

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

May 2021

Dear Eagles,

In this issue of the *Torch*, you will see a large sampling of the legislation Texas Eagle Forum has been focusing on in the 87th Legislative Session since it began January 12th. Our priorities are, and always will be, on legislation protecting the unborn and ensuring Texas families live safe and free.

We cover a multitude of topics in this issue and encourage you to contact your senator and representative to voice your opinion. With the session ending on May 31st, time is short to get our priority bills passed and signed into law. While we are watching how bills on important issues are progressing and weighing in along the way, we are also watching our elected officials. It seems it is too easy to call oneself a conservative when running and vote the opposite when seated in a position of power. Some clearly are vying for power and ignoring what is good for Texans and Texas. We all need to hold them accountable to their campaign promises.

Top of conservative Texans' list this session is **Election Integrity**. You would think our legislators would make it their top priority after the disastrous 2020 election, where several blue states' unconstitutionally changed their election laws to benefit Democrats. TEF Election Integrity Chair Beth Biesel and I testified in Austin in support of two integrity bills last month. Unfortunately, at this writing, these, and other good election integrity bills, seem to be involved in our very own Texas Deep State. The bills we had the most hope for have been killed in committee or substituted out of existence. A few good bills have passed the Texas Senate but are languishing in the House, either in committee or waiting to be scheduled for a floor vote. We feel some legislators are just giving the grassroots "enough" to calm us down.

Politics play a big role in election integrity. Big Texas-based businesses, such as American Airlines, Dell, and AT&T, are publicly against election reform (taking the uninformed position that it would suppress minorities' vote), and have intimidated Republican legislators, even though Republicans have a majority in both chambers. Many reforms are required to keep our elections secure. Even those who don't believe we have experienced electronic voter fraud should want to make sure it never happens in Texas. No excuses—Republicans must pass election reform laws this session.

Gender Modification is another issue where passage of protection for our children is critical. As we write, it appears to be going nowhere. The House Calendars Committee is our current problem. We must continue to exert pressure and speak out as this issue is pretty cut-and-dried. Children as young as eight are being subjected to life-altering, experimental medical and surgical procedures to change their gender. Current laws do not allow minors to buy alcohol or tobacco, or get a tattoo, yet we are allowing medical professionals to do this to our children. At a hearing last month, transgender and LGBT sympathizers, including Equity Texas and the ACLU, turned up en masse to testify against the gender modification bills and loudly "celebrated" a "Trans-kid Celebration" in the Capitol. A 10-year-old transgender girl (a biological boy) testified, saying she was "angry at bills targeting trans-youth." Why are we allowing our vulnerable children to be trophy victims for the LGBT agenda? Acceptance of this abusive and painful non-reality is absurd and makes no sense!

(over, please)

“Hardening” our **Electrical Grid** is an issue TEF has been following for several years. We have helped Senator Bob Hall put on seminars in the past and have seen our representatives and senators wake-up to the problem over time. With the winter storm leaving many Texans without heat, legislators quickly hopped on this issue at the beginning of the session, but the traction has stopped and most of the bills are waiting to be heard in the House. As Senator Hall said in a recent Capitol Hall Report, “We cannot let another decade go past until the next disaster and question why the Legislature once again failed to act.” We couldn’t agree more.

We are encouraged by the strong **Pro-Life** bills introduced this session. We anticipate the “Heartbeat Bill” by Senator Bryan Hughes will become law. The bill states no abortion can be performed after an unborn child’s heartbeat is detected, usually at six weeks. Texas would be the 10th state to pass a Heartbeat bill. I might add, while we are happily fighting to save many babies from death in the womb, we are lamenting leadership did not see fit to even hear the two bills making abortion illegal in Texas.

Hopefully, our weekly Monday *Action Alert* emails have kept you informed as to what is happening in Austin, so you can give fact-filled talking points to your senator and representative about the issues you care about. Please continue to be engaged in calling, emailing, and visiting your legislators in person. The session still has a few more weeks to go, and public pressure and public opinion often work to make things move at a faster pace and can make a difference. Also, pray legislators do not get weary and will do the right thing for Texas and Texas families.

Unless Governor Greg Abbott calls for a Special Session, the Summer *Torch* will feature our 87th Legislative Session Scorecard. We carefully and prayerfully will spend countless hours pouring over bills, amendments, votes, etc. to help you sort out the good, bad, and ugly!

In the meantime, Texas Eagle Forum is working diligently to represent your worldview in Austin. Prayers for our volunteers are appreciated, as are financial gifts to support our work. Thank you in advance—we couldn’t do what we do without your help!

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum

P.S. Some committee hearings go long into the night. Eagle Deana Johnston is keeping me company at 4:20 am, as I wait to be called to testify against decriminalizing marijuana.

