

## Texas Legislative Update March 29 – April 5, 2021

The Texas legislative session will be over the end of May. Many times a tactic used in the Legislature is to have various bills move slowly through the process if the intention is for the bill to die. It's important to let our voices be heard.

### Urgent Need and ACTION on Life Bills

Seven pro-life bills passed the Texas Senate last week and this week there are House hearings on these bills, in addition to one in the Senate (8 Pro-Life bills to support and 1 dangerous bill to oppose) for Wednesday, April 7.

See schedule/calendar here for House [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov) and here for the Senate [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

Please see the attached list and brief explanation of each life bill [mcusercontent.com](http://mcusercontent.com)

You don't have to travel to the Capitol this session in order to let your voice be heard. Now you can use this link [comments.house.texas.gov](http://comments.house.texas.gov) to share your thoughts and position online. However, the chance to testify online ends when the committee meeting is adjourned. Include your name, address, your position on the bill, and any additional comments which should be kept short.

If you attend and want to testify in person, click here [mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov](http://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov)

### Urgent Need and ACTION on Protecting Texas Children

Last Week we wrote about the Children & Gender Bills to Support see here [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

None of these bills in both the Senate and House have scheduled hearings.

Please urge Speaker Phelan, Lt. Governor Patrick, Governor Abbott, and the Committee Chairman/Chairwoman to get these bills passed.

**Speaker Phelan** - 512-463-0706 - [dade.phelan@house.texas.gov](mailto:dade.phelan@house.texas.gov)

**Lt. Gov. Patrick** - 512-463-0001 - [ltgov.texas.gov](http://ltgov.texas.gov)

**Governor Abbott** - 512-463-2000 - [gov.texas.gov](http://gov.texas.gov)

Please email or call Public Health Chairwoman Stephanie Klick and ask her to schedule a committee hearing ASAP for HB 68, HB 1399, HB 4014 and HB 2693 to protect Texas children!

**Stephanie Klick** - 512-463-0599 - [stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov](mailto:stephanie.klick@house.texas.gov)

In the Senate, please email or call Senator Bryan Hughes in State Affairs and ask him to please schedule a committee hearing ASAP for SB 1646 and SB 1311 to protect Texas children!

**Bryan Hughes** - 512-463-0101 - [bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov](mailto:bryan.hughes@senate.texas.gov)

Also, please call or email House State Affairs Chairman Chris Paddie and let him know we need immediate action and a hearing for HB 1458 and there are 77 co-sponsors on this bill (Relating to the separation based on biological sex of athletics teams sponsored by a public school or institution of higher education).

**Chris Paddie** - 512-463-0556 - [chris.paddie@house.texas.gov](mailto:chris.paddie@house.texas.gov)

## Orphan and Foster Care

HB 3820 by Rep. Stephanie Klick - HB 3820 (read it here: [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)) is an important bill that would require needed accountability and a second opinion by a specialist if a doctor suspects or claims there has been child abuse. It's currently pending in the Texas House Human Services Committee and needs to get passed out. There are many families who have been affected having their children removed over allegations of abuse by a child abuse pediatrician absent a consult with other doctors.

**ACTION:** Please contact Rep. James Frank's office (Chair of House Human Services) and urge him to pass it out of committee - especially the first week of April so it stands a chance to make it through the process before the end of session. His number is 512-463-0534 and email is [James.Frank@house.texas.gov](mailto:James.Frank@house.texas.gov)

Read more here about the bills this legislative session to protect Texas children and families from unnecessary child removals [houstonchronicle.com](http://houstonchronicle.com)

**HB 3041** by Rep. James Frank (text here [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov))- Human Services Committee - creates the Family Preservation Services pilot program. The committee is considering several bills to help ensure that removals only occur when a child's safety is at risk. Left pending in Human Services Committee –

**Rep. James Frank** - 512-463-0534 - [james.frank@house.texas.gov](mailto:james.frank@house.texas.gov)

**HB 567** by Rep. James Frank (text here: [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)) - the Child Trauma Reduction Act, seeks to reduce the cycle of trauma that many children experience in foster care by clarifying procedures and grounds in the Family Code that DFPS and the courts rely upon when making life-altering decisions concerning the removal of children into foster care and termination of parental rights. It overwhelmingly passed the House on Thursday and is on the way to the Senate.

## ACTION Regarding our SBTC/TERLC priorities

Have you contacted your Texas Representative and Senator regarding our SBTC/ TERLC priorities? You can see our legislative priority statement here [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

Please call, email, or visit with your representatives and make sure they have seen a copy of our legislative priorities. The legislative session needs your voice! Government is run by those who show up. To find out who represents you, go to [wrm.capitol.texas.gov](http://wrm.capitol.texas.gov). A sample note and what you can say is listed below.

Dear Texas Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for representing my district. Please tell me if you have read and will support and defend the SBTC/ TERLC priorities (read here: [sbtexas.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SBTC-TERLC-87th-LEG-Statement-pdf](http://sbtexas.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/SBTC-TERLC-87th-LEG-Statement-pdf)). Have you filed or co-authored any bills that are specific to any of these issues, and if so could you please give me the bill number so I can keep track of it? Are you committed to seeing them through to the end until they reach the Governor's desk? These issues are important to me and my family. We will be watching, following the progress, and praying for success.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Your Contact Info

In case you missed some of our earlier legislative updates see here [sbtexas.com/ethics-religious-liberty](http://sbtexas.com/ethics-religious-liberty)