

## Texas Legislative Update April 6-12, 2021

**ACTION:** Gender Modification bills (anti-child abuse bills) set for hearing on Monday, April 12 (Senate) and Wednesday, April 14 (House). Please see below for details. The children of Texas, as well as parents who are not wanting their children to go through surgical or hormonal transition, need our help. If Arkansas can do it, Texas can do it too - [baptistpress.com](http://baptistpress.com)

### What does the Bible say about sex and gender?

“Seminary professor Katie McCoy has defined gender this way: “We believe that gender is God-given, not socially constructed or self-determined; that gender distinctions are rooted in creation and manifested in biological differences, transcending social customs and cultural stereotypes; that being created as a [man or] woman is an essential aspect of our identity (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6).” Similarly, biological sex, that is, whether a person is male or female, is determined by God long before that person is born. God made each person as either male or female, and this is a physical and genetic reality (Genesis 1:27). Christians understand that sex is tied to biology and that gender is tied to sex. Our gender is not something we choose; it is tied to the biological reality of sex. And our sex, gender, and bodies are permanent features of our identities as created by God.”

### Preparing your in-person or online testimony:

Below is our position from the legislative priorities statement for the 87th legislative session. You can also find additional wording in our resolution from 2017 - [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com). You can use your own ministry experience regarding the harm you have seen first-hand from this destructive agenda.

**GENDER IDENTITY:** We encourage government officials and policy makers to support public policies that recognize the unalterable God-given distinctions between male and female, and especially protect children under the age of 18 from surgical or pharmaceutical efforts to change their physiological nature. Some states and courts are allowing children to determine their sexual and gender identity, regardless of the parent’s beliefs, as ordered in the 2020 Younger case in Texas. We affirm that gender is determined by God alone and is not influenced by man or open for selection or alteration.

### If you are not familiar with the Jeffrey Younger and Save James story

please see here - [lukemacias.com/afathersfight](http://lukemacias.com/afathersfight)

**Read Walt Heyer’s testimony here** - “The reprieve provided by surgery and life as a woman was only temporary. Hidden deep underneath the make-up and female clothing was the little boy hurt by childhood trauma, and he was making himself known.”

[thepublicdiscourse.com](http://thepublicdiscourse.com)

[cbn.com](http://cbn.com)

[washingtonexaminer.com](http://washingtonexaminer.com)

If you cannot attend the hearings in-person, please submit online testimony or reach out to the committee members or your state representative ([wrm.capitol.texas.gov](http://wrm.capitol.texas.gov)) and let them know it is critical for them to pass these bills and protect Texas children. Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments related to the Wednesday hearings without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting: [comments.house.texas.gov](http://comments.house.texas.gov)

**Monday, April 12 - SB 1646** Relating to the protection of children, including the definition of child abuse and the prosecution of the criminal offense of abandoning or endangering a child. Texas Senate State Affairs Chair Bryan Hughes has scheduled for a 9 AM Monday, April 12 hearing in the Senate Chamber, State Affairs Committee. See text here: [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

**Wednesday, April 14 - HB 1399** Relating to professional liability insurance coverage for and prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria.

**Talking points for testimony here:** [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

**See text here:** [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

**See schedule here:** Public Health Committee, 8am, Wednesday, April 14, Room JHR140 [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

In the same House committee on Wednesday as HB 1399, there is a bill HB 1424, that would protect the right of conscience for medical workers to not have to participate in gender transitions if it violates their conscience. Once again, if you cannot go down in-person, please submit online comments here [comments.house.texas.gov](http://comments.house.texas.gov)

**Wednesday, April 14 - H B 1424** Relating to a health care provider's right to object to participation in a medical procedure that violates the provider's ethical, moral, or religious beliefs.

**Talking points for testimony (Medical Right of Conscience) here:** [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

**See text here:** [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

**See schedule here:** [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov)

More on these bills from the past two Sentinels: [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

If you missed other Sentinels, you can go to our page here to view [sbtexas.com](http://sbtexas.com)

Important information on Legislative Deadlines for the Texas 87 th Legislative Session [texasscorecard.com](http://texasscorecard.com)

While we are thankful that Chairman Stephanie Klick has set a hearing for HB 1399 above, we also need her to set a hearing for these gender modification child anti-abuse bills:

**HB 68** (Rep. Toth)

**HB 2693** (Rep. Toth)

**HB 4014** (Rep. Hefner)

Please call her Austin office (512) 463-0599 and her North Richland Hills office (817) 281-0079 to let her know how important it is that she schedule these anti-child abuse bills immediately for a hearing before time runs out.

**For those who will be testifying**, information for in-person witness registration, can be found here: [mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov](http://mytxlegis.capitol.texas.gov)

A live video broadcast of this hearing will be available here: [house.texas.gov](http://house.texas.gov)

**Instructions related to public access** to the meeting location and health and safety protocols for attending this meeting are available here: [house.texas.gov/committees](http://house.texas.gov/committees)

**Texas residents who wish to electronically submit comments** related to agenda items on this notice without testifying in person can do so until the hearing is adjourned by visiting: [comments.house.texas.gov](http://comments.house.texas.gov)