

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: SB 14 (TRANS MEDICAL CARE BAN)



CURRENT STATUS: IN EFFECT.

What is Senate Bill 14?

- S.B. 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.
- S.B. 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, which is clearly discriminatory.
- S.B. 14 has irreparably harmed 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 and sometimes splitting up their families. But many other young transgender Texans — including those in foster care or juvenile detention — don't have these options.

What is the status of the lawsuit challenging SB 14, *Loe v. Texas*?

- 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 — sued the State of Texas, its attorney general, the Health & Human Services Commission, and the Texas Medical Board.
- The plaintiffs in this case were 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.
- There was 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 S.B. 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 S.B. 14 from going into effect while it considered the State's appeal.
- On Aug. 31, 2023, the Texas Supreme Court denied Plaintiffs' request for emergency relief, which allowed S.B. 14 to take effect on Sept. 1, 2023.
- Unfortunately, on June 28, 2024, the Texas Supreme Court refused to uphold the District Court's injunction and held that SB 14 is not likely to violate the Texas Constitution.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has taken up an ACLU lawsuit from Tennessee challenging a similar law prohibiting gender-affirming medical care for minors. That case will likely be decided during or

before June 2024 and determine whether these bans violate the U.S. Constitution's promise of equal protection for all.

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

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 SB 14 does not apply to medical care provided in other states.
- 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 SB 14 does not apply to medical care provided in other states.
- [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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