











For Immediate Release April 13, 2023

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## SIX TEXAS HOUSE CAUCUSES CONDEMN ONSLAUGHT OF LEGISLATIVE ATTACKS ON LGBTQIA+ TEXANS

(AUSTIN, TX) — Texas House LGBTQ Caucus Chair Mary González, House Democratic Caucus Chair Trey Martinez Fischer, Mexican American Legislative Caucus Chair Victoria Neave Criado, Texas Legislative Black Caucus Chair Ron Reynolds, Texas Legislative Study Group Chair Armando Walle, and Texas Women's Health Caucus Chair Donna Howard released the following joint statement, denouncing the more than 150 bills filed attacking LGBTQIA+ Texans in the Texas House and Senate:

"As duly elected members of the Texas Legislature, it is our duty to represent and defend the liberties of ALL Texans. In the wake of the filing of over 150 anti-LGBTQIA+ bills in the 88th Legislature, we're collectively drawing a line in the sand. Since committee hearings began, nearly every day at the Capitol has included a lengthy dehumanizing debate about whether LGBTQIA+ people, especially transgender Texans, deserve the same dignity and respect as everyone else. This is not a question.

All Texans deserve dignity and respect. All Texans deserve to live free of discrimination and fear.

We know that most Texans support their LGBTQIA+ neighbors and do not want to see discrimination written into law. We know that all Texans believe in the dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Thinly veiled political attacks on these rights are not dog whistles, they are red flags. Outlawing necessary life-saving healthcare is a death sentence for those who rely on it. Legislation increasing educational censorship and encouraging book-banning threatens our already overburdened education system and prevents educators from providing an accurate honest education to students. Attempts to ban and tax drag performances, like all attacks on Texas' marginalized communities, endanger essential liberties and economic development in our state.

We're witnessing a full-on assault on the hard-fought civil rights of all members of our communities. The Texas House LGBTQ Caucus, Texas House Democratic Caucus, Mexican American Legislative Caucus, Texas Legislative Black Caucus, Texas Legislative Study Group, and the Texas Women's Health Caucus are united against this assault. Together, we will fight any legislation threatening Texans' rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."