well as the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. As a mother who has worked with transgender youth, I feel that this bill will only serve to hurt some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

I am also disappointed that the debate surrounding this bill was ended prematurely by Representative Klick. It is important that all voices be heard and that all perspectives be considered before making decisions that will impact the lives of so many individuals.which include the 2,784 individuals who Klick refused to let speak.

Transgender youth face unique challenges and obstacles when it comes to their healthcare, and denying them access to necessary medical treatments only serves to further stigmatize and marginalize them. This bill would not only harm transgender youth, but it would also interfere with the decisions of medical professionals and parents who are seeking the best possible care for their children.

Furthermore, it is important to recognize that transgender individuals already face significant discrimination and prejudice in our society. This bill would only contribute to a culture that does not recognize or respect the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.

I urge you to reconsider your support for this bill and instead work to promote inclusion and acceptance for all individuals, including transgender youth. We should be working to create a more welcoming and supportive environment for everyone, not just those who fit into narrow, outdated definitions of gender.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope that you will consider the impact that HB 1686 will have on the lives of transgender youth.

Esther Crowell
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Children are not old enough to make those kinds of decisions for themselves.

Casey Buckley
Self; Kindergartenl teacher
Cyoress, TX

I support this bill

Jim Wilford
Self
Gilmer, TX

Doctors should not be allowed to mutilate children. It is a crime against children, a crime against humanity and a mechanism for population reduction. We are to protect and cherish children. This is a crime against God and a crime to logic and reason.

Maria Scalise, Ms
Self
San Antonio, TX

Please vote to protect all children from nonsensical mutilation of their perfect bodies.

Rebecca Clouse
Self retired
Flower Mound, TX

I fully believe that gender reassignment of a minor is abuse and child mutilation. I believe that doctors who participate in this practice, including leading parents and their minor children to believe that this is safe and normal, is criminally abusive and against the hypocratic oath of do no harm. I am fully against any public funding or public assistance of any kind to be allowed to be used toward these processes.

Joanne Mullins
Self
Bellville, TX

We should be helping children to hold off of making serious modifications to their bodies until they are adults, at least 21 years of age. They can't make these kind of decisions when they are incapable of even deciding if they want vanilla or chocolate ice cream. They are not mature enough.
That is an individual decision and public funds can't be used in an individual's own decision. That is their medical decision to make and American tax dollars have no place in these kind of personal medical decisions.

Birch Griesse
Self
Austin, TX

I strongly opposed this bill. Children are people. They deserve to be allowed to make decisions about their own lives and bodies. Trans children who are allowed to transition have lower rates of suicide than those who are not. Only a tiny percentage of trans people detransition. Gender affirming care that is provided to children, e.g. puberty blockers, is reversible.

Christine Allen
Self
Austin, TX

Good afternoon, my name is Christine Allen. I am a third-generation Texan, and I am here to express my strong opposition to HB 1686. As you have already heard from those opposing this bill, denying evidence based healthcare to trans youth would be devastating. But I am not here to testify about the standards of care. I am here to be authentic and share my thoughts as a friend of a mother to a trans child. We met because our daughters are friends. And, let me tell you, when those two get together, they radiate joy with their quirky sense of humor and boundless energy. Just last month our families had dinner at a local Tex-Mex restaurant, and the girls spent hours running around the playground, talking about Minecraft, and shoveling chips and queso. They are just like any elementary school children. Her mother and I, like all parents, worry about things like homework and too much screen time. The difference between us is that she has to worry about you legislating her daughter out of existence. This bill will rob her daughter of a vibrant future simply because of who she is.

As a mother, I understand what it means to nurture and support a child as they become uniquely themselves. My friend is trying to do just that for her trans daughter. We both deserve to live in a state that allows us to be the best mothers we can be, but to do that we must have access to lifesaving, best practices health care. If my cisgender daughter needed care for a thyroid condition, for example, you wouldn’t hesitate to agree that she should have access to health care. Just because my daughter’s friend is becoming uniquely herself in a way that you don’t understand or agree with does not give you the right to endanger her future by denying her health services.

Our trans friends and neighbors deserve life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This bill denies life, it denies freedom, and it denies parents the happiness of watching their children become thriving adults, especially for families that don’t have the means to move out of state.

Carol Barnes, Ms.
self
Richardson, TX

Please do not allow children to be subjected to gender reassignment procedures. As children they aren't prepared to make these sorts of decisions, and they can be irreparably harmed. They can do so later as an adult if they become ready. Also please do not allow the use of public money or public assistance to provide these types of procedures.

STEVEN BITNER
Self, educactor
Austin, TX

I oppose the effects of this bill, based on prejudice and fear.

Audra Williams
N/A
Sherman, TX

No public funds should be used for procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria. Children are not mentally capable of making such life altering decisions, and no parent or guardian should be making that decision for a minor. Children are not legally allowed to decide to drink alcohol until they reach the age of 21. Likewise, decisions regarding gender transition or gender reassignment should be postponed until age 21 as well, and paid for by the individual.

Jennifer Schwausch
Myself
Pflugerville, TX

This is evil and disgusting. Please for the love of God just let children be children.

Greg Sipe, Mr. & Mrs.
Self
Richland Hills, TX

This is essentially child abuse & mutilation of the body! There are ONLY two (2) genders & we are only born as one (1) specific gender. We all know this & the insanity has to stop. Thank You!

Wayne Hill
Self / IT Tech Ops
Fort Worth, TX

Our kids cannot purchase cigarettes, get a tattoo, purchase alcoholic beverages, or access porn before they are legally adult. We all know that the preteen and teen years are full of turmoil and that as good parents we are to guide and keep safe our children. Allowing ANYONE to "transition" a child by chemicals or surgical removal of healthy body parts is absolutely criminal. This is especially true if the adult is NOT the child's parent. Decision like this need to "cool off". If after the child reaches majority (you have to be 18 to join the military), they still want to go through this, then that is their choice as an adult. Until they become adult, no one should have the right to approve voluntary experimental (having no medical proofs, reviews) medical procedures on any child.

Gail Killian
Self
Bedford, TX

Please do not let our children be deceived by this. This is a form of child abuse!

Bruce Severson, Mr.
Self
Houston, TX

Please vote to protect our children from gender transitioning and gender reassignment treatments and surgeries before they reach the age of majority and are able to choose these treatments as adults rather than being subjected to these treatments that often lead to irreversible consequences.

Sandra M Aldridge, Mrs
Self/Pastor
Lewisville, TX

Prohibiting this should be a no brainier. Protect our children from physical abuse and psychiatric nightmare. Vote yes for this bill.

Jeff King
SELF
Fort Worth, TX

As a state, we MUST protect our children above all else which includes prohibiting gender transition, reassignment, and the teachings that encourage this until the person is at an age where they fully understand the consequences for instance no until 18 or more. Our children do not have the ability to understand what this entails and are very much influenced by peer pressure and our educators so please pass a bill to protect them from this onslaught

Martheine Ludwig
Self, Violin Teacher
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote for HB 1686. Minors are not allowed to drink, purchase alcohol, buy firearms. They are still learning about themselves and growing. They are impressionable and some will do most anything to be accepted by their peers. They should not be making these decisions at such a young age.

Fausto Ordonez
Citizen, a voter
Carrollton, TX

I am against the use of public money to ptovide these procedures.

denis lemay
self
CARROLLTON, TX

I want to record my desire that our State should ban any gender transitioning procedures or drugs to all children under the age of 18. No one should be allowed or encouraged to change genders while their bodies developing and hormones are fluctuating.

Rebecca Landry
Self
Frisco, TX

No way should public funds be provided to this nonsense. And why do people think God makes mistakes?

Luisa Moeller
Self, Nurse
Fort Worth, TX

Gender affirming care is healthcare and should be supported. The abilities of children, their caregivers and their healthcare providers to make decisions about their care should not be infringed by anyone else, let alone the government.

Maria Alonso
self, student
Austin, TX

This bill is not only an infringement on our first amendment rights by trying to deny grants to public libraries who choose to host drag events, but it is a huge waste of time and resources for the city and state. If you claim to care about children the way this bill frames it, then there are several other matters that need the state's attention. Starting with the ongoing pandemic that is still affecting children as they are still considered an at risk demographic. Or the fact the there is not only a state wide but a national teacher shortage, it's almost like these issues are related but are being completely ignored. Public libraries already get such little funding from the state, and events like drag shows bring people in and make use of the resource, why would you want to further take away they're funding. Lastly this bill will further push the ongoing violence that is happening to LGBTQIA+ people all over the country, especially here in the South, especially here in Texas. You are pushing for more stigmatization- more hate crimes with this bill by trying to use children as a way to garner votes. We know that these procedures and treatments are not happening to children at the frequency in which this bill implies that they are. And I know that as lawmakers you know this, and you don't care because this bill isn't about protecting children it is about suppressing trans and other LGBQTIA+ members alike. Stop using children as your tactic to pander to Texas voters and start using your resources and power to address the actual issues that are hurting and killing Texans everyday. Texas is one of the leading states in the country for the amount of children we have in the foster care system. When that percentage is paired with the number of unhoused youth that we have here in the state, it's very easy to tell where the Texas lawmakers' priorities are.

Amanda Booth Bice, LMFT, MA
Heart of the Matter Counseling LMFT
Canyon Lake, TX

I am a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist & I have worked with confused girls that we're starting to non medical transition. After about a year in therapy processing trauma, they changed their minds. I also have a client at the age of 41 took hormones for 6 years. After a lot of therapy with another therapist he realized he didn't want to transition. He's now 61 years old and looks 75 years old. He regrets what he did to his body. He has so many health issues directly related to taking female hormones that it has greatly impacted his life. Now he has to process his regrets for how he has destroyed his health. I respectfully ask that children be protected from making choices that lead to irreversible damage. I believe one day soon we as a society will realize that this was a terrible mark in medicine. Just like giving lobotomies or making slightly developmentally disabled people not be able to have children that this is cruel & crazy medicine. This will happen when we see how many children will be severely injured and sick adults that are losing their eyesight and incapable of having a sexual relationship due to the cascade of the wrong hormones and surgically made vaginas and penises. At least make them wait until they are adults. Even Dr. Rachel Levine the Surgeon General stated that she was glad she waited until she had her children before she became a trans woman. Thank you for allowing me to share my views from a therapist that has worked with this population. Amanda Booth Bice, LMFT Heart of the Matter. Canyon Lake, Texas.

Kathy Loucas
Self
Garland, TX

From the deepest part of my being I ask that you do not support this bill or any legislation similar. As a Texan it is with profound shame that my state would have anything other than support and compassion for these individuals and their families as they try to navigate these troubling issues. We have no business involving our government in their lives. If they break a law arrrest them. But how they dress - who they love - or what surgeries or treatments they choose are none of our business. We should be striving towards acceptance of our fellow human beings. This is persecution and shamefully, of our children! Our children! Leading from a position of love does not involve putting our most vulnerable children in a place where they feel shame for who they are. Take some time and open your minds to these families before you who are desperately trying to explain the truth of a life most of us know nothing about. Support bills that give them tools to navigate the unthinkable reality that many transgender individuals suffer profound abuse from our society. Let Texas lead the way in support and not oppression.

Robert Irion
Self
AUSTIN, TX

I do not support 1686.

Taylor Marshall
Self
Colleyville, TX

Please pass HB 1686 to protect young people from surgeries and blockers.

Susanna VanVickle
Self
Irving, TX

Please protect minors who don’t have the maturity to make life-altering decision.

Kay Ivey, Mrs
Self
Ft Worth, TX

Vote to prohibit children getting any drugs or surgery for gender change while a minor!

Teresa Greiner
Self
Temple, TX

Please support HB 1686

Douglas P Keenan
self
Austin, TX

I am in support of HB 1686 to prevent doctors from providing transgender-related health care and procedures to kids under 18 years old. Transgender-related health care for children is harmful and can be detrimental to children's lives. It is harmful because it tears apart the fabric of the family, it tears apart the friendships. In fact, they law should be pushed to the age of 21 in my opinion. When a child comes out and goes to school the next day as the opposite sex and is treated as such, that can't be changed back and could cause other damage for life.

Stephenie Weissinger
Self
League City, TX

This shouldn't even be an issue. It should all be illegal. Just as illegal as child porn.
Any actions taken by a parent or a physician with or without permission should be punished with mandatory jail time.
No public tax money should be used PERIOD.
Any adult wishing to sue participants in any sexual changes to them as a child should be allowed to do such.

Robert W. Philippi
N/A
Paris, TX

No sex change for children, when they reach adulthood if they want to be stupid, get it done but not until then!!!!!!

Elena Johnson
Self; Retired Teacher
Spring, TX

I am against the surgeries being performed on children that would damage their natural sex organs and I am against the promotion harmful hormones to be injected in their bodies causing multiple problems to their mental, physical, and emotional health.

Dawn Akery
D & D Fence and Rental
Fredericksburg, TX

DON'T ALLOW PROCEDURES AND OR TREATMENTS FOR ANY CHILD.

