



## STATE *of* TEXAS

Senator Campbell and Representative Oliverson today issued the following statement in response to the lawsuit seeking to prohibit the enforcement of Senate Bill 14:

The lawsuit filed seeking to prohibit the enforcement of Senate Bill 14 is not unanticipated, but we are confident the law is on our side, and that any attempts to overturn this legislation will ultimately be unsuccessful.

As we carefully laid out during the passage of Senate Bill 14, gender modification treatments and procedures in minors have no scientifically-verifiable, proven benefit. The doctors who perform them are often ignorant of the research or indifferent to how evidence-based medicine works. A growing list of European countries are recognizing that these treatments carry serious, life-long risks and are still, in the words of Finland's healthcare authority, an "experimental practice." We believe that extraordinary interventions require extraordinary justification, and that justification doesn't exist in this case. The State of Texas maintains its stance that there is insufficient evidence supporting continued medical experimentation on children.

A growing number of teenagers and young adults are telling us that they were irreparably harmed by procedures their doctors assured them, against all available evidence, are "medically necessary" and "life-saving." A growing number of parents attest that they were lied to or bullied into acquiescence. While we recognize the complexities surrounding the treatment of gender dysphoria in children, we believe it is the sworn duty of the Texas Legislature to protect the safety of the children of our state—including from well-meaning but misguided physicians.

It is important to understand that pediatric gender medicine is not settled science as those who have filed this suit would purport. We emphasize that no systematic reviews have demonstrated the value of these treatments, while some of the harms—like lifelong sterility for children who undergo full medical transition—are biological certainties. Additionally, there is evidence of intentional suppression of scientific debate on this issue by American medical societies and medical journals.

We are confident in our position that Senate Bill 14 is the tool needed to ensure that children and families in our state are protected against harm. Safeguarding their future remains a top priority for the state of Texas, and we will continue to act in their best interests.