

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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URGENT ACTION: OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1686

DALLAS, TX (March 25, 2023) — On Monday, March 27, 2023 in the State Capitol, the Texas House Public Health Committee hears one of the worst bills attacking the LGBTQ+ community, House Bill 1686 (HB 1686) (Oliverson) seeks to ban life-saving and best-practice healthcare for transgender youth. The hearing starts at 8:00 a.m. CST in E2.036 for those who want to testify.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas President Susie Hess said, “HB1686 exemplifies discrimination and invasion of privacy, fueled by a new culture war spawning disinformation. Republicans claim to belong to the party of small government, yet they interject themselves between families and their doctors, invading kids’ privacy and criminalizing their parents and medical professionals, all while ignoring the dangers of untreated gender dysphoria, including suicidality.”

We agree with the Equality Texas Issue paper, “Anti-Trans Bills,” that this is “a dangerous new step in the steady stream of anti-LGBTQ+ policy in Texas to allow non-expert lawmakers to criminalize lifesaving care. These lawmakers are placing their own political goals above evidence-based medicine, above private family decisions, and above care that is proven to save young lives.”

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas urgently calls on the entire LGBTQ+ community, allies, and all Democrats to immediately register your opposition to HB 1686 to all members of the Public Health Committee, especially Chair Stephanie Klick, by telephone or email. We must not allow this bill to pass. If we don’t stand up for the most vulnerable members of society, Texas Republicans will endanger the entire community.

| <u>Committee Member</u> | <u>House District</u> | <u>Telephone Number</u> | <u>Email Address</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chair Stephanie Klick | 91 | (512) 463-0599 | stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov |
| Vice-Chair Liz Campos | 119 | (512) 463-0452 | elizabeth.campos@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Nicole Collier | 95 | (512) 463-0716 | nicole.collier@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Jacey Jetton | 26 | (512) 463-0710 | jacey.jetton@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Ann Johnson | 134 | (512) 463-0389 | ann.johnson@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Jolanda Jones | 147 | (512) 463-0524 | jolanda.jones@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Venton Jones | 100 | (512) 463-0586 | venton.jones@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Tom Oliverson | 130 | (512) 463-0661 | tom.oliverson@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Four Price | 87 | (512) 463-0470 | four.price@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Reggie Smith | 62 | (512) 463-0297 | reggie.smith@house.texas.gov |
| Rep. Tommy Tinderholt | 94 | (512) 463-0624 | tony.tinderholt@house.texas.gov |

Founded in 1996 by local activists, membership of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is over three hundred strong, including former and current elected officials. We are one of the largest political organizations in Dallas County, and one of the largest chapters of Stonewall Democrats in the United States.

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