

FACT SHEET: SB 14 (TRANS MEDICAL CARE BAN)



Current Status: In effect while on appeal

What is Senate Bill 14?

- SB 14 prohibits Texas healthcare professionals from providing medical care to adolescents for the treatment of gender dysphoria and threatens doctors' licenses if they do.
 - Puberty blockers and hormone therapy have been used to treat gender dysphoria for decades, are firmly grounded in science and the standards of care, and are considered life-saving care by every major medical association.
 - Many, but not all, transgender youth experience gender dysphoria, which is a serious medical condition. Some, but not all, transgender youth need medical care to be able to live and thrive as their authentic selves.
- SB 14 bans this care for transgender youth within Texas while allowing the same treatments to be provided to any other young person for any other reason.
 - This law is clearly discriminatory and violates the Texas Constitution.
- SB 14 will irreparably harm transgender youth and their families across Texas, especially those with fewer economic resources.
 - The law bars state funding of medical care for the treatment of gender dysphoria, including through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.
 - Many families with transgender youth who can afford it are fleeing the state, splitting up their families, or making plans to fly hundreds of miles to seek care in other states. But many other young transgender Texans — including those in foster care or juvenile detention — don't have these options.

What is the status of SB 14 and the lawsuit against it?

- Five Texas families with transgender children and adolescents, three medical providers, and [PFLAG](#) and [GLMA](#) — which represent hundreds of families and health professionals across the state — have sued the State of Texas, its attorney general, the Health & Human Services Commission, and the Texas Medical Board.
- The plaintiffs in this case are represented by Lambda Legal, the American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU of Texas, Transgender Law Center, and the law firms Scott Douglass & McConnico LLP and Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP. They filed suit in state court in Travis County, Texas.
- The Plaintiffs held a temporary injunction hearing in Austin on Aug. 15-16, 2023; and, based on two days of evidence and testimony, the district court [entered an order](#) blocking SB 14 on Aug. 25. The Texas Attorney General appealed that decision, which put that order on hold. Plaintiffs sought emergency relief from the Texas Supreme Court to stop SB 14 from going into effect while it considers the State's appeal.
- On Aug. 31, the Texas Supreme Court denied Plaintiffs' request for emergency relief, which allowed SB 14 to take effect on Sept. 1. But the lawsuit continues and the Plaintiffs are urging the Texas Supreme Court to uphold the district court's injunction to stop this unconstitutional law from continuing to harm transgender youth, their families and healthcare providers while the case proceeds.

- You can access more information about the lawsuit on our [case page](#) and also access all filings and decisions before the [Texas Supreme Court](#).

What is the status of the lawsuits challenging DFPS investigations into medical care for transgender youth, *Doe v. Abbott* and *PFLAG v. Abbott*?

- In February 2022, Gov. Greg Abbott and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) attempted to classify health care for the treatment of gender dysphoria as child abuse under Texas law.
- The ACLU, ACLU of Texas, Lambda Legal, and Baker Botts LLP filed two lawsuits to stop DFPS investigations into families of transgender youth across Texas. They won court orders stopping these investigations in both [Doe v. Abbott](#) and [PFLAG v. Abbott](#) that are still in place and apply to members of PFLAG and their families in Texas.
- These court decisions are on appeal and are not yet final. The information in this [PFLAG v. Abbott fact sheet](#) is still applicable and important for families with transgender youth in Texas.

As a transgender young person in Texas, what can I do?

- Know that you are loved and supported. Visit [TX Trans Kids](#) for resources and a list of organizations that are working to support you.
- Know that you can still access mental health care in Texas and be fully supported as who you are; and seek out-of-state medical care if you can.
- Remember that your medical information is private and confidential. You don't have to share details about the medical care you receive with anyone.
- [Sign up](#) for updates from the ACLU of Texas.

As the parent or guardian of a transgender young person, what can I do?

- [Join PFLAG](#) and maintain your membership.
- Find additional information and resources at [TX Trans Kids](#).
- Know that your child can still access mental health care in Texas and be fully supported as who they are; and seek out-of-state medical care if you can.
- [Sign up](#) for updates from the ACLU of Texas.

As a medical provider, what can I do?

- [Join GLMA](#) and maintain your membership.
- Advocate within your network and community to restore access to this life-saving and evidence-based medical care for trans youth in Texas.
- [Sign up](#) for updates from the ACLU of Texas.

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