HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

For HB 1952

Compiled on: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:00 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 29, 2023 8:00 AM

James Lennon
self
Cleveland, TX

I am for HB 1952

Jim Lennon
KIngwood TEA Party
Cleveland, TX

Kingwood TEA Party is for HB 1952.

Katherine Regis
self
Wimberley, TX

I oppose HB952. This bill requires expensive karyotyping of every baby born in Texas. This intrusive testing violates each family's privacy. The bill assumes a gender binary based solely on XX or XY sex chromosomes. This assumption is not supported by modern biology. There are numerous genetic variations beyond XX or XY. And with XX or XY, there are conditions that produce significant variations. Some people with XY sex chromosomes and androgen insensitivity will appear as female and live for years without knowing they have XY sex chromosomes.
This bill is intrusive government over-reach and I am strongly opposed to it.

Laney Green
Self
Austin, TX

I am against this bill. Mandatory inclusion of an individual's sex, determined at birth, is not necessary, and is harmful to trans individuals and those who exist outside of the gender-binary system.

Robyn Honig
Self/None
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1952. It was designed to terrorize people under the guise of record-keeping. I'm unaffected by this bill, but the government has no place deciding if and how people exist.

Rachele Jacaruso
self
Austin, TX

Yes, PLEASE include a person's sex at birth on their birth certificate... this transgender nonsense is ridiculous. There are many examples in the media of devious child predators preying on our children and switching back and forth between genders when it suits them.

Simina Farcasiu
self
Taylor, TX

Please vote this bill into law ASAP. The sex of a person is a biological reality encoded at the chromosomal level and all Texas legislation must be consistent with this principle.

Audrey Warner
self
Conroe, TX, TX

Vital Records and permanent documents should never be altered, especially for the unbelievable nonsense of the "gender" craziness we are facing. Rep. Toth is absolutely correct, though I am paraphrasing him, boys are boys, girls are girls and no matter how they may want to be something they are not, it then becomes an issue of mental health. These records are not for just the here and now, it's for the future too. Years ago I went to search for my mother, a woman I barely knew as she left the family when I was 10 years old. I finally found her through Vital Records, in another state, years later. What would have happened if I couldn't have done that because of name and sex changes. I didn't get to meet my mother again, she had passed before I found her records, but I felt like I found her. This may not seem like much to you, it meant the world to me. Leave Vital Records alone, the biological sex is all we need to look at. Beyond that, maybe we should be looking for stronger mental health help. NO CHANGES TO VITAL RECORDS. Thank you

Kendra Laflin
self
Austin, TX

Oppose

Sumit DasGupta
Self
Austin, TX

Why are we playing God, rather, why are you all who are pushing this bill playing God? A simple search on the web revealed all sorts of conditions, like Swyer syndrome, Turner syndrome, etc. which defy the binary approach taken in this bill where a baby with a Y chromosome is definitely a born a boy at birth, no questions asked, and any baby without a XY combination of chromosomes is a girl, no questions asked. How will this law account for the children born with aberrations such as the two I have listed here.

Note also the article entitled, "New Study Shows Why X And Y Chromosomes Alone Don't Determine a Baby's Sex," by David Nield, Science Alert, 17th Dec., 2018 (https://www.sciencealert.com/a-baby-s-sex-is-about-more-than-just-its-x-and-y-chromosomes-new-research-reveals).

In short, this is a BAD bill for all the above reasons. It solves a non-existent problem by creating a new problem. So, please stop playing God but rather do God's work by doing what is right for all Texans. This bill does not fall into this latter category. Please vote this bill down.

EVE MARGOLIS
self
Austin, TX

Absolutely oppose this bill! Stop trying to sneak in these xenophobic, small-minded bills! This is a disgusting attempt to lead to more anti trans bills

Robert Murry, Mr.
Self
Austin, TX

HB 1952 is a terrible overreach regarding gender. I strongly oppose this bill for that reason. Some of my children’s friends (now in their mid 30s) grew up and discovered that they were actually a different gender than had been assigned at birth. They are not a threat in any way to our society and we should live and let live.