April Kerze
Self
Spring, TX

As a long time Texas resident and parent, I strongly support HB 1686 to protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and to prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Katherine Gregory
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is reprehensible and would have a profound negative affect on Texans of all ages, not only children. Gender affirming healthcare and trans-inclusive public policies dramatically reduce the risk of suicide among trans people and all people, no matter their gender identity, deserve healthcare that supports their bodily and psychological well being. Anti-trans bills and policies are heartless and evil and continue to marginalize an already suffering community. Parents are entitled to make private medical decisions with their child’s’ healthcare provider and the state has no business moderating this choice.

Ronald Snider
Self, construction company owner
Benbrook, TX

I support HB 1686

Chris Hattenbach, Mr
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm tired of the Left pushing thier agenda on our children
Who don't even have a clue yet about gender

Kathryn Arnold
Self
Austin, TX

All Texans deserve gender-affirming healthcare. I support trans youth and oppose this bill.

Jessica Wilson
Self, engineer
Austin, TX

No minor should be having any kind of gender modification surgery. The likelihood they will later regret these irreversible changes to their body that could prevent them from having children of their own is unforgivable. Hormone therapy that chemically castrates a child and surgery that mutilates their healthy body is objectively child abuse. This is absurd we are even having this debate. The world gas literally gone mad to the point we are willing to experiment with childrens lives.

Donna Stallone
Self
Tomball, TX

I support this bill. Leave children alone until they are an adult and let them decide once their brain is fully developed.

Craig Peck
self
Fort Worth, TX

Please vote in favor of HB 1686 to prevent the mutilation of our children in Texas!

Kerry Gillespie
Ellis county GOP
Palmer, TX

I support HB 1686

Bethany Garcia
Tutoring/Online Schooling
Cypress, TX

Experimental procedures should not be able to be performed on minors. Doctors should be held accountable for exploiting vulnerable individuals.

Caroline Culberson
Self
Austin, TX

This is an unacceptable denial of the research which shows that denying young people gender affirming leads to higher rates of suicide. It is not the business of congress to decide how doctors take care of their patients, or how parents can take care of their kids. This law will lead to further and further incursions and micromanaging law that are based in religious doctrine rather than on common sense and scientific research. Focus on saving Texan lives, fixing the grid, improving the economy, and leave our personal lives alone. It is absolutely none of this legislative body’s business what gender another person is.

William Buckley, Mr
Self
Cypress, TX

I support this bill.

Julia A Keenan
self
Austin, TX

I am in support of HB 1686 to prevent doctors from providing transgender-related health care and procedures to kids under 18 years old. Transgender-related health care for children is harmful and can be detrimental to children's lives. It is harmful because it tears apart the fabric of the family, it tears apart the friendships. In fact, they law should be pushed to the age of 21 in my opinion. When a child comes out and goes to school the next day as the opposite sex and is treated as such, that can't be changed back and could cause other damage for life.

Jessica Thornton, Mrs.
Self
Irving, TX

Please protect our young people from surgical mutilation and chemical castration. Read Walt Heyer's and Scott Newgent's testimonies on how gender transition surgeries and drugs ruined their lives. THIS IS NOT HEALTH CARE!

Karen McDaniel
Precinct Chair #514
Spring, TX

This is a must to vote for as it protects our children. They need mental help not gender transitioning.

Eric Boatman
Self
McKinney, TX

The United States and the State of Texas prides itself on being the land where freedom rings. The LGBTQ+ community and in this instance, the transgender community, deserves just as much of this freedom as anyone else. Transgender people commit suicide more than the National rate and study after study has proven that gender affirming care helps limit this. Kids have so much to worry about, and the dealings of the Texas Legislature shouldn't be one of these things. This decision is between the child, their family, and their doctor, not the government. The party of small government should not use the government against its own people. Therefore, on behalf of all of the children whose lives will be disrupted, I urge you to not support this bill.

Brian Jennings, Mr
Self
Tyler, TX

With all due respect it is sad that this is being questioned, children are not decision makers and those politicians against this bill are against the children. I am in FAVOR of this bill. If we allow this mental health crisis to be normalized then we are normalizing those kids who identify as cats, are we going to let this madness rule, logic is essential for the survival of our society. Please vote this bill forward and protect those children with mental health issues by providing mental health services not surgeries they will scar them for life.

Respectfully, Brian Jennings.

Marjorie Anderson
Self. Registered nurse, retired
Ft Worth, TX

Please protect our children . Prohibit gender reassignment surgery and treatment on minors. I am opposed to using public funding for any gender reassignment surgery or treatment.

Alice Pena
Self
Austin, TX

It is unconscionable to consider extreme anatomical damage which will be irreversible and requiring constant medical manipulation to maintain on someone so young and unable to grasp the totality of a desire. If science says a person is not mature until 25 years of age, how can anyone believe they are capable of this life changing decision. It is equally reprehensible to allow this tragedy to proceed with financial assistance. Be the adult in the room and block all attempts to facilitate it

Rebecca Ator
Self
Hutto, TX

I am against this bill because it will have a profound negative impact.

Kevin Thornton, Maverick
Self
Irving, TX

PLEASE PASS THIS!!! IT IS CRITICAL TO OUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN! Stop child abuse!!!

Jeffrey Jon
Self
Holly Lake Ranch, TX

Crippling children for life should not be an agenda item, and certainly parents should be consulted and then honor their decision as they are the caretakers of their child. The government has no place in these decisions.

Mary Stirton
Self
Keller, TX

I urge you to support this bill and protect the children of Texas. It is reprehensible to think that children have the maturity or ability to make life changing decisions for themselves. We need to have the compassion to get them the mental health treatment they may need for their dysphoria, and not be complicit in permanently altering and mutilating their bodies. More and more studies are showing the terrible regrets that people are having after these hormone “treatments” and surgeries .

Linda Demjen, President
A Cup of Cold Water Ministries, Inc.
Houston, TX

A child cannot make such a decision to alter his or her own gender and should never be subjected to procedures through their own will or their parents will. The health problems that could follow are life altering not only physically, but mentally. I completely disagree with using my tax dollars to do so.

Crystal Wade
self - self-employed
Hico, TX

Biology shows that gender is assigned before birth. This is a well-known scientific fact, and is very firmly established in natural law in the world around us. The procedures and their effects to change gender are harmful. We are now seeing, as many former trans-gender people are making their voices heard, that long-term these gender reassignments have used the confusion the people suffered, and made it much worse, for the long-term with almost irreversible biological and psychological mal-effects. Please act now for the future of our children in Texas and prohibit all procedures and treatments to gender transition, gender reassign, and for gender dysphoria. Please prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to providing these procedures and treatments. Thank you for taking the stand now to ensure the well-being of our future--our children for the generations to come.

Terry Wareham
Bastrop County TEA Party
Smithville, TX

I agree HB 1686. This gender stuff is absolute child abuse! If adults did this mutilation to dogs and cats they would instantly be imprisoned! This does not follow science, natural law and definitely points to mental illness!

Joy Marshall
Self
Colleyville, TX

Ban procedures and treatments for transitioning in children

Hector Murillo, Mx.
Self , Coordinator
San Antonio, TX

My name is Hector Murillo III. I am a trans nonbinary person. I use They /Them pronouns. I vote. I pay my taxes. As do many of my trans and cis brothers & siblings in the Great state of Texas and across the country. Long has this country been hailed as a land of freedom- freedom of who to vote for , where to live, what school to send your child to. How can we still claim to be the land of the free when this body wants to strip the rights of parents to choose what is right for their child ? Healthcare is personal, and the healthcare you want to take away from trans children is literally life saving. Trans children have a high suicide rate not because of the gender affirming care they receive but because they are denied it. Because society sees them as less than. They deserve the chance to grow up , go to school, thrive. Who are you to deny them that right?

Shelly Claffey
Self
Keller, TX

I support HB 1686

Jeddy Bowen
Self
Fort Worth, TX

FOR/support

John Franzen
Self retired
Palmer, TX

I support HB 1686. Transitioning doesn't even help adults.

Cynthia Jolly
HB 1686
Denison, TX

For HB 1686

Megan McBride
Self
Austin, TX

I vehemently oppose this bill. Gender-affirming care saves lives. Texas must recognize and protect the humanity, equality, and mental health of transgender youth.

Phil Briscoe, Mr
Concerned citizen
Wylie, TX

God doesn’t make mistakes!!!

Joylin Wei
self, UT student
Austin, TX

I am vehemently against this bill. Trans kids deserve gender health care. Gender affirmation is life saving care.

Laurinda Wilkerson, Mrs.
Self
Waco, TX

Please vote in favor of HB 1686. These precious children need to be loved into wholeness and confident in who God created them to be. They do not need to be confused into thinking they are something that they are not! Some may think they are helping these children by trying to change their gender but they are only causing more confusion for them and harming them in every possible way.

Brenda Porter
Self; retired teacher
San Antonio, TX

I strongly urge each of you to ensure our children are not allowed to be subjected to gender transitioning or gender reassignment treatment or procedures. These have lifelong impact and result in irreversible changes and damage to a person. They should not be available for anyone who cannot comprehend exactly what that impact could be, and especially not to our children.

Carolyb Bobola, Mrs
Self
Magnolia, TX

We must protect our children from the transgender agenda and push which is so destructive to our children. I’m requesting for you to stand strong for their protection on behalf our children.

Lidia Ochwat
Self - retired
Flower Mound, TX

SUPPORT HB1686 NO Child is Born in the Wrong Body. We must prohibit gender modification of minor children. #DoNoHarm. This irreversible decision should only be allowed to be made by a responsible adult who has gone through a year of therapy. Do not harm our children.

Michael Bodoin
Self - Information Securitu
Austin, TX

As a parent, you always want to be able provide all the necessary support for children to have a healthy and supportive environment in their home. It's a roll of the dice, your kids will have different things that you may need to help them with. It can be anxiety, it can be depression or they may be LGTBQ+. This demographic of people has some of the highest suicide rates and parents will do what they need to ensure that they find balance and love in their hearts. For some reason, people feel that children are having invasive surgeries. This isn't the case, and the majority of care isn't related to that, it is all types of care. That can cover a large area of healthcare, that you are trying to block. If your child was in a targeted group, and have mental stressors that often lead to suicide I'd not attempt to remove your rights to healthcare to ensure that they have all the support needed to help them weather the storm. You claim to hate big government, if that is the case stay out of the way of the professionals, and that is healthcare professionals, and let them provide the proper guidance that has been studied and reviewed. It shouldn't be based on your definitions of normal, as you don't get to define that. I'm sure you've had relatives that might have been racist, or used terms we wouldn't in todays society. You didn't see it as normal, but it was normal to them, that doesn't mean it was right. The majority of people don't see this as an issue, so quit wasting our time with your reactionary conservative soap boxes and do something useful.

Megan Young, Ms
Self - speech-language pathologist, PhD student
Austin, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the passing of this bill. As a researcher in the social sciences, I am acutely familiar with the psychological harm that is secondary to concealing one's true identity. This bill poses irreparable harm to children and adults with minority sexual orientations and gender identities. Children and their caregivers deserve the right to pursue evidence-based care that will improve quality of life. Trans youth are unjustly and systematically stigmatized and harmed in our communities and this bill will only exacerbate these devastating consequences.

Cari(Charis) Marshall
Dallas Baptist University
Cedar Hill, TX

I advocate to help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Laura Franco
Self, Program Manager
Cisco, TX

I urge you to support this bill to prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to help children transition to the opposite of their biological sex. This is inhumane treatment and should NOT be allowed under any circumstances.

Dion Krause
Self and semiconductor sales
Lucas, TX

Stop this madness please! Children should not have these procedures done. Period!

Cheryl Fuhrmann
Texas Teachers
Gainesville, TX

Please protect our children from Gender change surgeries!

Jenna Falgout
Self
Austin, TX

This bill is based on an obvious lie—the people who drafted it know that as well as anyone who has done any amount of research into the actual medical treatments for trans children. The authors of the bill know as well as I do that this bill is just a way to crack open the door to an all out assault on trans rights. It's the exact same attack on each person's innate and fundamental right to bodily autonomy that this conservative government has already used against women. This is a bill about exercising power against two vulnerable populations—trans people and children. Trans children in Texas deserve affirming treatment, the support of their parents and peers, and the exact same right as any other child in this state to grow up happy and free. This government has proved that it is more willing to see children be brutally murdered at school than to see them grow up to be autonomous, self possessed citizens. This government knows that it does not speak for its constituents on this issue. It knows that the majority of Texans support trans rights. But it would rather press another boot on the necks of its people than to cede any measure of control. The purpose of a government should be to provide an apparatus of care and support to the people it serves, not to rob them of their humanity. I was a transgender child in Texas. I tried to take my own life twice before the age of 19 rather than acknowledge who I am, and that I am as sacred, important, and worthy of love as the people around me. I did not see a future here, but with the love and support of my community I was able to build one. Texas is my home, not just by virtue of my birth but because I have made it my home. I have chosen this place time and time again. I belong here. My community belongs here. Trans people have always been here and we always will be, despite the Stare of Texas' best efforts.

