

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus Condemns Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton’s Latest Attack on Trans Youth

HOUSTON, TX – The Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus unequivocally condemns Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton’s latest attack on trans youth, directing the Texas Department of Family Services to characterize gender-affirming care as “child abuse.” The Governor and the Attorney General have demonstrated, through their reprehensible actions, their utter lack of care for some of the most vulnerable throughout the state.

Gender-affirming care is backed by every major medical association, and research shows its efficacy in reducing suicidal ideations and attempts for trans and nonbinary youth. The move by the Governor and Attorney General is a misguided and harmful political stunt that will gravely impact trans Texans.

However, make no mistake; their opinions are not legally binding and do not change Texas law. Transgender youth can and should receive gender-affirming treatment in accordance with prevailing standards of care. They must know that their existence is legitimate and that they are deserving of support from loving parents, teachers, and medical professionals in their lives.

“This aggressive and incessant targeting is merely a reflection of blatant bigotry and hatred, as well dangerous, misinformed ‘opinions’,” said Joëlle Espeut, an openly trans board member of The Caucus. She continued, “In a time where we as trans people are moving into increased visibility and representation, Abbott and his transphobic rhetoric have no place in our collective liberation and forward mobility.”

The best response we all can give to the Governor and Attorney General is to register voters, get out the vote, and vote them out of office come November.

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The Houston LGBTQ+ 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 LGBTQ+ political organization in the city of Houston and Harris County.