

## FACT SHEET

# HB 18: RURAL HEALTH STABILIZATION AND INNOVATION ACT



**HB 18 is called the “Rural Health Stabilization and Innovation Act” and is intended to expand access to healthcare in rural parts of Texas. While much of the law creates programs to help rural Texans, an amendment was added to the law that discriminates against and harms transgender youth.**

- There is a cruel and senseless amendment in HB 18 that subverts the broader intent of the law. This amendment prohibits the Rural Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program from covering any mental health service that “affirms the child’s perception of the child’s gender if that perception is inconsistent with the child’s biological sex.”
- Transgender youth need more access to healthcare, not less, and excluding them from this program imposes unnecessary harm. Check out [txtranskids.org](http://txtranskids.org) for mental health resources and other helpful materials.

**If you are impacted by HB 18, please reach out to us at [intake.aclutx.org](http://intake.aclutx.org).**