Madelyn Roberts
Self, interior designer
Austin, TX

Parents should be able to make medical decisions for their children. Transitioning procedures are life saving. Medical decisions should be between doctors and their patients (and the patients' parents if the patient is a minor) and NOT the government's business.

alicia sharpe
Concerned Citizen
San Antonio, TX

Let doctors and parents decide what is right and necessary for children's health

Dale McGilvray
Self
Plano, TX

I totally support HB 1686. Procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, and gender dysphoria should be prohibited. No public money or public assistance should be given to provide for those procedures and treatments.

Jolene Slama-Saenz
Self
Austin, TX

If this bill is passed, it would be devastating to the trans community. We have a friend with a trans daughter and without gender affirming care that her family and doctors get to decide, it may put the child's mental health and life in jeopardy. Please do not pass this bill. Continue to let people and doctors decide what is the best medical care, not government.

Keith Lindsey
Self Unemployed
Round Rock, TX

We need to protect all children from these dangerous gender transition drugs and procedures. Children are not capable of making their own decisions and therefore should not be permitted to make decisions like this. Children are not capable of entering into contracts, so they should not be able make these decisions. Further, their parents should be prohibited from making these decisions. If someone wants to make that decision once they have reached the age of majority, fine, but not until and IN NO INSTANCE SHOULD PUBLIC MONEY BE USED TO FACILITATE THESE KINDS OF PROCEDURES!!

Patti Schwartz
Self / Physical Therapist
Plano, TX

The treatments provided to children for “gender affirming care” are experimental, dangerous, and often producing permanent harm. There is no good scientific evidence that these treatments “help”, but there is ample data demonstrating the harm. Many who have undergone these treatments are now seeking to de-transition and lawsuits are already on the horizon…what a mess we are creating! Children cannot make truly informed decisions such as these until their age of reasoning as an adult. Please vote to protect our children

Emma Holder
self, Licensed Master Social Worker/Therapist
Austin, TX

I am a therapist and social worker who has worked directly with trans youth in Texas. If Bill 1686 passes, you will be creating a public health crisis. Gender affirming care has a hugely positive mental health impact on trans youth. Research shows that gender affirming care greatly reduces the risk of suicide attempts and completion in the trans youth community. The following article provides links to multiple studies that show the mental health benefits of providing trans youth with gender affirming care.

https://www.columbiapsychiatry.org/news/gender-affirming-care-saves-lives

In banning gender affirming care, this bill would put an already vulnerable population at greater risk for suicide. Trans adolescents have a much higher risk of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts than other populations. a 2020 study of suicidality among transgender youth wrote that 56% of the Trans youth participants had attempted suicide and 86% reported suicidal ideation. (Austin, Craig, D'Souza, McInroy, 2020). These are staggering numbers compared to the already high 8.9% of general youth who have attempted suicide and 18.8% of general youth who have experienced suicidal ideation. (CDC,2020)

I am begging you all as someone who works with people with suicidal ideation to help them stay alive and feel better, do not pass this bill. Like any prescription medication, hormone therapy is only used under the supervision of a doctor and with parent's consent for minors. This is the current state of things. Adolescents and adults undergo gender affirming care with the help of medical professionals. I trust patients, their doctors, and parents to decide what is best for them. Please do not take away access to gender affirming care. It is life-saving healthcare. You can support trans youth mental health even if you don't understand what they are going through or it worries you. I promise you, banning their access to gender affirming care will only hurt them. Below are links to the studies and websites I referred to earlier.

Sincerely,

Emma Holder, LMSW

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/su/su6901a6.htm

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32345113/

Darcie Skrzycki
Self
San Antonio, TX

The decisions regarding a child's healthcare, transgender or otherwise, are between the child's parents and physicians. As a retired healthcare worker, I'm appalled by the government overreach in the citizens' right to make educated and informed decisions about their personal healthcare. When we lose the very right to make a choice, we lose our identity, dignity and our freedom. Trans rights are human rights.

Dana Ashrawi
Self, professional writer and editor
Cypress, TX

I am opposed to this legislation because I believe that it is imposing religiously-based beliefs on the population and is even attempting to practice medicine or dictate to doctors how to practice. The science is sound around the justification for gender-affirming hormonal treatment for minors who are transgender. It is immoral and incorrect to make their treatment illegal and to threaten to take away medical licenses for people who provide gender affirming care. This bill should not proceed to a vote.

Josh Sallerson
Self
Austin, TX

N/a

Karl Gillian
Self -artist
Dallas, TX

This bill is a distraction from much bigger issues we are facing as a State and a Country. As a Texas citizen, this bill DOES NOT represent me and I am disgusted that our representatives are making it look like Texas is still in the stone age when it comes to treating ALL of its citizens like human beings.

Susan Bailey, Mrs
Self/ Oliverson
Pottsboro, TX

I stand for this bill.

Ann Tekin
Self, Real Estate
Celina, TX

I do not want to fund gender transitioning in any form for children. It’s ridiculous. We better bring God back into the lives of these children!!!

Linda Wylie, Ms
Grandparents
Lockhart, TX

Keep our children safe. Stop this evil movement against children that do not understand.

Jacalyn Hildebrand
Self
Mesquite, TX

Please protect children from unnecessary life altering surgeries and hormone treatment on anyone under 21 years old. These procedures are horrific. Having worked in the medical field for 40 years….several years with a psychiatrist. Doing anything that causes imbalances in a person's body affects every part of the body. Treating a mental disorder with surgery is unthinkable. One doctor I worked for had patients come in requesting surgeries (like one woman who wanted butterflies removed from her stomach) and no reputable doctor would do NO such thing

Don Cox
Self, Maintance Manager.
Irving, TX

God made us the way He wanted us. It is not for us to try to change that. When Israel sinned, God abandoned Israel. If we sin by changing ourselves, He will abandon us.

Elizabeth Hurt
Self - paralegal
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1686. Health care is a human right and gender affirming healthcare is healthcare, regardless of age. Medical decisions for children should be left to parents to make in the best interest of their children, and this bill would remove the ability for parents to exercise their discretion.

Vonda McClendon
Self
Frisco, TX

I wholeheartedly support this bill. Please vote in favor for this. We cannot fail to protect our children from others whose influences would cause them harm.

Steven Mitschke
Self
Conroe, TX

No public funds should ever be used on something of this nature.

James McCarty
Self - engineer
Amarillo, TX

I support this legislation. I am troubled by a world that believes it's okay to believe a child when they say they don't feel like their biological gender and sex even when that same child is forbidden from eating Hershey Bar pizza and ice cream instead of their chicken and broccoli meal.

I am troubled by a world thad says we should trust our feelings when it involves the destruction of our bodies but condemns us when we fail to give up cigarettes and buy junk food at the grocery store when we shop when we feel hungry.

I am troubled by a world that says we should live by the science when everything scientific in this instance is being thrown out to celebrate a world view that is harming our state and nation.

I applaud you for seeking to protect the most vulnerable citizens in our state until they are of age to make their own decision. My hope is during that time the debate will continue instead of the bullying that is coming from this elite perspective so the Truth can come to light and we can help these people to love a long and meaningful life apart from disfiguring mutilation.

Please allow this bill to come to a vote and please help it to achieve success so that our children are made safe!!

Thank you!!! James McCarty

Jordan Mahoney
Self
Austin, TX

The result of this bill, the only measurable result of this bill, will be the continued and exacerbated rate of suicide amongst trans and non-binary children. It is disgusting that this is still being considered, and even more So in this freedom loving state of Texas. Keep your hands off our kids. We agree that child safety is of the utmost importance, this is not how we achieve that. The only thing this will achieve is additional harm to an already marginalized and endangered group of children. I implore you to strike this bill down, and all other bills like it.
It is not the place of this body of government to comment on or regulate medical decisions of individuals, not only because, but especially because, this body does not have the education, training, inand information to make those decisions objectively, compassionately, and equitably.

Leo Kiesling
Self and all other trans people of Texas
Montgomery, TX

Every suicide caused by this bill will be on YOUR hands. Do the right thing for once. Listen to us, listen to doctors, listen to psychologists. Do you care about your citizens safety and wellbeing? Prove it.

Josh Lewter
Self
San Marcos, TX

People should have a right to live freely and in whatever form they find most comfortable to them, banning these practices will see a rise in youth suicide. This is fascist behavior and shameful and those who penned it should be ashamed of themselves and the unamerican behavior they are displaying from their hateful hearts.

Heidi Frankland, Mrs
Self/Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I would like to respectfully submit my comments regarding HB 1686. I am a former nurse, and I have been involved in several different research projects in three different countries, so I have a fairly good understanding of how scientific research should be done- unbiased and open to indepth scrutiny by peers and other experts, among other things. I am deeply concerned over how rapidly unproven theories and ideas have become "settled science" and not allowed to be questioned in any way, shape, or form. That is not science, that is not the way to properly treat disorders of any kind. And people are always allowed or even encouraged to get second or more opinions about the proper treatment for their condition in all other areas of medicine. But not in regards to the treatment for minors diagnosed as transgender. That alone seems very suspicious to me. And it is also interesting to me that some other countries, for example Finland, Sweden, and the UK do not rush into medical treatment of minors. For example, a quote from an NHS article regarding treatment of gender dysphoria, and looking at children under 18- "Most treatments offered at this stage are psychological rather than medical. This is because in many cases gender variant behaviour or feelings disappear as children reach puberty." And a quote regarding Finland's policy- "the country’s Council for Choices in Health Care (COHERE) issued new recommendations in 2020. COHERE recommends that “the first-line treatment for gender dysphoria is psychosocial support and, as necessary, psychotherapy and treatment of possible comorbid psychiatric disorders.” In the same document, COHERE emphasizes that “gender reassignment of minors is an experimental practice.” Minors should never be experimented on in the way it is happening in the US.
I am also concerned by the amount of times I have read about parents not being informed about what their child is discussing with school officials, etc., and subsequently being blocked from any say in what is done to their child. That is not right. Mutilating, permanent changes are happening to minors, and so many of them are girls. The rapid increase in identifying as transgender amongst girls is deeply concerning.
The expression "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread" is what comes to mind. Much more proper research needs to be done, and much more indepth discussions need to take place. Our children's lives are at stake. And they are very, very precious.
And I do not approve of public money being used for providing these procedures and treatments, but I do approve of public money being used to help with psychosocial support, and as necessary, psychotherapy and treatment of possible comorbid psychiatric disorders.
Thank you.

Stephanie Bjornstrom
Self, stay at home mom
Plano, TX

I support this bill.

Christine Thurlow, Ms.
Houston
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Deborah DuPree, Mrs.
Self
Sherman, TX

Please support this important bill to protect our innocent children from horrendous procedures that are life altering and not reversible. I am appalled at the pressure on these children by woke teachers, administrators, and online entities, to alter their bodies, causing serious consequences in their future that are not being revealed to them, such as sterility, having to take medications their entire life, and never allowing them to live a normal productive life as their God-given gender. I am shocked that these procedures are being pushed on our children in the name of making huge profits and that the "adults in the room" do NOT have enough conscience and integrity to protect them. Instead they are being "sold" a political agenda that may severely injure them and could cause them to be mentally unstable as we have seen in numerous mass murders, most recently in Nashville.

Sydney Pauling
Self
Austin, TX

Protect Trans kids

Bill Maund
self consultant
Dallas, TX

Please vote to PROHIBIT procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments for children under 18.

Alexa Cox
Self - Management in Information Technology
Georgetown, TX

I respectfully request that serious consideration be given to not propagating child abuse on children suffering from mental illness, which gender dysphoria has been identified as a valid mental disorder. Instead of addressing the root mental issues for the child experiencing these symptoms, performing modifications on the child that are irreversible is negligence and abuse. There have been numerous instances where children that have felt pressured or bullied into gender modification and later in life realized they really had not wanted that and have to live the rest of their lives regretting having allowed themselves to go through gender modification. If a child is not considered to be able to vote/enlist in the armed services until 18 or purchase alcohol until 21 or rent cars until 25 because they have not gained the applicable knowledge with understanding of consequences, responsibility, accountability and ownership for their decisions, then how can they make these life changing decisions even younger. They are still learning and exploring their world and are not in anyway ready to make decisions about themselves and gender identity modification without serious influence/pressure from other people/adults who have their own preferences/beliefs that they are pushing on to the children in their care, which they should be charged with child endangerment and abuse (mental, emotional and physical).

AMBER Jarvis
Self
Dallas, TX

Please pass this bill in order to protect Texas' children from gender surgeries and puberty blockers. A child shouldn't be encouraged to take such life altering steps before they have the ability to understand the ramifications of their actions.