Audrey Warner, Mrs
Self
Conroe, TX

YES!

Robin Rosenstock, Dr
self
Austin, TX

As a physician and pediatrician I absolutely oppose this bill. There are genetic abnormalities that do not allow the immediate determination of sex at birth and there are genetic abnormalities where the actual sex is not able to be determined until the child is going or is supposed to go through puberty.

Ronnie White
Ronnie white
Conroe, TX

I support

Terry Kosobud
Retired
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1952. There has never been a need for one's birth certificate to contain the person's biological sex. Millions upon millions of Americans have been born, lived full lives and died without ever needing their biological sex on their birth certificate. This is a attempt to hurt people and therefore should be opposed.

William Ross Pumfrey, Mr.
Self/retired
Austin, TX

I urge members of the committee to vote against HB 1952.

Over the nearly 77 years of my life, science has shown us many things that I wouldn't have believed decades ago. We now know that gender is not a simple binary phenomenon. We now know that X and Y chromosomes don't always tell us the simple story that we thought. I invite you to read an article on "human sex reversal" authored by 18 scientists in the December 2018 issue of "Nature Communications."

There are conditions such as Swyer syndrome and Turner syndrome.

I think it is normal human behavior, for better or worse, to hold to old beliefs and resist new knowledge. Perhaps the most famous example was when we learned that the sun doesn't revolve around the earth. But I encourage you to get beyond what we all used to think about sex. Let people be what they are, not what you think they should be. Don't impose old ideas that hurt people in a profound way.

Thank you for your attention.

Catherine Lee
self
Austin, TX

against

Catherine Lee
self
Austin, TX

against

Anna Maria Paulus
Self
Porter, TX

I support that a child’s sex at birth should be listed on their birth certificate.

Jennifer Eckhart
self
Magnolia, TX

I support this Bill. It seems crazy that we have to have a Bill about something that should be common sense. Stop the delusion. Make it clear. It's either XX or XY, nothing in-between.

Brigetta Millen
Act for America
Montgonmery, TX

I am FOR HB 1952 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.

Sara Ruffin
Self - teacher
Lago Vista, TX

As a Texan, I oppose HB1952. It is not in the government's interest to regulate the reproductive parts or history of a person. There are countless reasons why a person's chromosomal sex would not match their gender identity. This bill mocks the 2% of Americans born with intersex traits (that's equal to the percentage of folks born with red hair!). Many individuals born XX or XY who display mismatched sex organs receive forced sterilization as infants. Spend time protecting their rights instead of worrying about choices made by people with the ability to consent to medical care with the counsel of their physician and without the government's nosy intervention. We have real problems to solve. Oppose HB 1952.

Zech Leal
Self
Lago Vista, TX

I oppose this measure. It targets a minority group and attempts to legislate peoples own sense of self. Absolutely shameful.

Susan Scruggs, Precinct Chair #81
Montgomery county Republican Party
The woodlands, TX

Please vote YES to requiring a birth certificate to have person's biological sex included.
Thank you, Susan Scruggs

Alexander Harris
none
Spring, TX

Our founding fathers in the Declaration of Independence declared we were created by God, however today we have taken God out of practically everything including our Public Schools and are propagating the religion of Atheism thru its curriculum. There are forces at work in our society whose objective is to indoctrinate our children with Gender Identity confusion and loose morals to discover their Sexual Orientation which violate TEC 28.004. Hence we must record on our sex at birth on our birth certificate as God intended.

