

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Statement on Chair Harold Dutton and SB 29**

HOUSTON, TX – Early this morning, Texas State Representative Harold Dutton (D, Houston), chair of the Public Education committee, weaponized the authority entrusted to him by reviving harmful anti-trans legislation that had previously failed to move through the legislative process.

[As the Houston Chronicle states](#), the Public Education committee failed to pass SB 29—the harmful bill that would prohibit trans youth from participating in UIL sports in accordance with their gender identity—on Tuesday of this week. Chair Dutton had previously stated publicly that he had no intention of allowing such legislation to pass through this Committee.

However, Chair Dutton announced from the Texas House floor at 1 a.m. Friday, May 7, 2021 that he scheduled a hearing for 9 a.m. specifically to vote SB 29 out of committee. The bill was voted out of committee 8 - 5, including Chair Dutton’s vote in support.

In the strongest terms, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus vehemently condemns Chair Dutton for using transgender children as political pawns in a childish, tit-for-tat move to retaliate against other Democrats that killed a bill he authored just hours before. Rep. Dutton revived a bill out of committee that will codify discrimination against trans youth into law and lead to an increase in depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts for young, trans Texans. Such a move is utterly reprehensible and illustrates a profound betrayal to trans youth, their families, and the LGBTQ+ community across the state.

Although Rep. Dutton screened for the Houston GLBT Political Caucus endorsement in 2020, the membership ultimately did not endorse his campaign in the primary or general elections.

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*The Houston GLBT Political Caucus is the South’s oldest, civil rights organization dedicated solely to the advancement of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality. Founded in 1975, it is the largest GLBT political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.*