Michael Belsick
Fredericksburg Tea Party
Fredericksburg, TX

My name is Mike Belsick from Fredericksburg representing myself. Please vote FOR HB 1686. It is important for all of us to protect our children. If society limits things like drinking, voting, able to purchase guns, we do so because children are not able to make rational decisions. As such, why would we let a minor make a life changing decision? If that is what they want after age 18, then so be it. Thank you for your time.

Samantha Fraser
Self
Austin, TX

My name is Samantha Fraser I live in Austin , Texas. I am reaching out to let you know that I strongly oppose HB 1686. Healthcare is a human right and restricting access to people based on gender identity is abhorrent. Texas has a large LGBTQIA+ community that deserves the same rights and freedoms as the other residents of the state. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I stand with Transgender people and am urging you to do the right thing and stand against this legislation.
Healthcare access to Transgender youth is essential to their survival. There are numerous studies showing that Transgender children are at the highest risk of suicide and gender-affirming care is shown to reduce this (Austin, 2022). Medical decisions should be between a doctor and their patient or their patient's legal guardian. No one else should be allowed in this process. This bill is a blatant overstep of government involvement as it limits doctors' abilities to adequately treat their patients and meet their patient's needs. It will also interfere with the treatment for children who are born intersex and for children who need hormone therapy as a treatment for various medical conditions. (Lawrence, 2021)
Puberty Blockers are a safe and proven way to support gender questioning and transgender children. (St. Louis Children's Hospital, n.d.) This bill would prevent doctors, parents, and children from making a decision regarding a child's health. Medical care should be decided upon by medical providers and people educated in medicine, not government officials.
I appreciate your time and hope you will oppose HB 1686.
Thank you,
Samantha Fraser
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Leopoldo ARTALEJO III, Dr.
Self RETIRED PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy)
El Paso, TX

As a doctor of pharmacy and Toxicologist, I strongly support the approval of HB 1686 (Gender Mod ban). Our children must be protected from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Brian Accrocco
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB 1686

Kerry Evans
Self
Houston, TX

I denounce this bill. It is a huge human rights violation and will bring harm to so many.

William Friebel
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I fully support House Bill 1686 and protecting our youth from irreversible medical procedures.

Lauren Devine

Self, stay at home mom/ co-owner of IT firm

Conroe, TX

If HB 1686 passes this means the disenfranchisement of so many children who don't fit the mold of the Evangelical Right. Their healthcare and their mental health will be severely compromised. Also, Texas (in Houston) is home to the largest medical center on the planet. This means that our well-trained doctors will not know or will not be up to the latest medical standards affecting gender transitioning/reassignment. This is an infringement on so many childrens' rights. Without public funds to help pay for treatments/procedures, the rate of suicide will go up amongst many in the community. Do we really want to be burying children because of something as innocuous as gender reassignment surgery and all the aspects that this bill represents?

Trina Westberg

Home owner/ Tax Payer

Plano, TX

I condemn this horrific act and barbaric performing surgeries on children. Please protect children from this harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments

Anonymous Constituent, Mr.

Self student

Austin, TX

I am a Texas citizen concerned for the future of this states. I oppose HB 1686 because lack of access to medically necessary gender affirming healthcare is linked to higher depression and suicide rates for trans youth. The consequences of this bill potentially passing are unthinkable and horrifying. Each and everyone of you swore an oath to protect your constituents. All of them, not just the cisgendered ones. Vote against this bill. Keep your promise.

Ximena Lopez, Dr.

Pediatric Endocrine Society

Plano, TX

We are AGAINST this bill. This is a government interference with the parent's right to autonomy to decide what is best for their children. That is the 1st principle of medical ethics : patient's autonomy .

Paul Elliott

self

McKinney, TX

Please protect the kids from this self destructive mental illness sweeping our country. These kids are being manipulated.

Scott Killian

Self

Bedford, TX

Please pass this bill. The breakdown of the family has led to enough problems. It's time to support morally correct families.

Ambereen Siddiqui
Self, nonprofit worker
Richmond, TX

Trans kids deserve healthcare. Everyone does. Y'all constricting that universal right with your own personal (transphobic, homophobic, ignorant, and hateful) beliefs in the name of "children's safety" is disgusting. I, like millions of other Texas residents, believe strongly that politicians restricting healthcare in the ways described in HB1686 are making a terrible mistake. As a constituent, I hope you know you are going against the wishes of the people that voted you into office. You are destroying healthcare outcomes for KIDS in your districts. You are NOT helping children with this bill. You are actively making your constituents' lives worse. No one is proud of you except for your fellow bigots. Please do better, you can still vote against this bill and not be an awful person.

Brittany Cordero
Self
Spring, TX

This is healthcare. Don’t politicize or criminalize healthcare for those that need it

Amanda Collinsworth
Self, self employed
San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill as it is an absolute abuse of power and completely goes against all medical recommendations. Medical decisions should be made by individuals and their doctors and in the case of a child, the child and their parents and doctors. Disgusted that this is even being considered.

Margaret Tamez
Self/CFO small business
Cypress, TX

I support any efforts to prohibit drugs/hormones/mutilating surgeries being pushed on and performed on our children. It is proven fact that somewhere around 90% of all gender dysphoric chldren embrace their God given gender in adulthood. As you know, children are incapable of making these kinds of life altering decisions that will likely affect their quality of life for the rest of their lives. I pray this bill will pass to the floor for a passing vote! Thank you.

Diane Chong
Self, concerned parent
Houston, TX

No child is born in the wrong body. Children have been indoctrinated to believe that by attempting to change their sex, they will be happy. There are many stories of children having severe regret after mutilating their bodies, when it is too late. We must prohibit this medicalization of minor children and remind the healthcare establishment that they must #DoNoHarm and #LetThemGrow. When these children are of legal age to make these life changing decisions, they can make informed decisions as a mature adult. As a concerned parent for childrens mental health and stability, I implore my state representatives to vote FOR HB1686!

Jessie Clyne
Self, student
San Antonio, TX

This is violating an individual’s right to complete bodily autonomy and is not in the business of legislators to prohibit. All gender identities, no matter the age of the individual, are valid and must be protected by our laws. It is disturbing that legislators have decided that this is an issue that must be “dealt” with. There are so many pressing issues in this country and I am ashamed that my government is failing to prioritize their time and energy to them. With bills like this one, the people’s time and energy are also being played with, and it is cruel that my government is KNOWINGLY causing mental, emotional, and physical distress to individuals who do not fit into their gender binary. We are exhausted and are simply wanting to exist.

Kathy Hommel, Mrs
Texas Values
Clarendon, TX

Our God said he made male and female. Letting any age destroy their body is evil, but when you allow children and teens who are not ready or able to make a decision like this is not justice. It’s wrong!
Kathy Hommel

Adam Korab
Engineer
Conroe, TX

Helping out children with public funding should never be verboten.

Patricia Sherk, Mrs
Self
Dallas, TX

I am strictly against this. Our children are made in the image and likeness, male and female for all eternity.

James Martinez
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Carolyn W Lance, Cass County RPT Chair
TRTA/,Cass County Republican Party
Queen City, TX

Our children and society must be protected from the gender modification that alters the beautiful creation that was made by God. Nothing should be paid from any source to any treatment for sex reassignment.

Kaitlin Burns
self
Austin, TX

Trans youth needs to be protected and cared for. Withholding gender affirming care will ultimately put trans youth at a much higher risk of losing their loves whether from suicide, self-harm or violence from their peers. No child deserves to feel unsafe and disconnected with their own bodies. It is our job to encourage children to feel safe, seen, and protected by their elders, but instead we are putting them in danger with bills like these. Trans lives matter. Let our children feel connected, authentic, and comfortable in their identities. Allow our children to thrive. Allow our children to be happy. This bill is an outrage and those who condone this have zero idea what kind of harm they are causing. I am so proud of our community for showing up the way they have, despite having such little time to do so. Queer people have always existed and will continue to show up authentically and powerfully no matter how many times you try to erase us.

Julie Ann Paulson
self
Round Rock, TX

HouseBill HB1686 - I firmly believe that Texas should ban gender transitioning of minors.

Karen Williams
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital
Cypress, TX

Protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Reileigh Turro
Self
Pflugerville, TX

As a health care professional, it is highly important that these decisions are made by healthcare professionals and family with medical research in mind. This bill does not take medical research, health, or safety of people who need affirming healthcare into account. I am writing to request that you vote no to this bill. Thank you for your time!

Jacqueline Baez-Lugo
self
Mcallen, TX

Please pass this bill, No children should have to have "surgery" to remove breasts or penis! The transgender industry is making billions of dollars of people and now they have found a new cash cow to have lifelong patients with puberty blockers and gender surgery. Look what is happening to reality star Jazz Jennings, that poor child has been on transition all his/her life and her/his mother all she cared about is the money and fame she is getting from the show. STOP TRANSGENDER SURGERIES, NO ONE IS BORN IN THE WRONG BODY. WE HAVE A REPUBLICAN MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE, we should be able to pass common sense laws. The future of Texas is at stake. who in their right mind want to put children and do sex-reassignment surgeries! this is a monstrous agenda by big pharma and the transgender industry to dominate. vote yes on 1686!

Simon Li, Dr
Jireh Bible Church
Houston, TX

I agree with the bill

Susan Wilson
self
Spring, TX

I implore you to vote in favor of passing this bill. Children are too young, both emotionally and physically, to make any decision that will have such a permanent impact on their futures. Children are not the property of their parents; parents should not have the right to encourage or even support such a decision. Parent's responsibilities should include protecting children from anything that might cause them damage, as might occur from such surgeries and treatments. Child labor laws were enacted to protect children; this law needs to be enacted to protect children. And why should using public money or public assistance be provided for the types of procedures and treatments mentioned in this bill any more than for any other surgeries or treatments that someone might want to have because they are unhappy or uncomfortable with any other aspect of their being? Tummy tucks, liposuction, face lifts, tattoo removal, etc. all can impact how one feels about him/herself or one's identity, yet I don't think any of us would consider those types of treatments or surgeries as qualifying for public money or public assistance.
Thank you for listening to my comments.

Anita Maxwelll
CCDF
Pilot Point, TX

In SUPPORT of the bill!

Michelle Mcdonald
Self; homemaker
Denton, TX

Oppose this bill

Thomas D Hritz
Self
Rockwall, TX

This is absolutely necessary. Gender transitioning ruins a child's life forever. They need mental health counseling, not irrevovcble changes to their bodies.

Fran Sandin
Self Registered Nurse, Retired
Greenville, TX

Gender Dysphoria in children is a recent development, and I believe it is being promoted by the "Woke" agenda. Biology proves that the sex of a child is determined at the time of conception, and the DNA is set for that child. Children go through phases during their growing up years and the parents affirm a child as a male or a female. "Feelings" are fickle and should not be the basis for removing body parts from children. Their feelings will change in a few years, and then they cannot have children, they remain confused, and many go on to commit suicide. A God-given sexual identity cannot be changed. It is child abuse. I am saddened to think that some in the medical profession have agreed to perform such horrible acts as removing normal body parts from children. Thank you for voting to support the health of children as God made them. Thank you for refusing to engage in child abuse.

juan medrano
self / self
arlington, TX

A concerned Texan in vehement opposition of this bill. The bill includes language referring to personhood as a form of chromosomes, genitalia, and sex. This is absolutely inappropriate and disrespectful to the concept of personhood. There should be NO legislation defining personhood as something to be regulated and controlled. Considering the states complicated history of reproductive rights including but not limited to birth control and abortion, it would seem as though parents have total control over their offspring as dictated by law. And yet, the government is making a concerted effort in forcing parents to confirm to this concept of what personhood should be, and aims to actively punish parents who wish to exercise their own agency as heads of their own household. This legislation is damaging to everything the country stands for as it strips away existing liberties from Texans and will prevent futureTexans from even experiencing those very same liberties. Personhood should not be defined by legislation, nor should it be a concept that requires strict regulation. And I refuse to stand idly by and pretend as though anti-trans legislation has more importance in our society today, seeing as how we have children murdering children in their own schools. I think this bill is highly inappropriate, and disrespectful to ALL Texans.

Stephanie Thompson
NA
Houston, TX

I want to protect children and support a BAN on gender modification surgery for children. They are to young to know their personality and should not be taken advantage of at an early age.

Mei chun Lu
Self
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Rae Bagwell
Self
Spring, TX

For HB 1686

Danielle Buck
Self VP strategic partners
Ft Worth, TX

I fully support this bill . Children cannot make life altering decisions while their brains are still forming.

Brett Moneta
None
Dallas, TX

Please stop wasting your time and my tax dollars on personal and privacy issues that are not the government's business. This is not a major issue for most of us and should be left to the family and chosen physician. Did or roads, violent crime and improve education in Texas.

Christian Rivera
Self
Princeton, TX

Please pass this. Let kids be kids.

Linda Albrecht-blom, ms
self
mabank, TX

It's ridiculous this has to be legally said! No mutilation of children for any reason. Parents and physicians should be incarcerated and the key thrown.

