



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – [Day], [Month Day#], 2023

<p>SB 14</p> <p>By: Campbell Bettencourt Hall Hughes Kolkhorst Middleton Parker Paxton Perry Springer</p> <p>Sponsor: Oliverson Klick Metcalf Toth Geren</p>	<p>Relating to prohibitions on the provision to certain children of procedures and treatments for gender transitioning, gender reassignment, or gender dysphoria and on the use of public money or public assistance to provide those procedures and treatments.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 14 is a categorical ban on best-practice treatment for transgender youth, treatment that is fully supported by the American medical establishment. This patient-centered interdisciplinary standards of care includes puberty blockers, hormones, and in rare cases, “top surgery” - all treatments that are also given to non-transgender (cisgender) youth. Best-practice standards constitute treatment that is age-appropriate, includes a rigorous assessment process, and is tailored to each individual and their family. When transgender youth can access best-practice treatment, they thrive. The medicine is clear: this care is life-saving. Hundreds of youth in Texas are alive today because they were able to receive this care.</p> <p>SB 14 prohibits public funds from being allocated to any entity, organization, or individual involved in providing or facilitating prohibited procedures or treatments for minors related to gender transitioning. This means CHIP and Medicaid won't cover such treatments for minors, and implementation might be delayed if federal waivers or authorizations are needed. The undefined term "facilitates" could result in cutting off public funding for businesses and organizations in Texas that offer healthcare insurance or otherwise enable access to care. This vague and discriminatory language could negatively impact any businesses in Texas.</p> <p>SB 14 allows the attorney general to take legal action against healthcare providers or entities, even if no violation has yet occurred, for providing or planning to provide gender transition healthcare to minors. This could lead to wasted resources and taxpayer dollars if future violations are falsely assumed. Moreover, enforcing this provision could infringe on privacy and necessitate access to private medical records.</p> <p>Under SB 14, the Texas Medical Board is required to revoke the license of a physician who performs prohibited procedures or treatments and refuse to issue or renew licenses for those who do so. This bill could punish medical providers for following best-practice standards of care, despite having the backing of decades of research and support from every major medical association representing over 1.3 million U.S. doctors.</p> <p>SB 14 includes provisions for current adolescents receiving gender affirming healthcare to begin to “wean off” prescription drugs. The “wean off” section may open doctors or healthcare providers to claims of sex discrimination against their patients under the Affordable Care Act.</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>
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			<p>SB 14 would impose legal liability on physicians and health care providers who provide medically necessary and life-saving health care based on medical best practices. State laws that require physicians and hospitals to stop providing medically necessary health care to patients based on gender identity and sex assigned at birth conflict with the U.S. Constitution and federal law, which creates legal liability for Texas health care providers.</p> <p>SB 14 unfairly limits transgender and gender-nonconforming Texans' access to crucial healthcare. Instead of blanket statewide legislation, healthcare decisions should be made case-by-case by qualified medical professionals, children, and their parents or guardians. Access to gender-affirming care is essential for reducing depression, anxiety, and suicidality risks. Advocates believe that rather than attacking this vulnerable community, legislators should focus on creating policies that offer a supportive environment, including comprehensive healthcare options, mental health support, and anti-discrimination protections.</p>	
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