



Statement on Texas Supreme Court Ruling from NASW-TX Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression (SOGIE) Committee

July 2, 2024

On Friday, June 28th, the Texas Supreme Court reaffirmed its decision to allow Senate Bill 14 (SB 14) to be active and in-effect during proceeding legal challenges. As a committee dedicated to upholding the principles of social justice, equity, and the well-being of all individuals, we express our profound disappointment and concern regarding the Texas Supreme Court's decision to allow SB 14 to remain in effect.

The role of social workers is to advocate for and support individuals in achieving their fullest potential, ensuring that they have access to necessary services and protections. SB 14 stands in direct opposition to these values by denying transgender youth the medically necessary care that is widely recognized by major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care significantly reduces the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among transgender youth. By preventing access to this care, SB 14 exacerbates the challenges faced by transgender individuals, increasing their risk of mental health crises and undermining their overall well-being.

NASW-TX is deeply concerned about the long-term implications of this ruling. It sets a dangerous precedent that jeopardizes the rights and health of transgender individuals, not only in Texas but potentially across the nation.

This committee, and NASW-TX, will remain steadfast in our commitment to social justice and will continue to advocate for policies that uphold the dignity and well-being of all individuals. We stand in solidarity with the transgender community and pledge to support their access to essential healthcare services.

We urge all social workers to stand with us in advocating for policies and practices that promote the well-being of transgender and gender diverse communities. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to justice, equity, and the rights of all individuals to live authentically with dignity and free from discrimination and relentless harassment from those who choose to foster fear and hatred.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Heidebrecht".

Ashley Heidebrecht, LMSW
Chair, NASW-TX SOGIE Committee