

SWAD LGBTQ+ Legislative Awareness and Advocacy

NASW-TX SOGIE Committee

SOGIE Committee Overview and Mission

The NASW-TX Equity Committees provide advice and consultation to the chapter board of directors via the Executive Director, to enhance social workers' capacity to support human rights for all Texans. The Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Committee is particularly focused on promoting policies, laws, and programs that affirm, support, and value sexual orientation, gender identity and expression among individuals, families, and communities. Embracing the values and ethics of our profession, the committee serves as an advocacy, educational, and advisory group to end all forms of discrimination based on homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism in all social institutions and the public and private sectors.

Key items:

- Bills which the SOGIE Committee supports
- Bills which the SOGIE Committee opposes
- 89th Legislature committees of influence
- Taking action Local/State/National
- Resources and Texas SOGIE centers

89th Texas Legislative Session

The state of Texas Legislative Session is a biannual occurrence. This year, pre-filing began November 11, 2024. The 89th Legislature convened January 14, 2025, and the regular session ends June 2, 2025.

The Issue

There are currently over 200 bills introduced which work against equity and civil rights for the LGBTQ+ community.

Why is This Important?

Each legislative session a large volume of bills is introduced which focus on criminalization of LGBTQ+ lives. This 2025 session is no exception, with specific focus being placed on transgender youth and adults, parental rights, the art of Drag, K-12 schools, and more, including the institution of civil penalties for providers. The lives of LGBTQ+ Texans continue to be used as a pawn for advancing right-wing conservative ideologies with no regard for documented medical and mental health best practices, expert testimony, individual and community trauma, factually accurate K-12 education, or the well-being of the real human beings who are impacted.

“Texas’s legal landscape and social climate put LGBT residents at risk of discrimination and harassment” (Williams Institute, 2017). The impact is far reaching, ranging from mental health disparities, increased rates of suicide, as well as increased risk of poverty and overall distress.

30%

OF LGBTQ+ TEXANS
are diagnosed with
a depressive disorder

Compared to 17%
of non-LGBTQ+ Texans
(Williams Institute, 2017)

60%

OF LGBTQ+ YOUTH
in Texas reported not
having access to mental
health care.

(Trevor Project, 2025)

42% of LGBTQ+ youth in
Texas seriously considered
suicide in 2021, including

49% of transgender
and nonbinary youth.

(Trevor Project, 2025)

Spotlight Bills

The table below highlights 12 bills which the NASW-TX SOGIE Committee opposes, as well as 5 bills which the Committee supports. The bills marked "Oppose" have a high likelihood of passing, and would likely be high impact. This is not an exhaustive list. Bill numbers are hyperlinked so you can learn more about each one, including where it is at in the legislative process.

Bill Number	Sponsor(s)/ Author(s)	Bill Summary	Position	Rationale for Position
HB 2258	Toth, Oliverson, Metcalf, and more	Imposing private civil liability on anyone who causes or contributes to the social transitioning of a minor.	Oppose	Imposes liability on parents/guardians for supporting their child's transition.
HB 2704	Shofner	Relating to general definitions regarding biological sex and the designation and use of certain spaces according to biological sex; authorizing a civil right of action.	Oppose	Restricts the definition of gender to sex at birth and requires individuals to use spaces congruent with their sex at birth.
HB 2311	Harrison	Relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at public institutions of higher education.	Oppose	Restricts diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at public higher education institutions.
SB 371 , HB 1158	Campbell, Bettencourt, Creighton, and more	Relating to parental approval for a student's participation in human sexuality instruction in public schools.	Oppose	Requires a parent/guardian's permission for a student to participate in human sexuality instruction in public schools.
SB 86 , HB 2846	Hall and Shaheen	Relating to parental rights in public education and prohibiting instruction regarding sexual orientation or gender identity for public school students.	Oppose	Reports children presenting as a gender other than their sex at birth to their parents/guardians. Bans schools from teaching subjects relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.
HB 2339	Harrison	Relating to prohibiting public institutions of higher education from offering programs or courses in LGBTQ or DEI studies.	Oppose	Bans programs and courses relating to LGBTQ or DEI subjects in public higher education institutions.
SB 810 , HB 2342	Hughes, Hall, Sparks, and more	Relating to protection for a public school employee's use of terms consistent with biological sex.	Oppose	Protects public school employees who address students with terms relating to their sex at birth.
HB 2062	Holt	Relating to regulations and policies for entering or using certain private spaces; authorizing a civil penalty.	Oppose	Forces individuals to use certain private spaces according to their sex at birth.
HB 1521	Gerdes	Relating to the implementation of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives by certain governmental entities.	Oppose	Restricts the creation of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives by certain governing entities.