Maria Colunga
Self/Scheduler
Houston, TX

I support HB1686

Catherine Thornton
Self
Bedford, TX

Please pass this bill. I want my future children and others to be protected from mutilation and unchangeable procedures prior to their ability to making adult decisions.

Mary Mathis
Self/Retired
Mckinney, TX

Please vote YES and get this bill passed. This indoctrination has got to stop. Please vote to keep our children safe. Thank you

Vickie Jordan
Self, Retired
Waco, TX

TEXAS CANNOT CONTINUE TO MUTILATE CHILDREN’S BODIES BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM BIASED GROUPS WITH DEVIOUS AGENDAS TO FORCE ON OTHER PEOPLE!

Hilary Kamin
Self, non-profit Director of Community Engagement
Houston, TX

These bills are only hurtful to our society. They don’t actually help anyone or protect anyone. Please spend your time and energy on fighting crime or paying teachers better wages! Those things will help our communities to be stronger and better for our future!

Tami Weaver
Self school teacher
Keller, TX

I support this bill to protect our children.

Linda Martin, Mrs
Self
San Angelo, TX

OUR CHILDREN MUST BE PROTECTED!

Allison Brandon
Self, Ops Manager
Fort Worth, TX

I oppose this hateful bill!

Gina Bastone
Self, librarian
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. It will not protect children. Gender affirming care is well studied. This bill is not rooted in medical science. This is harmful bill.

Sean Timmons
Self
Missouri City, TX

We must pass this bill
And end the woke insanity of the far left delusional oligarchs destroying this country!

Tim Young, mr
self
Cypress, TX

A child's gender dysphoria should not use public funds or assistance for treatment.

Brian Henson, Rev.
Self, Pastor
Cedar Park, TX

To the members of the House Public Health Committee: I would like to encourage you, in the strongest possible terms, to support HB 1686. I speak as a pastor, as a parent, and as a former medical professional.

As a pastor, my ultimate authority is the Bible, which I believe to be God's very word to humanity. One of the foundational teachings of Scripture is that God created human beings male and female. This is is not a Western construct, nor a pleasant fiction. It is reality. Our sex is a "given"--we don't choose it, no matter what our feelings may tell us. Our sex cannot be "changed"; it is an intrinsic part of who we are. And please don't fall for the old canard of "gender and sex aren't the same thing." Do your research--the very notion of "gender" is a recent advent in human history. No, people have always understood that humans are either male or female, and that these are not interchangeable. Of course, in a broken world like ours, some folks will genuinely feel that who they are "on the inside" doesn't "fit" with their biology. Gender dysphoria is a real disorder. But it makes no more sense to treat this condition according to a person's internal feelings than it would to withhold nutrition from an anorexic who genuinely feels they are overweight. In such a scenario, we would get them psychological/psychiatric and spiritual help--along with nutrition. We would never allow feelings to hold sway there; why would we here (no matter how sincere the feelings may be)?

As a parent, I still remember the confusion my son felt the first time he was confronted with kids his age undergoing gender modification. He knew intuitively that this wasn't right. If we can't agree on something as fundamental as man and woman, boy and girl, how can we expect the next generation to have certainty and conviction about anything? We are literally putting them into a world with no givens--a world of pure subjectivity, when all that is left is the will to power--and that's a world none of us want our kids growing up in. I know there are parents of children in this state who want to change the sex of their children. Their motive is to love their child, to prevent them from self-harm or from "missing out" on what they believe would be a more fulfilling life. I am not unsympathetic to these desires. But asking an entire society to pay for or affirm something so clearly false will yield generationally destructive consequences.

Finally, as a former medical professional. When I was in EMT school, we learned a good deal of biology--not as much as a doctor or nurse, but enough to help those in need. Biology is all about facts--facts as true as math or physics. And yet, there is still much we do not understand. To play roulette with the health of children by destroying healthy tissue, introducing new hormones, etc., flies in the face of all sound science.

Please support HB 1686. Thank you for your work on behalf of Texans.

Sincerely,

Brian Henson

Jo McIntyre
Self
Austin, TX

Good afternoon Committee members, my name is Jo McIntyre, and I use they/them pronouns, I am a queer, non-binary, trans hairstylist here in Austin and I am testifying in opposition of HB 1686.

I grew up in Houston, Texas. My dad was a pastor, my mom was a stay at home mom, I have two older brothers who married some incredible women, and now I'm lucky enough to have 5 nieces and nephews. Most importantly, as a trans person, I have a great relationship with my family.

In addition to my family who supports me being here today, I have a chosen family, the LGBTQ+ community that I love and respect. This secure foundation has inspired me to appear here today.

Everyday at work, I get to host people in the salon from all walks of life. This diverse clientele includes queer, nonbinary, gender non-conforming and transgender folks of all ages.

Getting to know these families over the last ten years has led me to witness so many beautiful, LIFE-SAVING transitions, both socially and medically through my clients. Those relationships and journeys witnessed, inspired me to feel safe enough to come out six years ago as trans and nonbinary.

When a client sits in my chair, they feel safe enough to ask for what they want and need, to present in their most authentic way. I deeply value that anyone can express themselves in the way feels best to them.

Let these kids be kids, let their doctors and families manage the expectations for their individual journeys, NOT the state. When you remove the agency for these families and doctors to make decisions WITH these kids' in relation to THEIR transition, you are mandating a mental health crisis. Let my generation be an example for you. According to the national library of medicine and journal of interpersonal violence from April 2020, at least 40% of trans youth have attempted suicide. Emotional neglect, internalized self stigma, and interpersonal microagressions are leading causes for this. I'm asking that you vote no on HB 1686 and trust medical professionals and Texas families to CONTINUE to be the respected authority on this matter.

If you are a trans kid hearing this, I want you to know you are so fearlessly loved by this community and we can't wait to meet you. We will not go back into hiding due to the tired opinion of an older generation. We will continue to fight for y'alls rights every opportunity that comes up.

Thank you for your time.

E Thompson
Self
Carrollton, TX

Please protect our children!

C T Smith, Mrs
Self / retired
Houston, TX

I am voicing Support for HB 1686 to be passed.
I am FOR HB 1686 and wanting to see it PASS. I want the despicable mutilatation of our children to be stopped - Doctors and the pharmaceutical industries should Not be Allowed to profit from this monstrous procedure - chemically or surgically. Put in PRISON for participation.

Stephen Wells
Self pharmacist
Grandview, TX

I support this bill. Why are proponents of transgender issues so militant on changing a child’s biological sex? It is irreversible to the affected child and often regretted. Transgendism is just another woke issue to destroy the traditional family unit.

Vickie Sparks, Pastor
The Disciples Heart Not Just Another Church
Rusk, TX

We do not agree with this type of procedures that hurt children.. leave the children alone and stop trying to bring harm to them.. and quit funding this mess..

Andrea Bonilla, Ms
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

In support of HB 1686

Mary Thornton
Self retired school principal
Tyler, TX

Children are, by their nature, not fully aware of their own identity nor their own needs. Please do not suppose that they are mature enough to make decisions that will irreversibly alter their lives forever. If they are confused, they can be helped.

These vulnerable children must be protected, if not by their parents, then by the state. Gender-altering drugs and surgeries are an abomination against their bodies.

I am a mother of eight and grandmother of 35. I know how confused children and teens can be. They need affirmation of the truth and encouragement that they can handle the truth. God created each one, as he or she is, with great intent and purpose. He did not make a mistake with a single person!

Thank you very much for accepting my comments.

Patricia Bradley
Self
Fort Worth, TX

I am against using public funds for gender transitioning and treatment.

Sarah Ronan
Self, barista, record store clerk
Austin, TX

I do not agree that this bill will protect trans children it will only cause harm and more suicide from being miserable in their own skin. We will vote you out.

Jennifer Monrreal
self
Manor, TX

gender affirming care is life saving. this decision should be left to parents, children, and their doctors, NOT lawmakers.

Rebecca Wilson
Self, Account Manager
Frisco, TX

I am for this bill to protect children from gender reassignment procedures and treatments.

Dave Adamson
self
Garland, TX

Please do not use public money for something many people, such as myself, do not believe is good for children. If the person as an adult wishes to have treatment, so be it. But do not give treatment to minors who cannot make decisions for themselves.

Katy Ludlow
Self, Video Game Publishing
Austin, TX

I firmly oppose this bill. Please continue allowing doctors to worm with parents to find the best healthcare solutions for their children.

Nelda Allen
Self/Retired
Pearland, TX

I do not want any child under the age of 26 to be able to have any transition surgery. Kids under the age of 25 frontal lobe have not developed enough to make these decisions.

H June RichardCrow
self
Austin, TX

The relationship between parent and child is sacred and personal. The state has no place interfering. This is not Communist Russia. When they bring a doctor into this relationship, this also becomes a sacred and personal relationship. The state has no place interfering. HB1686 interferes with these personal relationships. In addition it is poorly written and open to too much misunderstanding and misdirection.

Jaime Sepulveda
Self
Pearland, TX

This must be prohibited for all children. Anyone that does this to their children should be put on trial for child abuse. Children grow out of this stage and so many in who have done this terrible procedure regret it and commit suicide or switch back. Any government that allows children to do this or offers these procedures is basically killing itself.

Julia Stamman
Self
Austin, TX

As a native Austinite and Texan, I am against this legislation. Healthcare is life saving, period.

Faith Connell, Miss
CCDF
Fort Worth, TX

We Must Protect our children. This is our job as adults. Decisions this major Should not made on a child. They usually end up regretting it. They are not counseled enough before such procedures either. Please let us be reasonable with this! Please!

Christopher Mathis
Self/retired
McKinney, TX

Please vote yes on this bill

Steven Lenich, Retired
Self
Houston, TX

I support Bill HB 1686

Mark Miller
Restoration Dallas Chiropractic
Dallas, TX

We are in major support of this bill, to ban or greatly limit gender transitioning or reassignment surgeries...especially with public assistance and money.

Quyen Ma, Architect
Self / architect
Austin, TX

Please keep government and politics out of the doctor's office. I realize that some may feel this bill protects children but it does not. The best way forward for all individuals and their healthcare is between them & their doctor(s) & their parents (where applicable). I can empathize that the things we do not understand are scary but to manifest that personal fear into legislation that can endanger an individual's life and identity is not the government's job.

Paul Setter
self (retired)
Duncanville, TX

Please vote for this bill. Important

Linda Rich
Self
Westlake, TX

For/support HB 1686

Kelsey Jones, Mr.
Self
Frisco,, TX

I am for this bill. No child should have this type of surgery until they are an adult and can better grasp what this surgery will do to them.

Faith Hilchey
Self, student
Austin, TX

When you restrict access to treatment for trans youth, we see suicide rates go up. That is a known trend. Restricting this without even attempting to implement any measures to help them is effectively pushing them to suicide. That is unconscionable. Partisan legislators did not genuinely listen to expert advice of the doctors who assist trans youth and save lives that testified during the hearing for this bill on Monday, instead they sought reaffirmation of their close minded, painfully judgmental biases. Trans youth hurt no one, but the implementation of this bill will hurt them. For a state that loves to preach its own individuality and allowance for freedom it is despicable that we will not allow and ENCOURAGE these very same qualities in our youth. For what is more free or individual than existing outside of what is expected for you, or working directly against those expectations. Trans youth deserve the very same respect and rights that cisgender youth get, with respect for chosen names, the way they present themselves, and any physical modifications they may want. If conservative legislators want so badly to “stop the mutilation of children’s bodies” I ask that they pass legislation banning breast implants or labiaplasties on cis minors. They should at least pretend that they are not seeking to discriminate against gender diverse people on the basis of their gender identity. This bill is abhorrent and very clearly singles out a minority and seeks to make the issues they face so much worse, to the point of being deadly.

Jeana Kloewer
Self
Austin, TX

This bill infringes on people’s rights and freedoms as citizens of the United States and residents of Texas. Children deserve to be healthy and safe. Banning gender affirming care is doing the opposite of protecting children, instead it prevents children and their parents from making informed decisions.

All of the major medical organizations in the United States, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, supports the provision of age-appropriate, gender-affirming care.

Please vote against this and any proposed laws that promote an exclusive and intolerant State.

Patrick Thornton
Self
Irving, TX

Children cannot consent to sexual activity. They cannot consent to get a tattoo. They cannot consent to get their ears pierced. They cannot consent to taking medication at school. They cannot buy alcohol or cigarettes. They most certainly cannot consent in the legal sense of the word to life-altering and body-altering medical procedures which can never be fully reversed.

David Hall
self
Austin, TX

Let's leave decisions about care of trans and other different children to their parents and doctors. If the Texas Legislature wants to get involved with children, why not concentrate on their safety and do something about GUN CONTROL where it would make a real life and death difference to all our children.

Medical and social support personnel and organizations recommend gender-affirming health care, of which the Texas legislature in no way has any expertise. Please quit worrying about things that are really none of the Legislature's business. Just concentrate on bills and laws that will actually help Texans, not injure them.

