

★ TEXAS IMPACT

PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE



AN URGENT CALL TO DEFEND LGBTQ+ LIVES IN TEXAS

Dear friends, clergy colleagues, faith leaders, and partners in justice,

As people of faith, we know we are called to love our neighbors, defend the vulnerable, and stand up for justice. We are writing today because we also know silence in the face of oppression is not an option—and we need your help.

During the 2025 legislative session, Texas lawmakers filed a record-shattering **205 anti-LGBTQ+ bills**. The majority of those bills—more than 120—specifically targeted transgender Texans. While our collective advocacy efforts and partnerships defeated most of them, extremist politicians still passed harmful laws like the “Women’s Bill of Rights” and Senate Bill 8 (The Bathroom Bill), directly attacking the dignity and privacy of transgender Texans.

Now, those same extremists are already planning their next moves for the 2027 Texas Legislative Session—and they are bringing in national reinforcements.

The New Threat: Stephen Miller’s Challenge

According to the *New York Times*, in March 2026, White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller and his group, America First Legal (AFL), met privately with Texas Republican legislators. Miller challenged them to pass even more aggressive, fringe legislation.

The response from Texas leadership was immediate and alarming. State Rep. Tom Oliverson, chairman of the Texas House Republican Caucus, openly welcomed the challenge, stating: “We can be a place where some of those ideas can be tried out because they’re difficult to do at the federal level.”

200 East 30th Street • Austin, Texas 78705 • 512.472.3903 • texasimpact.org

Baptist: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Texas • **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):** Trinity-Brazos Area, Bluebonnet Area • Southwest Region **Episcopal Church:** Diocese of West Texas • Diocese of Texas **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA):** Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, Southwestern Texas Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod • **Jewish:** National Council of Jewish Women, Religious Action Center-Texas • **Muslim:** Islamic Circle of North America, Texas Muslim Women’s Foundation • **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):** Mission Presbytery, Grace Presbytery, Palo Duro Presbytery, Tres Rios Presbytery, Presbytery of the New Covenant • **Society of Friends:** South Central Yearly Meeting • **United Methodist Church:** Horizon Texas Conference, Rio Texas Conference, Texas Conference • **Methodist Federation for Social Action:** Rio Texas and Central Texas Chapters • **United Church of Christ:** South Central Conference • **Unitarian Universalist:** Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry • **Ecumenical and Interfaith Groups:** United Women in Faith, Church Women United, Interfaith Action of Central Texas, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston, Faith Commons, Faith Forward Dallas

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Cruel Political Experiments Projected for 2027

These are not abstract policy debates. They dictate whether a parent can protect their child, whether a teenager can be safe at school, or whether clergy can minister without intimidation. In 2027, we anticipate extreme renewed efforts to:

- **Criminalize and Disclose Identity:** Forcing mandatory disclosures for transgender Texans in employment and medical records, including Rep. Oliverson's "Gender Identity Fraud" bill, which attempts to make it a felony for a transgender person to identify as their true gender.
- **Erase Representation:** Stripping legal gender recognition from state documents, modeled after the Kansas anti-trans driver's license bill.
- **Restrict Basic Rights:** Erasing LGBTQ+ voices in schools and libraries, criminalizing healthcare, and empowering discrimination under the guise of "religious liberty."

Our Faith Demands Action

At Texas Impact, we know these hateful policies do not truly represent the diverse religious communities and sentiment of most Texans. In our state, every single person is created in the divine image and is worthy of love, respect, and equal protection.

We must ensure that extremist Christianity is not the only religious voice heard in Texas politics, and we will continue to be a source of hope and support for LGBTQ+ neighbors.

[Please make a significant financial commitment today to help Texas Impact raise the \\$100,000 needed to fight back.](#)

Every dollar raised helps fund:

- **Legislative Advocate:** Funding a dedicated public witness position at Texas Impact.
- **Interns:** Hiring interns to mobilize clergy, congregations, and faith communities.
- **Rapid Response Infrastructure:** Monitoring dangerous legislation, organizing public witness actions, and managing media engagement.
- **Coalition Building:** Partnering directly with LGBTQ+ and civil rights organizations across Texas.

If you believe affirming faith voices must be present in Austin, [please give as generously as you can today.](#)

Please also **share this urgent appeal** with your congregation and all those who understand and want to respond to the urgency of this moment.

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Thank you for standing with us to build a Texas that protects and cherishes all.

With faith and gratitude,

Bee Moorhead, *Executive Director*

Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas, *Senior Pastor, Cathedral of Hope, United Church of Christ*

Dianne Hardy-Garcia, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, St. David's Episcopal Church*

Rev. Kyle Riley, *Texas Impact Staff Lead, United Church of Christ*

Rev. Phil Dieke, *Texas Impact President, Horizon Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Rev. Laura Walters, *Texas Impact Vice President, Grace Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Rev. Franz Schemmel, *Texas Impact Past President, North TX-Northern LA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Cynthia Rives, *Texas Impact Secretary, United Women in Faith*

Abel Vega, *Texas Impact Treasurer, Rio Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Bettie Forman, *Texas Impact Board, National Council of Jewish Women - Austin*

Rev. Matt Gaventa, *Texas Impact Board, Mission Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Texas Impact Board, South Central Conference, United Church of Christ*

Kyla Hebert, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, New Covenant Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Elyse Rosenberg, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, National Council of Jewish Women - Austin*

Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Rev. Jody Harrison, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

Rev. Amy W. Moore, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Grace Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Rev. LyAnna Johnson, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Rio Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Rev. Ashley Anne Sipe, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Horizon Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Sid Earnheart, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Texas Annual Conference, United Methodist Church*

Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Grace Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

Rev. Erin Walter, *Texas Impact Leadership Council, Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry*

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