

Texas Legislative Update

March 18, 2025

Religious Liberty, Protecting Our Children, and Economic Principles

According to the [priorities](#) we set forth in January, these are some of the bills we are following in the Texas legislature. We need your voice! You can [contact](#) your Texas state senator or house representative to express your support and ensure where your elected official stands on these bills:

I. Religious Liberty

- [SB 1073](#): This bill seeks to ensure that no attorney is excluded from seeking a law license or renewal of a law license based on their faith and that no person loses their law license based on their faith.
- [SB 619](#): This bill protects a health care professional's right of conscience from being forced to participate in a procedure that violates their deeply held religious convictions such as in the case of an abortion or gender reassignment procedure, or dispensing a medication that is an abortifacient, etc.
- [SB 11](#): This bill [protects](#) the right to pray or engage in religious speech while on duty for public/charter school employees. Parents must provide written consent for their child to participate or be within the hearing of these prayers or religious speech which must be separate from instructional time. Parents can remove their permission at any time.
- [SB 10](#): This bill requires the Ten Commandments to be displayed in public school classrooms, which if passed, will challenge U.S. Supreme Court precedent. SB10 is different from the Ten Commandments bill which passed in [Louisiana](#) and included historically significant documents of the Declaration of Independence, Mayflower Compact, and Northwest Ordinance.

II. Protecting our Children

- [SB 2880](#): The Woman and Child Protection Act could hold websites, distributors, advertisers, and more accountable if they break the law through contributing to the sending of deadly abortifacient drugs to women and would allow citizens to sue these companies and organizations. Elective abortion is illegal in Texas beginning at fertilization, but activists are sending deadly drugs straight to homes, as many as 19,000 per year.
- [SB 810](#): This bill protects a public school employee from discrimination, discipline, and retaliation when they use a term (such as a pronoun) addressing a student or employee consistent with their biological sex.
- [SB 412](#): This bill states that "the ability of Texas public schools to legally allow obscene instructional material and school districts' lack of transparency on the issue has led to an increased amount of access to sexually explicit, obscene, and age-inappropriate content for Texas students. This material has a detrimental effect on children as their identities are still

developing. The affirmative defense to the crime of "Sale, Distribution, or Display of Harmful Material to Minors" is overly broad and offers a disproportionate amount of protection compared to the harm posed to minors. This bill seeks to narrow the scope of the affirmative defense and deter harmful acts of obscenity."

- [SB 406](#): Prohibits an individual from changing their "sex" on their birth certificate.
- [SB 400](#): Requires school districts to obtain the written consent from a child's parent prior to any psychological or psychiatric exam or test designed to elicit certain information about a child presented in the form of a survey, check-in, screening, or embedded in an academic lesson.
- [SB 371](#): This bill would reinstate a previous requirement for a parental opt-in for sexual education for children in public schools.
- [SJR 34](#): This bill proposes a constitutional amendment protecting the right of parents to raise their children and places into the Texas Constitution the rights of parents already protected by the U.S. Constitution, as laid out in case law.
- [SB 18](#): This bill would defund municipal libraries that host drag queen story times for children, or events where persons presenting as the opposite sex read books to children for entertainment.
- [SJR 12](#): This bill proposes a constitutional amendment establishing a parent's right to direct their child's education.
- [HB 1806](#): This bill would prohibit cities or any government entity from assisting in the travel expenses or any other transaction for an abortion related service.
- [HB 239](#): The Texas Woman's Privacy Act amends state government code to define biological sex and prohibits individuals from using state-funded facilities such as jails, shelters, public bathrooms and changing rooms, and other private spaces that are designated for use by the opposite sex.
- [HB 229](#): This bill clearly defines biological sex for government information.

III. Economic Principles:

- **OPPOSE** [SB 1356](#): This bill seeks to promote and market the alcoholic beverage industry in Texas using our public tax dollars, creating the Texas Alcohol Tourism Development Program within the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism. We oppose this use of taxpayer funds to promote alcohol usage in Texas.

If you missed our previous updates, check-out: [Priorities, Effective Advocacy, and School Choice](#) and [Gambling](#).