

## Texas Legislative Update

June 19, 2025

### Summary of 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session

Before the 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session began in January 2025, we delivered our Legislative [Priorities Statement](#) to Texas Representatives and Senators.

The Session concluded on June 2, 2025. Our Public Policy Advisor and TERLC team testified on multiple bills in person, registered positions and submitted written comments online, and distributed information on bills to offices. We also met with representatives, staff, and statewide partners to communicate our legislative priorities. Many across Texas worked hard and we had several important victories, but there is work still to be done.

Thank you to everyone who helped make phone calls, write emails, and stay engaged on important policies that affect our families, communities, and churches!

These were our 7 legislative priorities:

1. Religious Liberty
2. Sanctity of Life
3. Orphan Care
4. Gender Identity
5. Marriage, Family, and Parental Rights
6. Exploitation and Violence
7. Economic Principles and Gambling

## I. Religious Liberty

### **PASSED:**

- [SB 11](#): This bill provides for the right to pray or engage in religious speech while on duty for public/charter school employees with parental written consent for children to participate before or after school.
- [SB 10](#): This bill requires Texas public elementary and secondary schools to display the Ten Commandments in each classroom with the same version as what is displayed on the Texas Capitol monument. While we support the Ten Commandments in our public schools, we advocated for a bill that would have more closely mirrored the Louisiana law and combined the Ten Commandments with other documents historically significant to our nation's founding such as the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution. A display including these founding documents has more legal precedent when it is eventually challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court.

### **NOT PASSED:**

- [SB 619](#): This bill would have protected health care professionals from being forced to participate in procedures that violate their deeply held religious convictions such as an abortion or gender reassignment procedure, etc. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

- [SB 2713](#): This bill would have prohibited trade and professional associations from denying access, membership, or participation to individuals based on the lawful exercise of their First Amendment rights and sincerely held religious beliefs and disallowed them from using internal bylaws/codes of conduct to justify viewpoint-based discrimination. It passed the Senate but died in the House.
- [SB 1073](#): This bill would have ensured that no attorney is excluded from seeking or renewing a law license based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. It passed the Senate but died in the House.
- [HB 1805](#): This bill thankfully did not pass. It would have established a Religious Freedom Commission out of the Governor's office made up of an interfaith council of seven (7) persons (Muslims, Hindu, Buddhists, Christian, etc.), with only four (4) required for a quorum, to represent people of faith to our elected representatives. Nothing now prevents any religious group or church from voicing concerns to our elected officials as we have always done. We can go through the democratic process whether on a local or state level when an issue arises. We also have groups well versed in constitutional law and religious liberty that are a part of those discussions when something needs to be brought to the forefront and addressed.

## II. Sanctity of Life

### PASSED:

- [SB 33](#): This bill will prohibit cities or any government entity from assisting in the travel expenses or any other transaction for an abortion-related service.
- [SCR 19](#): This bill authorizes the State Preservation Board to approve the construction of a replica of the National Life Monument at the State Capitol Complex. The National Life Monument celebrates the miracle of life and the women at the center of that miracle.

### NOT PASSED:

- [SB 2880](#) / [HB 5510](#): The Woman and Child Protection Act would have held websites, distributors, and advertisers more accountable if they break the law by contributing to sending deadly abortifacient drugs to women. Sadly, even though this bill was a top pro-life priority to stop thousands of unborn children from dying and women from being seriously harmed, it died in the House though it passed in the Senate.
- [HR 236](#): This resolution would have praised Cecile Richards for her political activism and leadership of Planned Parenthood Federation of America from 2006 to 2018, the nation's largest abortion provider. Thankfully, this did not pass.

## III. Orphan Care

### PASSED:

- [HB 1151](#): This bill protects a parent's right to say no to psychological and psychiatric treatment (unless it presents a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury to the child) and allows for seeking alternative healthcare without risking CPS involvement.

**NOT PASSED:**

- [HB 2216](#): This bill would have applied the same standards (and more) outlined in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) to all Texans, which would have left children in serious abusive situations much longer, languishing in and out of the foster care system without permanency and stability. It passed in the House but thankfully it did not pass in the Senate.

## IV. Gender Identity

**PASSED:**

- [HB 229](#): This bill clearly defines male and female for state government and laws.
- [SB 1257](#): This bill requires health benefit plan coverage for gender transition adverse effects and reversals.

**NOT PASSED:**

- [SB 240](#): This bill would have amended the state government code to define biological sex and prohibit 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. It passed the Senate but died in the House.
- [SB 18](#): This bill would have defunded 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. It passed the Senate but died in the House.
- [SB 406](#): This bill would have prohibited an individual from changing their “sex” on their birth certificate and also would have prohibited a “reassignment” of sex on a child’s birth certificate. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

## V. Marriage, Family, and Parental Rights

**PASSED:**

- [SB 12](#): This bill strengthens transparency and parental rights in public education and mandates certain requirements and prohibitions regarding instruction on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). SB 12 stipulates a loss of funding for public schools that fail to comply, reinstates the opt-in requirement for sex education, and prohibits instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity from PreK-12.
- [SB 13](#): This bill seeks to provide for parental access to school library catalogs and library records, the establishment of local school library advisory councils, the adoption of policies for the acquisition of library materials, and the right to challenge library materials in order to keep harmful books out of school libraries.

**NOT PASSED:**

- [SB 1395](#): This bill would have returned School Health Advisory Councils (SHAC) to the parents and provide accountability in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district health education instruction. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

- [SB 400](#): This bill would have required school districts to obtain 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. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

## VI. Exploitation and Violence

### PASSED:

- [SB 1212](#): This bill increases the criminal penalty to a first-degree felony for the prosecution and punishment of trafficking persons, including children and the disabled.
- [HB 1443](#): This bill allows for prosecution of criminal offenses by prohibiting sexually explicit visual material involving an anatomically correct doll, mannequin, or robot that has the features of a child.
- [SB 835](#): This bill will prohibit the misuse of non-disclosure agreements (“NDAs”) in civil settlements for child sexual abuse, trafficking victims, and survivors of childhood crimes.
- [HB 4623](#): This bill will hold public schools and professional school employees liable for failure to report certain injuries to students, such as sexual abuse or any violent injury.
- [SB 412](#): This bill narrows the scope of the affirmative defense and deters harmful acts of obscenity involving material or conduct that is obscene or otherwise harmful to children.

### NOT PASSED:

- [HB 3225](#): This bill would have restricted access by minors to sexually explicit materials in municipal public library collections and provided a civil penalty. It passed the House but did not make it out of the Senate.
- [SB 1396](#): This bill would have amended current law to prohibit the adoption or use of dangerous national sexuality education standards in public schools. It passed the Senate but died in the House.

## VII. Economic Principles and Gambling

### PASSED:

- [SB 3070](#): While this bill disappointingly does not eliminate the lottery, it does address oversight and leadership issues, seeks to potentially abolish the lottery in the future, and transfers the administration of the state lottery and the licensing and regulation of charitable bingo to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. It also requires a limited scope sunset review of the state lottery for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2027, limits the number of lottery tickets allowed to be sold to one individual in a single transaction, and prohibits play or facilitation of play by telephone, internet application, or mobile Internet application.

## Request Special Session

Governor Abbott can call a special session to pass important bills such as the Woman and Child Protection Act that did not pass. To contact his office and ask him to hold a special session for any of the bills that were not passed, you can call (512) 463-1828 or [email](#).