



Office of Commissioner
Alisa L. Simmons
Precinct No. 2

June 8, 2026

Troy Jackson, PhD
5012 Ledgestone Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76132
Via Email: troybjackson@activist.com

Dear Dr. Jackson,

I've received your letter of concern regarding my Tarrant County resolution to recognize **HELP Center for LGBTQ+ Health** at the upcoming Commissioners Court meeting. I appreciate your engagement, as I do that of all Tarrant County constituents who lift their voices to help government work *for all*.

I won't address each statement in your letter, particularly those that question my faith, my motivations and areas of my character. Your assessment is laughable. I would have expected a deeper analysis from an academician or a professed minister of my God's gospel. You're welcome to hold those judgements, despite your never having had a conversation with me.

Regarding the HELP Center resolution, I encourage you to consider these points (which also are included in my resolution):

- **The HELP Center was founded within the church.** In 1994, two compassionate Catholic nuns along with the mother of a person living with AIDS, founded HELP Center to promote *healthy living habits* and to prevent the *spread of disease*. This resolution recognizes those women's wisdom and spirit of discernment in creating an organization open to all that promotes *health education* and *disease prevention*; and by default, provides *public health cost containment*.
- In 2025 alone, HELP Center delivered more than \$70 million in medicine, clinical services and support care to hundreds of patients at zero cost to these patients. It is one of the few such centers *across the nation* that offers no-cost healthcare.

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1100 East Broad St.
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Tarrant County *cannot* absorb these health costs at our current *no-new-revenue tax rate*. If you're a fiscal conservative - like I am and many of my constituents - you certainly would agree that shifting healthcare costs from Tarrant County's Hospital District to outside entities such as the HELP Center is a *Best Practices model* to keep tax rates low for all Tarrant County residents.

- **Almost 70 percent of HELP Center's patients are members of ethnic minority groups.** This figure is important because Black Texans make up more than 40 percent of new HIV diagnoses. Most of those diagnoses are among Black men; still, heterosexual transmission of HIV remains a primary driver for new infections in Black women.

These are the facts, Dr. Jackson. I'm sure as a scholar, author and pastor, you appreciate sound research, fact-based discussion leading to fact-based reasoning and decision-making.

I will vote to approve the resolution recognizing the HELP Center for its outstanding work in providing health services *to the least of these*, those individuals who cannot afford the costs of testing, mental health counseling, and medicines and for HELP Center's outstanding service and work to keep Tarrant County's tax rate low *for all of us*.

Sincerely,



Alisa Simmons