Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Re: Reporting Child Abuse
March 27th, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to report Texas Governor Greg Abbot to your agency for child abuse against all transgender children living in Texas. The Texas Family Code section Chapter 261, Section 261.001 1A defines child abuse as “mental or emotional injury to a child that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning,” and neglect (Section 4A ii b) as “failing to seek, obtain, or follow through with medical care for a child, with the failure resulting in or presenting a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury or with the failure resulting in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development, or functioning of the child.”

Denying transgender children access to gender affirming care by defining such care as abuse contradicts these statues and creates the potential for imminent and lasting harm to children and families. The United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH) and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) have publicly condemned Gov. Abbott’s action. Ample evidence shows that when transgender children recieve gender-affirming care, they show demonstrably improved mental and physical health outcomes and said care reduces the risk of death by suicide for trans youth. Without said care, transgender youth have four times the risk of death by suicide. Given this, Gov. Abbott’s order qualifies as child abuse and neglect under Texas law and must be recinded.

For more information about USPATH’s statement, click here:
https://www.wpath.org/media/cms/Documents/USPATH/2022/USPATH%20Statement%20re%20TX%20Gov%20Abuse%20Claim.pdf?_t=1645711882

Sincerely,

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