



July 26, 2017

Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Honorable Members of the Texas House of Representatives:

Once again, despite the outspoken opposition from thousands of Texas voices — businesses, faith leaders, school districts, education and child welfare advocacy organizations, law enforcement, equality advocates and more than 35,000 individual Texans — the Senate passed an anti-LGBTQ bill that legislates discrimination.

As SB3 or similarly discriminatory bills are considered in the House we, the undersigned organizations, write to reaffirm our unanimous and unequivocal opposition to discriminatory legislation in any form, including efforts to seek a “compromise” approach. Let us be clear:

**There can be no compromise.
Discrimination is not acceptable in any shape, size or form.**

These bills are part of a slate of unconscionable anti-LGBTQ bills being pursued as part of a systematic effort to roll back the rights of LGBTQ Texans, piece by piece. And those efforts don’t just harm the LGTBQ community, they harm all Texans.

These bills would rip away existing local protections from millions of people across Texas. They are a false solution to a manufactured problem. They have nothing to do with safety or privacy, and everything to do with increased marginalization of transgender Texans – all for political gain.

Transgender adults and children deserve the same access to public life that every Texan enjoys.

Existing laws already protect privacy and safety in restrooms. Sexual assault groups such as the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault have come out against anti-transgender bills like SB 3 because they’d do nothing to curb violent crime -- they only harm transgender Texans.

Police unions and public safety groups agree these are needless bills that don’t solve any real problem. There are no reported cases of women being assaulted in a restroom by a transgender person. This problem is manufactured. These proposed “solutions” put vulnerable Texans at greater risk.

We urge the House to resist intra-party pressure from the far right to endorse these politically-motivated attacks on LBTBQ people.

Signed:

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas
Equality Texas
Human Rights Campaign
Texas Freedom Network
Transgender Education Network of Texas