Nydia Reveles
self, homeschool teacher
El Paso, TX

I am a Texas resident, voter, tax payer and parent. I am writing to officially express my position against HB 1952 and ask you to vote against it. First, this bill contradicts decades of sex and gender research which challenge the idea of a sex and gender binary. Labeling sex and gender on a binary is simplistic and uniformed as research suggests that the binary is , in fact, a fallacy. Further, This bill directly discriminates against transexual, transgender and non-binary residents. This bill is based solely on ignorance and hatred and not on sound science or medicine. Please listen to the experts in the countless medical organizations and not the quack panels usually invited to testify in favor of this bigotry. Do not legislate hate. Instead, I urge you to spend our time and tax dollars on issues that actually affect Texas residents. Please fix the dangerous and deadly foster care system, gun violence in schools, residents' limited and diminishing access to health insurance and healthcare, childhood poverty, the power grid, climate change or any number of issues that are hurting Texans on a daily basis. Vote NO on HB 1952 and turn your attention to actually helping our state.

Leah Hummel
self
Austin, TX

This bill infringes on Texans' rights to health care and self-expression. I urge the house to reconsider as this bill is in direct opposition to the first amendment, guaranteeing all Americans freedom of speech, including language of self-description.

Taylor Trevino
self - organizer
Austin, TX

I urge Representatives to oppose this bill and to end attacks on the LGBTQ+ community in Texas.

Ariel Wood
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to this bill as it is unnecessary and will only result in harm to those who identify as trans. It is written in bad faith.

Aaron Yuhas
Self
Austin, TX

Sex is scientifically more complicated than the male/female binary, gender is a construct. Strongly oppose.

Ren Bohanon
Self, Office Manager
Haltom City, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and believe it should be easier to change a person's sex on any legal document and they should not be tied to their sexual classification at birth. Trans rights are human rights.

Martha Chang
self
Austin, TX

This is just ridiculous. Let people update their birth certificate to be accurate to who they are. End of story.

Lorenzo Beas
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill is insidious and aims to negate Transgender Texans' right to exist legally. There are so many other issues affecting our society today I am so deeply disappointed that time and money is being spent entertaining these partisan political agendas. I don't understand why Texas appointed officials are so obsessed over what genitalia I was born with.
I'm a transgender Texan I'm 29, I'm engaged, I'm a software engineer and there is so much more to me than what bills like these are trying to reduce me down to. I have a whole life ahead of me, I just want to live my life and work towards making the world I live in better for our communities and generations to come. So please do your part and shit this nonsense down, focus on the real issues at hand.

Carolyn Nini, Ms
Self
Conroe, TX

I support HB 1952 by representative Steve Toth.

Sawyer Tedder
Self
Austin, TX

People should be able to change their assigned sex a birth. If a person wants to transition, they should be legally allowed to have their gender markers changed.

Bonnie Seelig
Self Retired
Spicewood, TX

I believe that truth is important, especially on official documents. There are 2 sexes: male and female. The birth certificate is the first and most important document of each person. This is not the time to let cultural swings take over official documents.

Emma May
self - Software Engineer
Austin, TX

As a transgender person, I am deeply concerned about the financial and medical burdens that would be imposed by the proposed law to require the inclusion of a person's sex on their birth certificate, with no recognition of the complexities of sex and gender.

First and foremost, the proposed law ignores the fact that biological sex is not always clear cut. While many people are born with male or female reproductive organs and chromosomes that align with their gender identity, this is not always the case. Some people are born intersex, meaning they have physical sex characteristics that do not fit typical male or female categories. This can include differences in chromosomes, hormones, or genitalia. For example, a person with XX chromosomes can have a male body, including a penis and testicles, due to the presence of the SRY gene. Mandating that only male or female categories be recognized on birth certificates erases the existence of intersex people and further stigmatizes and marginalizes them.

Secondly, this law would place a significant financial burden on the healthcare system and individual patients. Mandating karyotyping for all births in order to determine biological sex is a costly and unnecessary measure that would not only burden hospitals and clinics, but also place undue financial strain on families who may not be able to afford the additional testing. This could result in people being unable to access essential healthcare services or being forced to go into debt to cover medical expenses.

Furthermore, this law would do nothing to address the ongoing discrimination and mistreatment of transgender and intersex individuals in healthcare settings. Rather than focusing on issues that would improve healthcare outcomes and reduce healthcare disparities for transgender and intersex individuals, such as increasing access to affirming care and improving cultural competency among healthcare providers, this law would only further entrench discriminatory practices.

