



## An Open Letter to Members of the Texas Senate Concerning Pending Bathroom Bills

University Democrats, the largest university-based democratic party affiliated organization in the state, has issued the following letter of concern to members of the Texas Senate regarding a series of “bathroom bills” that were recently heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee:

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Texas is home to an estimated 27.86 million people; some are immigrants from distant lands, some are refugees fleeing persecution, and some are transgender. An estimated 139,150 transgender individuals, ranging in age from thirteen to ninety, call Texas home.

They are not confused; nor are they psychologically unsound. They are pioneers who, despite every obstacle imaginable, have persevered and established themselves in every profession imaginable: doctors, teachers, lawyers, and mayors, to name a few.

SB3 and SB91 are indicative of this legislature's unwillingness to attempt to understand the hostile environment that transgender people face everyday. When SB6 was heard in committee during the regular legislative session, droves of individuals from all over the state came out and voiced their opposition.

These bills will harm our transgender brothers and sisters, your constituents. It's a fact that transgender individuals face harassment, violence, and even abuse when seeking to use public restrooms aligning with their gender identity. That this legislature is considering to deny individuals the right to relieve themselves freely and without worry, in a public restroom aligning with their gender identity, is a frightening and disheartening thought.

You have an opportunity that doesn't present itself to many. You can stand and serve as a positive role model for future generations of Texans. You can stand and oppose these discriminatory measures, or, you can bow to the bigotry and hate enshrined in these bills.

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