

SB 6, Texas Privacy Act Passes Senate 21 – 10!

By Rev. Dave Welch

After a lengthy debate in the Texas Senate today and an outstanding defense of the Texas Privacy Act by bill sponsor Senator Lois Kohlkorst, SB 6 was adopted by a 21 - 10 vote. Several amendments were proposed by Democrats including Houston's Sylvia Garia that would have essentially gutted the intent of the bill, however were each defeated by the same margin.

Senator Garcia's amendment would have changed the definition of gender to be "the condition of being male or female" with an expressed intent to leave the "condition" to be in the mind of the individual, regardless of gender confused or with predatory intent.

Senator Brian Birdwell proposed an amendment addressing public facilities being leased to a private entity, that under the bill could determine their own policy for restrooms. It will prohibited schools from considering a private companies facilities policies when considering purchases of goods or services.

Nearly twenty amendments were offered and only Birdwell's and two from Senator Eddie Lucio were accepted by Senator Kohlkorst and adopted.

The nature of the amendments again displayed the determination of some political leaders to legitimize the condition of gender dysphoria, or gender confusion as a legally protected class equal to race, regardless of the tragic consequences to innocent victims, including vulnerable children being evangelized.

We are deeply thankful for the leadership of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, Senator Kohlkorst and the other 20 Senators who courageously voted to take a reasonable step in protecting the privacy, safety and decency in Texas government owned facilities!

SB 6 will go to Third Reading, a procedural formality, before then moving over to the House of Representatives where Republican Speaker of the House Joe Straus has expressed his opposition. **Pastors and citizens, the ball is in our court to communicate en masse to Speaker Straus (512-463-1000) and all State Representatives.** The message is simple:

1. We want a fair and open committee hearing on SB 6
2. We want a committee vote on SB 6
3. We want SB 6 calendared for a floor vote if passed out of State Affairs*
4. We want debate and a vote on the floor of the House.
5. We the people will note who votes to protect women and children and who votes to allow biological males in Texas schools' showers and locker rooms.

Please express your appreciation to Lt. Gov. Patrick (512 463-5342) and Senator Kohlkorst (512- 463-0118) for standing strong!

*The House State Affairs committee is most likely to be assigned consideration of SB 6