In conclusion, I urge the legislature to reject this proposed law and instead work towards creating a healthcare system that is inclusive and affirming of all people, regardless of their sex or gender identity. This means recognizing the complexity of sex and gender and ensuring that all individuals have access to the healthcare services they need, without fear of stigma, discrimination, or financial hardship.

Misty Odenweller, Trustee for Conroe ISD
Myself
Spring, TX

I am in support of this bill. We must protect our children and our educators.

Michelle Evans
self
Round Rock, TX

At a minimum, it is expected that elected officials govern based upon a foundation of truth and fairness. Defining biological sex in clear and certain terms, and using those to reflect facts on birth certificates will protect not only the safety and dignity of women and girls, but the future of what it means to be and live as a female. Birth certificates help determine who can occupy spaces that are intended to be sex-segregated, from domestic violence shelters to prisons. They inform history and ancestry, and in that regard the ability to change one's birth certificate or have a death certificate reflect an identity rather than a sex will change our understanding of motherhood. Government documentation also informs medical care, particularly during an emergency situation where providers are unable to communicate with a patient.

It is undeniable that the imprinting of an XY chromosome on the nucleus of each cell in a male's body in utero has long-term implications on physical, social and behavioral development. The exposure to testosterone during fetal development and onward leads to an enlarged amygdala compared to females, which is connected to the sizeable difference in physically aggressive and violent behavior that exists between the sexes, a difference well-established by the onset of puberty. Further, dimorphic pubertal development results, on average, in indisputably distinct sexed bodies. Males are larger with lower body fat stores and higher muscle mass. Research has discovered sex differences that continue well after puberty that affect everything from metabolism to heart attack symptoms to average life expectancy to suicide and homicide risk. These are not relative to culture or ideology and they are not subject to change based on social constructs.

Indeed, this legislative session, lawmakers will be debating the tampon tax, period poverty, and expanding medicaid to twelve months post-partum. In discussing these issues, we cannot avoid acknowledging that they impact women specifically and exclusively. To pretend otherwise is disingenuous, disrespectful and lacking in self-awareness. To allow others to pretend otherwise would be perpetuating a lie, commodifying biology, and denying the distinctive history of womanhood.

Please pass HB 1952 to maintain the long-standing recognition of truth and material reality.

Rebecca Smith
Self
Conroe, 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.

Liz Foley
self/citizen
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. This "trend" of changing a child's sex is not just hurting the children but families and our communities. A "child" cannot vote, drink, smoke or other decision making actions until they are 18 and yet we are encouraging them to change their God given biological sex before they are even double digits. Their brain's are not even fully developed and narcissistic parents are allowing this abuse. A girl is a girl and a boy is a boy and if they think otherwise we need to encourage support and help. If a child/person identifies as having multiple personalities we say they have a mental illness, however if a child decides they are all of a sudden a boy or a girl instead of what they were born; we just accept it and cut their bodies, change the paperwork, put them in different clothes and all is ok??? Seriously we have to acknowledge something else, something deeper is going on and get the child and their parents the support they need.

Brenda Smith, Mrs
Self
Montgomery, TX

Here’s what I posted for HB 1952:

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.

Chris Donofrio
Self / Scientist and researcher
The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1952
I live in Mr Toth's district.

HB 1952 is one of a set of bills designed to further marginalize the transgender citizens of Texas.
Viewed from a transgender perspective this bill is cruel. Cruelty can only be defined by the victim of an action or policy (Philip P. Hallie, 1982, "Cruelty").

Additionally, the use of the presence of a Y-chromosome as the sole parameter for sex (actually gender given the bill's intent) is useless. Current, reputable science indicates that gender is not defined on the Y-chromosome alone. I suggest those in favor of this bill read the following book, especially chapters 4 and 8. Marianne J. Legato, 2020, "The plasticity of sex: The molecular biology and clinical features of genomic sex, gender identity and sexual behavior. Legato is on the staff of the Dept of Medicine at Columbia University and the Dept of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University.

