

Fact vs. Fiction: Anti-LGBTQ Groups Peddle Falsehoods to Support Anti-Transgender Legislation

Anti-LGBTQ groups continue to repeat untrue, harmful claims to support blatantly anti-transgender bills. Recently, Texas Values again declared that the bill is not designed to be discriminatory while repeating dubious, debunked claims designed to promote their anti-LGBTQ agenda. Anti-transgender bills such as Texas' SB 6 and HB 2899, and North Carolina's HB2 -- and its false "repeal" bill HB 142 -- are harmful and can open states up to immense political and economic blowback.



Claim: Without legislation, boys will be allowed in girls' restrooms.

Truth: This is patently false: boys are not allowed in girls' restrooms. Transgender girls are girls, and they should be allowed to use the restroom that aligns with their gender identity. Transgender people have already been using the restroom in accordance with their gender identity for decades; bills such as SB 6 are a "solution" in search of a problem.

Claim: Under the Obama administration, there was a "redefinition" of Title IX.

Truth: Federal courts have affirmed that Title IX includes protections for LGBTQ people based on the existing law – this includes transgender people. The only "redefinition" of policy is coming from those who push for anti-LGBTQ laws that would endanger transgender people and force them out of public life.

Claim: These bills aren't about the transgender community, they are about others who "use these laws to serve their own nefarious purposes."

Truth: These bills must be about discrimination because they simply can't and haven't been manipulated in the way opponents say they will be. People who commit the crimes opponents say they are seeking to prevent are already subject to existing laws and penalties. That's why law enforcement officers like San Antonio Police Chief William McManus have publicly said that "multiple state laws already criminalize the conduct that some legislators seek to regulate through passage of [SB 6]." Additionally, during the Senate hearing on SB 6, lawmakers rejected every possible amendment that would remove the most egregious, anti-trans parts of the bill.

Claim: Women want and support SB 6 and HB 2899.

Truth: Large, [prominent sexual assault and women's groups](#) believe that anti-transgender legislation is wrong and is a "solution" in search of a problem. Further, these women's and sexual assault groups believe that this type of legislation would make life worse for transgender individuals and make no one safer. It is also worth noting that transgender women *are* women, and their voices count, too.

Claim: Transgender people suffer from psychological disorders.

Truth: This is a dangerous claim that is rejected by mainstream scientists and psychologists. It is abhorrent for anyone to use this type of hateful, debunked claim as a reason to pursue harmful, discriminatory legislation. Arguments like this, however, just underline that these bills are about fear and misunderstanding of transgender people.

Claim: Opponents of this legislation do not take into consideration sexual assault survivors.

Truth: Again, [sexual assault groups say](#) that bills such as SB 6 would not help curb instances of sexual assault. This is a red herring being peddled by anti-LGBTQ groups.

Claim: It is important to take into consideration the long-term effects this could have on our state if this type of legislation is not passed.

Truth: We agree here. Yes, it is important to take into consideration the long-term economic effects of bills such as SB 6. As we have seen with HB2 in North Carolina, any attack on LGBTQ persons can open up a state to severe political and economic blowback. In the year after North Carolina passed HB2, it lost nearly \$4 billion in business revenue. The HB2 blowback has continued even after North Carolina's so-called "repeal" of HB2 (which, by the way, doubled down on discrimination in the Tar Heel State). Texas officials should not put our economy at risk by passing bills like SB6.

Claim: Without legislation, we are opening restrooms to both sexes

Truth: Again, this is not the case. Transgender women are women and transgender men are men. Transgender people have already been using the restroom in accordance with their gender identity for decades; bills such as SB 6 are a "solution" in search of a problem.

Claim: If trans people want to use the bathroom, they should just change their birth certificate.

Truth: There exist concrete barriers to changing a person's birth certificate, including economic status and ability to publicly come out to family, friends and one's doctor -- not to mention the government. Nationally, only 11 percent of transgender people have been able to update all their identification documents and records, including birth certificates, to reflect their appropriate name and gender.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas is a guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, the Legislature and Texas communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all in the Bill of Rights of our Constitution.
Contact: Anna Núñez, ACLU of Texas | media@aclutx.org | 713.325.7010

Equality Texas is the largest statewide organization dedicated solely to securing full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Texans through political action, education, community organizing, and collaboration.
Contact: DeAnne Cuellar, Equality Texas | DeAnne.Cuellar@equalitytexas.org | 210.896.9141

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.
Contact: Nick Morrow, Human Rights Campaign | nick.morrow@hrc.org | 865.386.8244

The Texas Freedom Network is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization of religious and community leaders who support religious freedom and individual liberties.
Contact: Dan Quinn, Texas Freedom Network | dan@tfn.org | 512.322.0545

The Transgender Education Network of Texas works to further understanding of gender diversity in Texas and to end discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming Texans through social, legal, legislative and corporate education.
Contact: Claire Bow, Transgender Education Network of Texas | clairemarie.bow@gmail.com | 512.417.7076