Helen L Young, Ms
Self
Haskell, TX

I strongly oppose any gender reassignment surgery for children under age 25 for any reason!! This is totally unacceptable and is not health care. It is MALPRACTICE period! It should absolutely never be allowed nor paid for by us tax payers. Outlaw this in TX!

Samantha Borek
self - Copy Editor
Cedar Park, TX

I am staunchly against this bill as it impedes parental and human rights to give life saving care to children. I moved here from NYC, and it was here in Austin I found my community and family. Every day Texas introduces new legislation that actively harms my loved ones, meanwhile my partner and I fight like hell to stay here. Our children need health care, food, shelter, and education, Texas lawmakers seems to continue to show they don't much care for their needs as they claim they do. Do something useful and leave trans kids alone!

barbara bucklin, Pres
Luke 4:18 Ministries
Austin, TX

I believe that all transgendering procedures should be halted immediately. That refers to drugs as well as surgeries.

Simon Jackson
Self/Cook
Austin Texas, TX

I oppose HB 1686 as it is a violation of human rights and the life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness on which this country is founded.

Randy Hayes, Mr
RL Hayes Contruction
Bullard, TX

This is nothing but out right child abuse by people who ought to have enough sense to no better.
I do have a better idea let's take the people doing this to children and castrate them or and let's just say it cut there boobs off!

Ashley McCurry
Self
Aledo, TX

I support HB 1686

Judy Cody, Mrs
Self
Carlsbad, TX

Do not agree for public assistance for the above mentioned abive.

Loro Schusterman, Ms.
Self, retired Junior High Teacher
Katy, TX

Please protect our children from these destructive unAmerican, unGodly lies. It is incalculable horror.

Thank you for loving and supporting families,
Lori Schusterman

Nicole Adams
Self
Aledo, TX

FOR/support the bill

Brenda Howard
Self
Belton, TX

I believe that minor children should not be able to modify or alter their bodies until after the age of 18. This includes taking hormones and puberty blockers. We are seeing transition regret stories and minors being sterilized. Body dysphoria is a mental illness and should be treated as such.

The two teens, that I know, that decided they were transgender, were not allowed to do anything permanent and they have since "out grown" their desire to transition. Given time to mature, young people are grateful they did not permanently make any changes to their bodies.

I view gender transitions as child abuse and it should be stopped. Please support this bill. Thank you.

LaNita Adkison
Self
Garrison, TX

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Lauren Friebel
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I strongly think people should have to be at least 18 in order to get any "gender treatment" or surgery

Erica Morales
Self- student
Austin, TX

Limiting healthcare to any person is harmful. It is an infringement on their rights and autonomy. Trans kids deserve the opportunity to have the healthcare they need available to them. I strongly oppose HB 1686.

Carrie Baker
Self
Lubbock, TX

I'm not sure if I'm allowed to submit more than one comment, but I'm going to ask again that you all support this bill, please! I saw a documentary a couple of months ago and it's just devastating what this generation is going through with opening up this door of evil to them in regards to gender transitioning. It's very bad and should be completely banned and made a criminal act. Children do not need to be exposed to this evil. Please support this bill and get it passed through quickly! Children need protected! Thank you.

Janet Hess
Self/retired preschool teacher
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill. Not doing so will be devastating to the future of our children. Their lives matter and their emotional as well as physical health depend on you. Please remain steadfast in your mission to combat this evil. And it is evil.
Thank You,
Janet Hess-grandmother of 4 young girls who are depending on you

Amy Wentworth-Kotara
Self, physician assistant
Flower Mound, TX

Texas children should be given access at all healthcare. It is the health care providers', not the states', responsibility to ensure children and their parents receive all treatment options including benefits, risks and associated evidence of each. It is the health care providers' and parents', not the states, to make medical decisions in the best interest of children. It is the state's responsibility to extend funds and assistance for evaluation and treatment for persons with gender dysphoria similar to any other medical condition. Gender affirming treatment for gender dysphoria is life saving. The medical literature overwhelming shows that there is decreased childhood anxiety, depression, suicide attempts, and death with gender affirming treatment. Depriving Texas children who have gender dysphoria from funding of any recommended treatment option is discriminatory. Why do Texas legislators want to a discriminate and abandon Texas children and their parents? As a parent, health care provider, and Texan, I am outraged that the leaders of our state want to harm our children. Defunding any evidence based healthcare program is harm.

Jay Roberson
- None -
Austin, TX

I am opposed to using any public funds for any children's gender modification. If the parents approve, then let them exclusively fund their children's multilation (and live with the consequences). Children under 18 are too impressionable and immature to understand the longterm consquences of effectively irreversible hormone and surgical procedures and could leave them scarred physically and psychologically for life. As a Texas citizen and taxpayer I want to be no part in aiding and abetting such activity through my tax dollars.

Kate Czar, Dr.
Self - psychologist
Cedar Park, TX

The mere existence of anti-trans legislation in Texas and elsewhere is significantly damaging the mental health of, and contributing to suicidality among, gender non-conforming people. I have seen this firsthand in my work as a psychologist. Rather than "protecting" children, legislators proposing and in favor of anti-trans bills are actively harming them. Empirical research shows that gender affirming medical care improves the mental health of transgender kids. Please listen to the research, not to hateful constituents. Passing this legislation would be tremendously damaging and even deadly to so many trans people who are literally fighting for their lives.

Katherine Goldey, Dr.
self, Associate Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience
Buda, TX

I am writing to oppose HB 1686. I have a PhD in Biopsychology and am an Associate Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience. I teach classes with content on gender identity, so I am familiar with the research on best practices in healthcare for transgender youth. Gender-affirming healthcare for transgender youth is endorsed by major medical associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics (Rafferty et al., Pediatrics, 2018), and has been clearly shown to improve mental health outcomes. For example, a study of 20,619 transgender adults showed that those who had received puberty suppression healthcare during adolescence had lower odds of lifetime suicidal ideation than those who desired puberty suppression but did not receive it (Turban et al., Pediatrics, 2020). For some teens, this treatment can be lifesaving, but I recognize there are many misconceptions about it. I'd like to tackle those here.

First, there is a misconception that gender-affirming care for children and teens involves irreversible, highly invasive genital surgeries. This is not true. Gender-affirming care for young trans kids involves fully reversible social transition; around the time of puberty, reversible puberty blockers (the same medications that are commonly used for children experiencing early puberty) may be used to delay permanent changes of puberty. The goal of this type of treatment is not to "make" a child transgender, simply to allow a child to be who they are and to buy time before permanent changes of puberty set in. For some older teens, hormone therapy (e.g., testosterone, estrogen) may be used under the guidance of a physician.

Second, there is a misconception that there are high desistance rates for children who present with transgender identities. This misconception is based off older studies that largely included gender-nonconforming children, some of whom were diagnosed with the outdated Gender Identity Disorder diagnosis in the DSM (Olson, JAACAP, 2016). That is, most children in these studies were likely not actually transgender kids, but rather children who were brought to clinics by parents concerned with gender-nonconforming behaviors. Indeed, recent research shows that 5-12 year old trans children know their gender identity just as clearly as cisgender children (i.e. a transgender girl is as firm in her identity and preferences as any other girl) (Olson et al., Psychological Science, 2016). While I believe that older studies and their recommendations were well-meaning for their time, when we know better, we should do better.

As with any medical treatment, doctors and parents must make careful decisions about benefits and risks. However, supportive parents and physicians who provide gender-affirming care are doing so based on a firm body of evidence that it supports well-being for transgender youth. Please, vote against HB 1686 and keep decisions around healthcare within the purview of parents and physicians.

Lindsey Duran
Self
Fort Worth, TX

FOR/Support the bill

Lynn Murtha
Myself, native Texan and lifelong Texas resident
Dallas, TX

I support Bill 1686.

SARA FRAHM
Self Retired teacher, researcher, writer
Austin, TX

I can't believe this is even coming up for debate. God has created each child with a DNA that is unique to that child, no one can replace him/her. The fear of the Lord should come to the Texas House of representatives over meddling with this. In the beginning He created male and female. The Bible begins and ends with a marriage. I realize many don't believe that, and feel that man is god and can do whatever he wants. One day they will know, may it be before they face judgement day.

Ari Sobelman
Self
Austin, TX

Treatment for trans kids has been proven over and over to save lives. The only child abuse would be passing this bill. As a constituent, I DO NOT want this bill passed. I find it absolutely horrifying that it is being considered. This is shameful. Let kids be who they are.

William Whitehead
Myself
McKinney, TX

I totally and absolutely oppose the use of public money to be used for any treatment or surgery for sex or gender transitioning and reassignment. Public money should be used for psychological treatment of the illness that causes children to think that they need such treatments.

Jennifer Cross, Dr.
self
Frisco, TX

I am wholly against this bill. Every major medical association in the United States--representing the health care providers on the front lines seeing these patients--support gender-affirming care for transgender youth. This is government overreach into the private medical decisions made after careful consideration between physicians, mental health providers, families, and patients. There are plenty of ACTUAL children in abusive and harmful circumstances in Texas that need the State to provide ensure their safety, such as the fundamentally broken foster care and juvenile justice systems. When are these "concerned" legislators about child well-being going to spend the energy and resources addressing that?

Paul Glenn, Mr.
Self
Forth Worth, TX

Please, let God’s pre-prescribed nature take its preordained course of gender selection in people’s lives. Individual’s self-determination is a disaster waiting to happen and will take down society and our culture with it.

Tony Haden
Self Cowboy
Childress, TX

Make it a law, that anyone trying to "influence" or do any type of surgery to children, regarding change of sex, becoming Transgender! Do not allow this nonsense in Texas! PERIOD! Make it a CRIME with strong punishment!

Bo Hood
Self
Houston, TX

I fully support the bill to ban the procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, which result in irreversible damages to the children.

Michelle Fogle
Self
McKinney, TX

I support HB 1686

Lydia Miller
Self
Austin, TX

Please support this bill to prevent children doing harm to themselves with permanent surgeries or drugs they may later regret. Once they are adults then they can make such a decision. Children could be pressured or coerced into such procedures which are not even their own choice, and they need to be adults before making such permanent decisions they could later regret. Plus those procedures make it easier for the children to be victimized sexually. They need to focus on learning and allow themselves to be children, not terrorized by thoughts of being preyed upon sexually. Thank you for your time. This is a very important decision to be made only by an adult. It could encourage pedophilia which is very traumatizing and abhorrent for any child to live through. No law should encourage such a violation of the child. Thank you again for your time.

Elio Blakeney, Mx.
Self, student and barista
Denton, TX

This bill is nothing short of a death sentence for trans people built on the foundation of hatred and ignorance. If this bill is passed I will be sure to dedicate significant time and energy campaigning for the opposition of whoever votes in favor of this bill next election cycle.

Trent Ilkenhans
Self
Leander, TX

For the bill

Glenda Martin
Self
Orange, TX

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Christian Munson
none
Rockdale, TX

I support HB 1686

Rober Uebelacker
Texas resident
The Colony, TX

I am 100% against transgender surgery for any individual, especially children. This is bodily mutilation. for a mental or spiritual issue. Any adult or government that chooses to practice such a abomination should be tried for human rights, abuse, and subject to the penalty of war, crimes, and or crimes against humanity.

Cowart Mace
Self
Tyler, TX

I'm a trans man. I'm the happiest I've ever been. Let me live in my body. You don't have to fight for your body, why should I?

Kay-Kay Tolsma
Self mom
Houston, TX

A person's gender is "predetermined in the womb" by the creator. There are only 2 genders. Even according to current top scientists. Humans are not able to make developmental mature decisions about their own body until we are fully grown & at a mature age to make such life altering decisions. This would be child abuse to allow parents the control to alter their children's bodies. Pure abuse! And suicide & mental illness are strongly documented in these cases!!!

Rose Goldey
Self
Buda, TX

I am opposing this gross government overreach into the private lives of Texans and their families. Every major medical organization supports this care for transgender youth, it does nothing but good for the people who need it. Please please please do not let this legislation pass.

Nancy Lindley, Mrs.
self/retired
Benbrook, TX

This should NEVER have been considered in the first place. Male and Female and a few idiots!

Richard zBogner
Self
SPRING, TX

Children under 18 should not be allowed to make permanent removal of body parts or to be subjected to opposite birth gender hormones. These could be considered child mutilation techniques. I am firmly against any attempt to further any legislation which is in favor of these techniques.

Adrienne Sneed Sneed
Myself
Austin, TX

I am vehemently opposed to HB 1686. This bill will destroy the lives of so many Texan Families. I have seen so many trans youth thrive when they are getting the medical (puberty blockers, HRT)and mental health care they need. Leave the these kinds of medical decisions to doctors that specialize in the field of gender and who coordinate care with gender knowledgeable psychotherapists to help families make an informed decision about their child's overall well being.

Suzy Pollok
Self
Dallas, TX

Stop experimenting on children. We must protect children from the Transgenda.

