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**University Democrats Statement on SB 2078's Passage**

**Austin, Texas** - University Democrats would like to express its grief and disappointment concerning the recent hijacking and passage of SB 2078 by the Texas House of Representatives.

The bill was originally introduced in the Senate as a school safety bill that sought to update a list of requirements school districts are directed to include in their Multihazard Emergency Operations Plans (MEOP's). Since the 80th Legislative Session in 2007, school districts have been required to produce plans that address their mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery for emergency situations.

Tonight, an amendment by Representative Chris Paddie R-Marshall, transformed SB 2078 into a version of the earlier heard "bathroom bill". Paddie's amendment would require public schools to provide "single-occupancy facilities" [facilities including bathrooms, locker rooms and changing facilities] to students who don't want to use facilities designated to a particular "biological sex". In short, it would require individuals who identify with a gender that's different from their sex assigned at birth to use these "single-occupancy facilities".

With a 91-50 vote, the Texas House of Representatives unjustly targeted a population of our state that deserved nothing more than our full support and compassion. Tonight, University Democrats would like to stand in unity with all our Democratic allies in the Texas House of Representatives that fought against this discriminatory amendment.

University Democrats strongly urges Governor Abbott to veto Senate Bill 2078 as it overrides many current trans-inclusive policies that are in place in school districts across our state and singles out a vulnerable population of our school-aged children.