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## **Urging Governor Greg Abbott to Veto SB 2078 and HB 3859**

**Austin, Texas** - University Democrats urge Governor Greg Abbott to veto a pair of anti-LGBTQ measures passed by the Legislature late last week.

SB 2078, amended by Representative Paddie and passed by the House of Representatives, would require transgender students attending public and open-enrollment charter schools to use separate facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms and changing facilities).

HB 3859, passed by the Senate, allows child welfare providers to discriminate against particular groups on the basis of their “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Its passage would allow child welfare providers to reject parental candidates due to their religious affiliation, sexual orientation, race or ethnicity. Agencies would also be able to refer their transgender youth to undergo “conversion therapy” also based on their “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

*UDems offers the following statement to Governor Abbott in opposition to these bills:*

“These measures are a testament to a growing movement aimed at discriminating against the LGBTQ community. Despite numerous outcries against these bills by business owners, religious leaders, and concerned citizens, the Legislature pressed forward and passed these bills anyway. It took us long enough to get rid of ‘separate but equal’. Let’s not bring it back by bending to the will of transphobic legislators and their archaic agendas.”

University Democrats therefore urges Governor Abbott to veto these bills, and that he give careful consideration to their harmful effects. These bills will only work to discriminate against an already vulnerable population that deserve our respect and acceptance.

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