Kim Melton
Self
Maypearl, TX

For/Support Bill

Sylvia Chase-Meadows
Self - retired nurse/wife
Lincoln, TX

Please stop the mutilation of our children. If they wish to have gender transitioning after the age of 18 that is their right. Our children need protection. We protect them from drinking, smoking, and abuse all based on the fact that they are children. At this tender age they don't have the life experience and knowledge to make this big of a decision. Nor do adults over them have the right to make a life altering decision for them. We don't let supervising adults force children to smoke, drink or be sexually abused, because they think it is the best thing for the child or talked/shamed them into it. Being a child is hard, being a teenager is even worse, the choices that have to be made at this tender age are hard enough without making permanent life decisions. Let them be children and worry about what to wear and who to play with, not what sex am I. Encourage them to be proud of what they are and to have morals to lead them through life. If a girl feels like a tomboy, encourage her to embrace herself and love what she is, its ok to be a tomboy or a boy who likes more female endeavors. That is part of growing up and deciding what road to travel. We have had this sex exploration for YEARS. Men become chiefs/cooks and designers/seamstresses it's just a name change not a body change. Girls decide not to become the Sterio typical wife and mother, but to explore other avenues, some that have in the past been dominated by men. We don't have to change our sex to do that, just our mindset. Why are we letting disgruntled adults who have an aversion to the opposite sex force our children to also have a hatred of their sex/self and want it permanently changed. Let them be children, be themselves, be happy and play. Be a tomboy, be a sissy, embrace it. When you are an adult, it is soon enough to make the hard decision. Not to be a child forced or coerced into being something they may not be.

Barbara Nix
The Medford/Nix Family
Houston, TX

Please help protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.

Guochun Luo
Self
Sugar Land, TX

SUPPORT HB1686 We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Missy Gollhofer, Mrs.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill 1686 and protect our young people. Thank you!

Zhaonian Wu
Self
Sugar Land, TX

SUPPORT HB1686 We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Lauren Setterbo
Self / Business Development Director
San Antonio, TX

Please please deny this bill. I hardly can imagine it's even being considered in Texas (much less anywhere) but please do not pass this bill. I feel sick to even think of a penny of my money ever going toward such uses. Protect the children that don't know they need protecting. Require age minimums for gender transitioning, reassignment or dysphoria! Just like drinking alcohol, driving, getting tattoos… require children's bodies be protected from such extreme measures until they are considered an adult and can sign off on these extreme changes. There are serious side effects and physical fall-out that happens from these surgeries, it's so sad to think a parent can put their child through this at a young age. Please do it pass this bill.

Duane Kelly
Self
Princeton, TX

I am against child abuse and these procedures are just that. Please vote to stop these treatments to our kids. Hold all physicians accountable for harming our kids.

Thank you,
Duane Kelly

Joan Yates
Self, Homemaker
Valley View, TX

Please support HB1686 to protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments!

Lila Fuller
Self
Nacogdoches, TX

I support HB 1686 by Representative Dr. Tom Oliverson because children deserve to be protected from dangerous, life-altering "gender transition" medical procedures. HB 1686 is needed because:
• Children are not mature enough to properly evaluate the serious, lifelong ramifications when making important medical decisions. The decision to undergo harmful and likely sterilizing gender-transition procedures is no exception.
• These experimental procedures are often irreversible. They prevent healthy puberty, radically alter the child's hormonal balance, and may even remove healthy external or internal organs and body parts.
• Gender transition drugs and surgeries are dangerous, experimental, and unproven. Multiple studies show that when young children who experience gender dysphoria are allowed to mature naturally, most of them grow out of their dysphoria.
• A growing number of nations, including some that pioneered these medical transitions, are now warning against and even curtailing the use of puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries on children with gender dysphoria.
For these reasons, I ask the committee to vote in favor of HB 1686.

Monica Thornton

Self - sales rep

Irving, TX

Please help protect our young people from gender surgeries. Children should not be able to take such course of action when they are not even fully matured. Their health should be our priority. Gender transitioning is not having their health in our best interests. Children can’t and shouldn’t be allowed to seek medical care without the consent of their parents.

Evaggelia Xristopoulou, To all the oh so "great government" ??????

Trans community

Athens, TX

Trans rights are human rights.Trans people deserve to live the life and the way THEY want.Stop whatever u stupid "government"does right now cuz the trans are in genocide 7-8 and a lot of young trans kids are dying.Why? Because of ur stupid action.THEY HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO LIVE AS U DO.WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO LIVE?Why did u "oh so amazing government" accepted the willow project?Why stop trans people health care?Why being bullied just cuz they're trans is okay? Why being kidnapped just cuz they're trans is okay?JUST FUCKING WHY?TELL US THE FUCKING REASON WHY ALL THESE THINGS ARE RIGHT TO YOUR SHIT EYES.MAYBE YOU'RE SO STUPIDLY BLIND U DON'T CARE ABOUT UR PEOPLE AND YOUR COUNTRY BUT ONLY FOR YOURSELF.U KNOW WHAT?LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND LET AMERICA BE FREE U FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT.JUST FUCKING DIE.WHAT U'RE DOING WILL HARM A LOT KF PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY YOUNG KIDS.THERRE ARE ALREADY SOME SUICIDE BECAUSE THEY CAN'T HAVE WHAT THEY REALLY WANT.SURGERIES TO FEEL BETTER AT THEIR OWN BODY.A girl at the age of 15-1- was going back home just to be stabbed at death from one girl and one boy just because why?WHY?SHE WAS TRANS!!!SHE WAS TRANS AND SHE GOT MURDERED FOR SOMETHING THAT DOES NOT AFFECT ANYONE AND ANYBODY.DO SOMETHING AND STOP BEING SO CLOSED MINDED.DO NOT BRING BACK LAWS THAT WILL HARM THE COUNTRY OF FREEDOM.JUST STOP AND ACCEPT WHAT IS HAPPENING.BEING TRANS, QUEER,NON BINARY OR WHATEVER ELSE DOES NOT CONCERN ANYONE ELSE EXCEPT THE KID AND ITS FAMILY.HELP TRANS PEOPLE AND STOP YOUR SHIT ACTIONS TOWARDS THEM.FUCKING HELP THEM.HELP THEM OR YOUR HANDS WILL BE PAINTED WITH BLOOD BECAUSE YOU SLOWLY KILL PEOPLE AND MORE CHILDREN BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID ACTIONS.STOP!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!NOW!!!!!!!!!!!OR EVERYONE WILL DIE!!!!!!!!! EVERYONE DESERVE TO LIVE HAPPILY WITH ANYWAY THEY WANT.JUST LET THEM BE!!!!!!STOP WHATEVER YOU THINK TO DO AND HELP THESE COMMUNITY.DON'T TAKE AWAY THEIR RIGHTS OR YOU'LL BE THE ONE DEAD AT THE END KF THE DAY FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT YOU BITCH!!HELP OR JUST DIE!!!HELP THEM,NOT DESTROYING THEIR DREAMS!!! ALREADY A LOT KF PEOPLE CAN'T HAVE A JOB JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE TRANS.LIKE BITCH WHAT? WHAT'S THEIR PROBLEM WITH SOMEONE AT WORK BEING TRANS?ARE THEY OH SO GONNA "KILL"YOU LR WHAT? JUST HELP!!!!!!

Dors Zambrano, Sra

Personal

Missouri city, TX

Como podemos estar volviendonos locos y permitir que nuestros niños sean sometidos a tan infames castración. Los adultos que hagan con sus cuerpos lo que quiera pero con los niños no se metan

Emily Eby French

Self, Attorney

Austin, TX

This bill does not represent the Texas I know. Transgender Texans deserve as much freedom to be themselves as any other group in this state, ESPECIALLY when you consider how crucial medical care is to their mental, emotional, and physical health. If I had been allowed to deliver my testimony in person, I would have told you that I do not support this bill. I ask you not to vote for it.

Yanica Guzman
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Gender affirming care is the best way to protect kids who are trans

Terry Rich
Self
Westlake, TX

For/support HB 1686

janey Anderson
self
Lubbock, TX

it is an absolutely imperitive that we protect our children. This bill is the start.

Puja Singh, Dr.
Self
Irving, TX

HB 1686 (Oliverson) is a dangerous and potentially deadly attempt to deny medical care to transgender youth and blatantly overrides the parental choice and medical expertise of providers to determine what care is best for their child.

By banning all medically necessary health care for the treatment of gender dysphoria, HB 1686 (Oliverson) risks the loss of life, robs transgender youth of hope and sends a clear message that the Texas Legislature believes that transgender young people are not welcome in the state of Texas.

In addition to the devastating consequences on the health of transgender youth in Texas, HB 1686 (Oliverson) would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. These treatments are supported by every major medical association in the country, including the Texas Medical Association, Texas Psychological Association and Texas Pediatric Society, Endocrine Society, American Academy of Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrine Society.

Even the public debate on discriminatory bills like HB 1686 will cause harm to transgender youth. According to a recent poll conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of The Trevor Project, 85% of transgender and nonbinary youth — and two-thirds of all LGBTQ youth (66%) — say recent debates about state laws restricting the rights of transgender people have negatively impacted their mental health.

Best-practice standards of care and hospital guidelines are carefully crafted in the best interest of each patient. HB 1686 (Oliverson) puts vulnerable Texans in jeopardy.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB 1686, which will only harm an already high-risk group of individuals that we should be striving to help instead.

Carly Bartee
Self, Forensic Interviewer CAC
Bastrop, TX

Please give Texas parents the freedom to make health decisions for their transgender children in conjunction with their healthcare providers. Limiting the access to life saving healthcare is cruel and overreaching. We love and support our friends and family members who are transgender, our Texas neighbors who these prohibitions will deeply affect. We say NO to these changes, please hear us and please consider protecting parental rights in our state.

Greg Tallant, Mr
DCRA
Corinth, TX

Children don't need to be modified, gender transitioned, gender reassignment, or treated for gender dysphoria, and NO WHERE IS THIS IN GOD'S LAWS, and it sure isn't in the CONSTITUTION.. God created us in his image, male or female. Don't allow children to be mutilated. This should be treated as a HATE CRIME, because someone hates them, and telling them they need to be fixed. This is complete lunacy. If you swear an oath to honor the Constitution, and protect the children that can't protect themselves.

Dorcas Wu
Self
Sugar Land, TX

SUPPORT HB1686 We must prohibit gender modification of minor children.

Ale Dea
Self
Austin, TX

As a concerned citizen, I believe that every child deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion, regardless of their gender identity or expression. Denying access to medical care for gender dysphoria can have devastating consequences on the mental and physical health of these children, including higher rates of suicide attempts, depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues.

Furthermore, it is discriminatory and unfair to deny these children access to necessary medical care simply because of their gender identity. Every child deserves the right to be their true selves and receive the medical care that they need, without fear of discrimination or stigma.

I urge you to consider the harmful impact that this bill could have on the well-being of transgender and gender non-conforming children in Texas, and to reject it in its entirety. Instead, I urge you to support policies that promote mental health programs and safety for all children. This bill will create more harm than good. Please reconsider.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Linda Rowold
self. retired educator
Austin, TX

Trans healthcare is health care. To deny this will result in more depression and anxiety, scapegoating, and suicides. Show love, for goodness sake!

Bianka Medrano
Self
Brownsville, TX

We should not allow public money or public assistance to be used to provide procedures or treatments that can alter a child’s body without them truly understanding the effects of their decisions. I also believe that our taxes should not be used to fund procedures or treatments that are not medically necessary or emotionally healthy for children in the long run. Instead, that money should be used to provide mental health treatments to those who are obviously struggling with their mental health. We should try our best to help those that need help and not allow medical professionals, who are supposed to be protecting their patients, to manipulate them into a one size fits all “cure.” Please do not fall for this lie that these children need to change their outward physical appearance to be happy, because happiness is temporary. I will keep fighting for the vulnerable to be safe because I don’t want to look back and wish I had not kept silent. I would want someone wiser to keep me safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Logan Gunter
Self / Public Education
Lindsay, TX

Pass

Cesar Franco
Self
HUMBLE, TX

My name is Cesar Franco. I would like to ask the House to pass HB 1686. Do not be afraid to affirm the obvious. God created male and female. The words of Jesus are clear regarding the scandalizers of children. "It would be better to have a millstone tied to their neck and be thrown in the depths of the sea.

Now is the time to be heroic. Please protect the little ones and support HB 1686.

McKenzie Catlin
Self
Wichita Falls, TX

I have a close personal friend who is the father of his transgender daughter. This bill implies that providing a loving, supportive, and safe home for his daughter is a crime, child abuse. He is the most dedicated father, teacher, husband, and friend I have ever known. It sickens me to think that if this bills passes, his family will be ripped apart. My friend fathering his transgender child does not make him child abuser. Child abuse is invalidating your transgender child. Child abuse is refusing gender affirming care for your transgender child. Child abuse is not protecting your child from these bills. Sometimes it's hard to put yourself in someone else's shoes, simply because you don't have to. For those that pertains to, I pray to God that your child isn't transgender. Bills like this create larger divides in society. It demonizes people who love their children, so much so, that they have looked beyond their own biases for their children; to protect and love them. Loving your transgender child, for who they ARE isn't, and never will be, child abuse. We will continue to fight for transgender youth even if you don't. To my friend, I am so sorry you are going through this. We stand with you and all other parents with transgender children. Protect trans youth.