Spotlight Bills Continued

Bill Number	Sponsor(s)/ Author(s)	Bill Summary	Position	Rationale for Position
HB 2291	Lowe	Relating to the required inclusion of a person's sex on a birth certificate and prohibited change of sex on the birth certificate of certain persons.	Oppose	Requires sex at birth listed on birth certificates and bans sex changes on birth certificates.
HB 2549	Lowe	Relating to the inclusion of a person's sex on driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, commercial learner's permits, and personal identification certificates.	Oppose	Requires sex at birth listed on identity documents such as driver's licenses.
SB 406 , HB 477	Middleton, Flores, Hall, and Swanson	Relating to the required inclusion of a person's sex on a birth certificate and prohibited change of sex on the birth certificate of certain minors.	Oppose	Requires sex at birth listed on birth certificates and bans sex changes on birth certificates.
HB 715	Bernal	Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; providing an administrative penalty.	Support	Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
HB 2758	Bryant	Relating to certain statutory changes to reflect and address same-sex marriages and parenting relationships and to the removal of provisions regarding the criminality or unacceptability of homosexual conduct.	Support	Expands legal recognition of same-sex marriage and removes criminality of homosexual conduct.
HB 1273	Gonzalez	Relating to human sexuality education in public schools.	Support	Includes diverse identities within human sexuality in public school education.
SB 2723 , HB 1738 , HB 903	Moody, Harrison, Johnson, and more	Relating to the repeal of the offence of homosexual conduct.	Support	Removes homosexuality as a criminal offense.
SB 168 , HB 1365	Menendez, Blanco, Cook, and more	Relating to unprofessional conduct by mental health providers who attempt to change the sexual orientation of a child.	Support	Prevents mental health providers from attempting to change the sexual orientation of a child.

Resource: Using the links below you can search for specific bills, committees or issue areas, filter by keyword, track legislation, and more!

Equality Texas Bill Tracker: equalitytexas.org/legislature/legislative-bill-tracker-2023/

Texas Legislature: capitol.texas.gov/

Committees of Influence

The tables below highlights House and Senate committees which typically interact with LGBTQ+ focused legislation. Many bills have already received their committee assignment. Is your representative listed?

Use this link to search for the elected officials which represent your area: wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home

House Committees of Influence

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Members	
Public Education	Brad Buckley	Diego Bernal	Alma Allen Trent Ashby John Bryant Charles Cunningham Harold V. Dutton, Jr. James B. Frank Gina Hinojosa	Todd Hunter Helen Kerwin Jeff Leach Terri Leo Wilson Alan Schoolcraft James Talarico
State Affairs	Ken King	Ana Hernandez	Rafael Anchía Drew Darby Yvonne Davis Charlie Geren Ryan Guillen Lacey Hull John W. McQueeney	Will Metcalf Dade Phelan Richard Peña Raymond John T. Smithee Senfronia Thompson Chris Turner
Calendars	Todd Hunter	Toni Rose	Terry Canales Stan Gerdes Cody Harris Ana Hernandez Ann Johnson	Jeff Leach Janie Lopez Ramon Romero, Jr. Carl Tepper
Public Health	Stephanie Klick	Liz Campos	John H. Bucy III Nicole Collier Charles Cunningham James B. Frank Ann Johnson Jolanda Jones	Mike Olcott Katrina Pierson Mike Schofield Joanne W. Shofner Lauren A. Simmons
Higher Education	Brad Buckley	Diego Bernal	Aicha M. Davis Suleman Lalani Stan Lambert Vincent M. Perez Matt Shaheen	Joanne W. Shofner Tony Tinderholt Gary VanDeaver Charlene Ward Johnson

Contact these, and other House Committees here: house.texas.gov/committees

Senate Committees of Influence

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Members	
Education K-16	Brandon Creighton	Donna Campbell	Paul Bettencourt Brian Birdwell Pete Flores Phil King Morgan LaMantia José Menéndez	Mayes Middleton Tan Parker Angela Paxton Drew Springer Royce West
Higher Education	Brad Buckley	Diego Bernal	César Blanco Bob Hall Kelly Hancock Bryan Hughes	Morgan LaMantia Borris L. Miles Kevin Sparks
Health and Human Services	Lois Kolkhorst	Charles Perry	César Blanco Molly Cook Bob Hall Kelly Hancock	Bryan Hughes Borris L. Miles Kevin Sparks

Contact these, and other Senate Committees here: senate.texas.gov/committees.php

Taking Action

In this section you will find opportunities to continue engaging with the 2025 legislative session, as well as guidance to help you get started in advocacy efforts.

