



Impacting Reproductive  
Care Worldwide

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House Public Health Committee  
1100 Congress Avenue  
Austin, TX 78701

3/24/23

Dear Chair Klick, Vice Chair Campos, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [HB 1686](#) which would curtail the rights of the young people of Texas and criminalize providers for practicing the standard of medical care.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

Young people who identify as transgender are at an increased risk for suicide, depression and anxiety symptoms. Multiple studies have found, that, along with social and familial support, access to gender-affirming care has been shown to reduce suicide ideation and attempts in transgender individuals. Transgender persons may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally or surgically. Hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery, which will change a person's body to conform to their gender identity, is now seen as an effective, safe treatment and is increasingly covered by medical insurance. Research indicates mainly positive outcomes, resulting in relief from gender dysphoria and an improved sense of well-being. Criminalizing providers who offer gender-affirming care will lead to further stigma and violence in the transgender community as well as an exodus of expert medical care from Texas, as physicians- already at risk of criminal penalties in Texas- seek states that do not penalize their practice.

In allowing the government to intervene in the sacred relationship between a patient and physician, passing HB 1686 would only make access to critical



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reproductive and mental health care more difficult and, indeed, dangerous. For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of HB 1686.

For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at [Stipton@asrm.org](mailto:Stipton@asrm.org) or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Thomas, MD  
President

American Society for Reproductive Medicine