

**National Task Force for Therapy Equality
American College of Pediatricians
Jewish Institute for Global Awareness**

August 11, 2017

Joe Straus
Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
Texas State Capitol
Austin, Texas 78701

Honorable Speaker Straus:

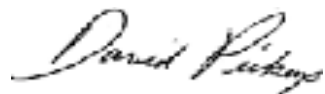
We, the undersigned, are greatly concerned about your prevention of the Texas Privacy Act from being heard in the state legislature during the ongoing special session. Our primary concern is the health and welfare of children, *all* children, in Texas. As Speaker of the House, the health and welfare of children should be given high priority. This is why so many Texans are shocked and gravely disappointed with the uninformed stance on the dangers of suicide that you have taken. This naïve stance will ultimately endanger the children of Texas you are claiming to protect.

The issues, even though sometimes complicated, are actually based on simple facts. Please consider these points:

1. **There is no evidence that transgendered children or adults who are expected to use showers, bathrooms, or locker rooms that correspond with their biological sex have a higher risk of suicide than others in this group**, which is already plagued with a much higher rate of suicide than the general population, even after going through gender transition. The overwhelming evidence indicates that the deeply unresolved gender dysphoria issues leads to suicide and a host of other disorders such as depression, anxiety and drug usage. These arise from unresolved emotional issues that require professional therapy or support to effectively be resolved.
2. **The research shows that suicide ideation and other emotional issues most frequently continue foreven after gender reassignment has occurred.** About 75% of dysphorics resolve their issues before the age of 30. *The use of suicide risk as a primary reason for refusal to allow a hearing for The Texas Privacy Act, SB3, demonstrates gross misinformation.*
3. **Failing to address this issue appropriately will results in violations of privacy that could cause real harm to many children, including young girls who have been sexually abused by males.** The Texas Privacy Act is not an attempt to label transgenders and sexual predators. It is rather a realistic effort to protect children from pedophiles who will simply take advantage of the lack of public privacy in public areas.

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Our organizations, which represent many thousands of professional members, urge you to truly consider the health and welfare of *all* Texas children. The Texas legislature needs to be on record for how they will stand in defense of privacy, especially considering vulnerable children. Letter approved by the following signatories on page 2:



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