Upcoming dates and events of interest for students and practitioners

April 26: Lesbian Visibility Day

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

June: LGBTQ+ Pride month

June 15: Anniversary of U.S. Supreme Court Bostock decision expanding protections to LGBTQ employees

June 26: Anniversary of U.S. Supreme Court legalizing marriage equality

October: LGBTQ History Month

October 11: National Coming Out Day

October 26: Intersex Awareness Day

See more LGBTQ+ awareness and visibility dates of note for 2025 here: glad.org/reference/calendar/

Be sure to follow [Transgender Education Network of Texas \(TENT\)](#), [Lambda Legal](#), [Transgender Legal Aid Clinic of Texas](#), [Human Rights Campaign](#), and [Equality Texas](#) to stay informed about legal challenges to harmful bills and executive orders, as well as opportunities to engage in webinars focused on supporting LGBTQ+ community members in these times.

Your Plan to Advocate

Opportunities for advocacy exist in all domains of our profession. Whether you are a practicing therapist, student, case manager, school social worker, community organizer, hospital social worker, educator, or any other field of social work, what happens at the institutional and systemic level with our legislature impacts how, and if, we are able to engage in our practice ethically.

After today's Social Work Advocacy Day, I plan to take the following actions:

Examples could include: *Write a letter about a policy to my representative.... Track a bill and provide written/oral testimony.... Connect with my local SOGIE Center.... Participate in an upcoming advocacy event.... Contact Committee members to lobby for/against particular legislation.... Communicate with organizational leadership regarding LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion...*

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

For tips on social work advocacy, check out the NASW-TX Advocacy Toolkit here: www.naswtx.org/page/Toolkit

Resources and Information

Get connected with resources and organizations leading the way! Sign up for newsletters, follow on social media, and take the initiative to get and stay engaged.

Local/State/National Resources

- Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)
- Equality Texas
- ACLU of Texas
- Gender Infinity
- Texas LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce
- Texas Impact Fund
- Transgender Education Network of Texas
- Texas Trans Youth
- Texas Foster Youth Connections
- WPATH World Professional Association for Transgender Health
- CenterLink - Community of LGBT Centers
- Immigration Equality
- Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
- Queer Trans Project
- KIND – Kids in Need of Defense
- RAICES Family Acceptance Project
- Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
- Strong Family Alliance
- Lambda Legal
- The Trevor Project
- Human Rights Campaign
- Fenway Health
- Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
- The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
- National Center for Transgender Equality
- Somos Familia Valle

Texas SOGIE Centers

Amarillo: Panhandle Pride: <https://panhandleprideinc.org/>

Austin: QWELL Foundation: <https://www.austinoutpost.org/>
Out Youth: <https://www.outyouth.org/>
Rainbow Connections:
<https://www.rainbowconnectionsatx.org/>

College Station:
Pride Community Center: <https://www.pridecc.org/>

Corpus Christi:
Coastal Bend Pride Center: <https://cbpridecenter.org/>

Dallas:
Resource Center: <https://www.myresourcecenter.org/>
Youth First Texas: <https://www.youthfirsttexas.org/>
Dallas Hope Charities: <https://www.dallashopecharities.org/>
Bounding Prosperity - <https://aboundingprosperity.org/>
Prism Health North Texas - <https://www.phntx.org/>
House of Rebirth - <https://www.houseofrebirth.org/>
The Afiya Center - <https://www.theafiyacenter.org/>

El Paso:
Borderland Rainbow Center:
<https://www.borderlandrainbow.org/>

Fort Worth:
LGBTQ Saves: <https://www.lgbtqsaves.org/>
HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness -
<https://helpcentertx.org/>

Houston:
The Montrose Center: <https://montrosecenter.org/>
The Normal Anomaly Initiative - <https://www.normalanomaly.org/>

Lubbock:
OUTWest Lubbock: <https://www.outwestlubbock.org/>

McAllen:
Rio Grande Valley Resource List: <http://rgvresourcelist.com/>

Odessa:
Pride Center West Texas: <https://www.pridecenterwt.org/>

San Angelo:
Open Arms Rape Crisis Center & LGBT+ Services:
<https://openarmscv.com/>

San Antonio:
Pride Center San Antonio: <https://pridecentersa.org/>
Maven Youth: <https://www.mavenyouth.org/>

Tyler:
Tyler Area Gays: <https://www.tylerareagays.com/>

Wichita Falls: The Opal Center: <https://www.theopalcenter.org/>

Get Connected with Us!

Do you want to get more involved in advocating for the LGBTQ+ community? Do you want to collaborate with colleagues to promote social work values and ethics? Connect with Us! LGBTQ+ community members and allies welcome!

Website: naswtx.org/page/Comm_SOGIE

Email: sogie.naswtx@socialworkers.org

[Like and follow us on Facebook](#)

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