Current research has established that at least 6 genes are involved in gender identity.
CYP17 located on chromosome 19.
ER-alpha located on chromosome 6.
ER-beta located on chromosome 14.
AR located on chromosome 22.
AR located on chromosome 23.
SRD5A2 located on chromosome 2.

Chromosomes 1-22 are found in all of us.
Chromosome 23 is either the second X or the Y chromosome.

Only the gene AR is located on the Y chromosome, as well as the X chromosome (number 22). Research has shown "Inactivating mutations of the AR gene, or the gene encoding for the enzyme involved in testosterone modification (5-alpha reductase), result in individuals with a non-binary or female phenotype EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF A XY GENOTYPE AND TESTOSTERONE-PRODUCING TESTICLES [caps added by me]." This quote comes from Gian-Paolo Dotto's 2019 paper "Gender and sex - Time to bridge the gap," EMBO Molecular Medicine.

In short, defining male as having a Y chromosome is wrong and out of sync with current research results. Forcing an arbitrary definition of male and female based on the presence of male or female genitalia is an irrelevant criteria. Instead, such a definition requires, at a minimum, gene sequencing and thorough neurological assessments over the pre-driver's license age of all people in Texas. I think doing this would be quite expensive. And an invasion of privacy since any genetic data can be used for reasons other than issuing a driver's license.

Finally, studies have also shown that gender dysphoria has a "strong heritability" (see Legato, 2020). This demonstrates that being transgender must have a biological basis and is not a psychological problem!

I've gone into such detail only to provide the most basic scientific data against this bill's requirements. A lot more data are available.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1952.
I demand that it dies in committee.
Sincerely,
Chris J. Donofrio

Carli Miller
self
Austin, TX

I'm adamantly against HB 1952. This bill, like HB 3883, 3902 and 162, is transphobic, and hateful. They would make it near impossible to update essential documents and misinform vital statistics in state affairs.

spark Fields
self - home care administrator
Austin, TX

As a trans person, I oppose this bill. There is no basis to deny birth certificate changes to transgender people besides a desire to discriminate. State power should not be wielded as a cudgel against social groups who merely happen to be disliked by agents of the far right. This is a waste of time and energy on an asinine culture war issue, and Rep Toth should be ashamed for submitting this ridiculous bill.

Jim Steele
Self
Cedar Park, TX

I support HB 1952

Carolyn Lux
Self-Retired RN
Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of passing this bill. There are only two (2) sexes and the one that the individual is born with, Male Y. Female without a Y chromosome. This is biological fact and cannot be altered in any way.

Carolyn Lux
Self-Retired Nurse
Fredericksburg, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Males are XY and Females are XX. These biological facts cannot be changed.

Lamya Thompson, Mx
Self
Del Valle, TX

For HB 1952 here’s a premade testimony for y’all I wrote for my own.

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Sarah Donofrio
self, PhD student
Houston, TX

I am a resident of Houston, TX, where I work as a biologist at Baylor College of Medicine. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1952, which proposes using overly simplistic, inaccurate measures to label sex and gender. Classifying sex based on whether a child was born with or without a Y chromosome ignores the genes, hormones, and environmental factors that influence sex. Sex and gender cannot be boiled down into just chromosomes, as no single trait determines sex. Furthermore, the presence or absence of certain chromosomes cannot be determined by observing physical characteristics. Without genetic testing, there is no way to know what chromosomes a person has. In addition to being scientifically unsound and impractical, HB 1952 has dangerous implications for trans and intersex people. Restricting the classification of sex and gender in this way delegitimatizes the existence of trans and intersex people and their right and ability to receive appropriate health care. Regardless of politics, trans and intersex people exist, have always existed, and will continue to exist, and it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that they have equal rights.

Diana Richards
Self / Retired
Sherman, TX

I am FOR HB1952. Please make sure that people cannot as adults change their sex on their birth certificate - because it could affect businesses that rely on background checks to make sure they do not hire a criminal/sex offender who has simply changed their name and sex on their birth certificate.
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