Lisa Campbell
Self. Farm/ranch
Turkey, TX

For/HB 1686. Children are a gift from God. They are not mistakes that are to be changed by surgery or mutilation just because we have the ability to do it. Parents also should not have the right to influence children or manipulate their gender.

Stephanie Gonzalez, Mrs
Self/Physician Assistant
Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this bill and protect our children!
Thank you

Jennifer Rochelle
Public Cit
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill and all the pain and suffering that would be caused by it.

Sandra Vela
Self
Cedar Park, TX

Decisions should be left up to the parents and their medical care providers. Government should NOT be involved in such decisions.

Allison Cardwell
Self- teacher
Austin, TX

I’m a veteran teacher of pre-teens for over two decades and I have taught many children whose bodies do not match how they see themselves and feel inside. Gender-affirming care can mean the difference between life and death for some of these young people. Please stop this nonsense of making decisions for other people and return to a stance of limited government.

Jill Lummus
Myself
Hooks, TX

Sex of any type should Not be taught in ANY Schools

Rich Diaz, Pastor
Self
Temple, TX

Please support this HB 1686 and stop the mutilation, sterilization and the disfigurement of our children regardless of the sick and misguided wishes of the parent or guardian or the child themselves. These are the wishes of your constituents, pay close attention.

Lori Limon
Self
San Antonio, TX

We need to protect children from harmful gender reassignment procedures and treatments and prohibit the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments. The Child should learn the risks, side effects from medications and hormone blockers . They must have full transparency of what these treatments do to their body so that if this is what they really want they should wait to become adults to make this permanent decisions.

Mark Bigley
Self
Cleburne, TX

Altering the sexual organs of children and adolescents and hormone altering drugs have no credible research to validate their being performed. Gender dysphoria most often is alleviated through therapy as the adolescent matures.
Indoctrinating children who are not intellectually and emotionally developed is abusive to their psychosocial and spiritual development. This abuse results in the large majority who have deepened mental health issues because of this misled practice.
The large majority of persons who have been mutilated seek support to “detrans” and seek support groups to do so.
This abusive practice also by the violation of children’s personal boundaries not yet formed to groom them for sexual abuse by perpetrators. Normalize the lack of sexual boundaries makes them susceptible to sexual abuse.
This knowledge has been common to the mental health practitioner community nd must remain intact.
If someone feels that they need this kind of sex change then let them be of an adult age where they can consent to it and after they have tried appropriate mental health interventions.

Elvia Palacios
self
Austin, TX

I do not support the passing of this bill. It is based on flawed reasoning meant to both villify and beat down a group of already marginalized people and undermine the authority and expertise of parents and medical professionals/organizations. By excluding, public assistance for the procedures and treatments you widen the unequitable gap already awfully prevalent in our state health care system, and would use that in a misguided attempt to use trans children as your scarecrow.

Kathi Fletcher
Self
Houston, TX

I oppose this bill. Health care should be between doctors and patients, rather than being politicized. Please oppose this bill. Parents and families need to be respected and decide with their doctors the appropriate healthcare. Additionally, this care can be lifesaving. Research shows that suicide rates drop dramatically with supportive and loving care.

Norman Sunderlin
self
Kaufman, TX

This bill needs to pass to protect our children from health problems down the road. According to the National Libraty of Medication; Data indicate that 82% of transgender individuals have considered killing themselves and 40% have attempted suicide, with suicidality highest among transgender youth.

Kathleen Fuentez
Tax Payer
Wylie, TX

I do not agree! These children have no idea ! They don’t know who they are or will be in 20or 30 yrs down the line. This is child abuse in my opinion!

Deanna Fencl
Parent
San Antonio, TX

I support this bill. This should not be something a child can consent to or be done to a child with parent consent .

Brittany Sharp
Self
San Antonio, TX

HB 1686 is an attack on trans youth and an attempt to control texas doctors. Trans youth need to access the types of care this bill aims to ban. The effect of not being able to access the care that trans youth need will be devastating. Trans youth already have high percentages of mental health crises, self harm, and suicide. I fear that if passed HB 1686 will increase these incidents.

Andrew Pierce
Self I am a Teacher
Lorena, TX

I am writing to support HB 1686 by Rep Oliverson.
I am a Public School Teacher who teaches in a Republican House District. This year I had an experience were a colleague pressured me to call a student by a male name and pronoun; even though this student was obviously a girl. I know we were created to be Male and Female, however a spirit of fear gripped me with thoughts like “will I get my contract renewed if I don’t go along with this?” and “Will this hurt my relationship with some of my fellow teachers if I don’t go along with this?”. This is without an Administrator even saying a word. I was very stressed out about the situation and without mentioning the student’s name told a friend about it. He advised me to tell the student’s parents. After calling her dad, he told me he had no idea his daughter was presenting as a boy in school and thanked me for letting him know.

I say all of this because I almost took the easy route and I’m sure there are teachers who are affirming an identity that does not reflect biological reality (especially if they have an Administrator pushing it). Affirming a false gender identity at school does increase the chances a kid will proceed with harmful medications and surgeries in the future, which they frequently regret (just listen to Chloe Cole’s story).
Teens will often change their minds once they become adults and their brains are more developed. Please support HB 1686!

Scott Heflin
self
Sachse, TX

Gender transition should not be available to any minor, period. We the taxpayers must not be forced to pay for these procedures in any way, shape or form. Tax money should be used only for matters of state, not medical. DO NOT ALLOW children to have this procedure - it must be stopped.

Ken Madsen
Self
Round Rock, TX

John Hopkins drafted a study that shows 88% of young people who suffer from gender dysphoria resolve the issue by the time they are 18. This is a mental disorder and it is imperative that we do not allow for genital mutilations before this time.

Thank you,
Ken Madsen
Round Rock, TX

ANNE NEWMAN
self /consultant
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Please protect children by voting for HB 1686.

Kurt Schroder, Dr.
self, Chief Technology Officer
Coupland, TX

We all recall how stupid we were as teenagers and wonder how we miraculously survived. Principally, this was due to our loving parents. When that didn't work, our laws helped keep us safe long enough until we were adults and could make important decisions for ourselves. The reason we don't allow 15-year-olds get married is that a kid isn't capable of consenting to such an act. Shame on us if we trust a kid's judgement on such permanent and life-changing procedures when they could decide for themselves in a few years.

On the subject of using public money or assistance, why should an elective medical procedure be subsidized at all? The public didn't choose. Truth be known, I am a young person walking around in an old person’s body. However, the public shouldn't pay for my facelift because I want to look how I feel.

Leslie Hooper
Families Engaged for Effective Education
Palo Pinto, TX

I am in complete agreement. If even one person comes forward that ever had this done to prove they shouldn’t have been allowed to do it, that’s enough to make me believe that it a phenomenon that some, not all children go through. We have to protect them from irreversible damage.

Paul Pompa, Dr.
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Until very recently, it was well understood that a person who thought that they were of the opposite gender has gender dysphoria. This is clearly and medically a psychological issue that requires psychological treatment. There is absolutely no clear evidence that surgical management improves long term psychological well being. The opposite is actually true. People with gender dysphoria managed surgically have overall worse outcomes. A minor very clearly does not have the mental maturity to consent to a permanent life altering procedure. Gender dysphoria will resolve in 80% or more of people by the age of 18. Why would a person who cannot vote or own a weapon be able to make a decision like this as a minor. Should minors be given all rights that adults have? If an adult wants to mutilate their bodies, let them. Please help us protect our kids and society from this harmful social contagion.

Mary Gant
Self
Allen, TX

I am writing in support of Oliverson’s bill prohibiting gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria or any “gender affirming care”. Minors are not at an age where they are mature enough to make these decisions and this should be held off until they are adults and can make these decisions for themselves. Despite what some medical professionals have said these procedures are harmful and permanent. Please protect our Texas children from these treatments that can cause lifelong damage. Thank you

Jake Wilson
Self - CPA
Fort Worth, TX

I support House Bill 1686, which stops gender transition procedures from being performed on minors. Thank You to Representative Oliverson for carrying this bill, and thank you to my Representative, Stephanie Klick, for listening to many of your constituents and scheduling a committee meeting quickly on HB 1686.

I will add that personally, I hope that this legislature will pass BOTH HB1686 by Rep. Tom Oliverson AND ALSO pass HB2744 by Rep. Tracy King. I would support the legislature raising the minimum age for both buying semiautomatic rifles and for gender transition procedures to 21 years old.

When you listen closely to the arguments for raising the age for gender transition and those for raising the age for buying an AR-15, the lines of reasoning regarding brain development, etc. are actually very similar. Personally, I believe that high school students should have more time to experience how the world works outside of high school, before they either buy a semiautomatic rifle or try to change their gender.

Regarding, gender transition for minors, which HB 1686 addresses, I think a child needs to have a chance to experience adult life as the gender God created them to be first, before they can make an informed decision that they don't want that. I would want to leave the difficult surgeries and life-changing treatments to adults rather than kids, if it's one or the other.

Thank You to all the representatives who are supporting HB 1686. Please pass HB 1686 to the Texas House floor as soon as possible. Thank You.

Cyrena Nolan, Ms
Texas First
Dallas, TX

Gender modification whether chemical, medicinal , or surgical is nothing short of child abuse. This unconscionable practice must end now . We owe it to the children to protect them .
Thank you

Susan Scott Watts
self
Montgomery, TX

I support legislation that makes it illegal for adults (or self) to perform gender transitioning drugs, and medical procedures on any child under the age of 18. I further support legislation that only allows these procedures for adults over the age of 21. For children and young adults between the ages of 18 and 21, I support legislation that mandates education of the subject, before they engage in permanent changes. I also support legislation that provides government funding for adults over the age of 18 who had gender changes while a child, under the age of 18.

Judy Latshaw, Ms.
AAL
CARROLLTON, TX

Please prohibit children from receiving gender transitioning treatments, as well as the use of public money or public assistance to provide these life-changing procedures on children.

Y Palo
Self
Dallas, TX

I am totally against this bill and do NOT support it at all.

Jerry Rubli
Self
Spring, TX

I am totally opposed to physicians and health professionals performing gender transitioning, gender reassignment or gender dysphoria on children. Public money or public assistance should not be used to facilitate it.

Sandra M Aldridge
self
Lewisville, TX

Gender reassignment or transitioning of children should never be allowed not our tax dollars involved in this!

Laurey Boyd
self
Jonestown, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill to save children from life-long lasting harm.

Terra Brown
self and other parents and professionals with experience with the negative impacts of the medicalization of young children in the name of gender ideology
Weatherford, TX

In my experience as a healthcare professional working with children and adolescents with differing abilities, I have personally and professionally experienced both the damaging and experimental nature of "gender affirming medicine" as applied to children under 18 and young adults. I believe that no child can fully consent to and/or evaluate the the long term risks and outcomes associated "gender affirming" care including puberty suppression, experimental off-label use of wrong sex hormones and various surgical interventions. I believe that the US and specifically, Texas should look at what is happening in the UK and Finland where the re-examination of gender medicine has resulted int he halting of many of these interventions due to inconsistent outcomes and experimental nature. Please vote to prohibit all medical procedures associated with "gender affirming" care.

Larry Dandridge
Self
Dallas, TX

Please prohibit these horrible procedures!!!

Melissa Pemberton
Self-mom
Round Rock, TX

We don't want our kids transitioning! And paying for it?? No way!!

Donna Bhavsar
Self
Austin, TX

First and foremost, parents of children & our government should not permit such life altering gender changes while the child has not fully developed, matured, and grown to be adult.
I remember the times up into my 20s and still questioning who I was, what my purpose, place and being was as human being. It took through going through experiencing more of life, researching, exploring and trying to understand myself before I came to a place in 30s where I felt more comfortable in my skin, in my body, as me. Children should be given this time, this opportunity. It's normal for them to question themselves and their gender but they have not lived life long enough to get to know themselves fully before changing their gender. We as parents and adults need to cultivate support for our children and help them navigate these early years of questioning their sex, and give them opportunities to revisit a gender change when they become adults and their bodies have fully developed, hormones are more balanced, and they still feel they are meant to be the opposite sex.

Also, within in person, we all exhibit male and feminine energies. Some males may exhibit more female energies more than male energies and the same is true with females. Just because you feel more like a female or male doesn't mean that you identify with being more of one sex or the other and therefore, should make such rash and irreparable decisions to change their sex.

We do not support public funding for this either.

If parents desire to help their children complete the gender transition, they should own the responsibility to do so, not the public.

Our funds should go towards truly helping those in dire situations and this is not one of them.

Rita Estes
self
Amarillo, TX

I am urging you to pass this bill to protect those who are making a life long problem for themselves that they will live to regret

Thank you.