

LGBTQ RIGHTS

Texas Democrats take pride in and support the continued progress of the LGBTQ movement. Since *Lawrence v. Texas*, our country has continued to take steps towards achieving full equality for LGBTQ citizens. However, our work is not done when someone can still face discrimination for being LGBTQ and harassed or harmed for representing their authentic selves. Texas Democrats support and welcome all people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We therefore:

- support the passage of the Equality Act by Congress;
- support the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of life in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender they were assigned at birth;
- support streamlined processes for transgender individuals to obtain legal documents consistent with their gender identity, including state IDs, regardless of surgical status;
- support the classification of discrimination against transgender individuals as being on the basis of gender;
- support the inclusion of gender reassignment surgery in Medicaid;
- denounce efforts to not comply with the U.S Supreme Court court decisions which guaranteed marriage equality to all couples;
- support municipal, state, and federal nondiscrimination laws which protect LGBTQ individuals in all aspects of their lives including housing, employment, adoption, education, commerce, and public accommodation;
- support a ban on so-called “reparative” therapy;
- support the use of best practices in the delivery of services to all Texans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity by social, health care, and public service professionals;
- support the factual inclusion of the LGBTQ movement and individuals in history and social studies classes;
- support programs to combat suicide and homelessness among LGBTQ youth;
- support programs to provide inclusive and comprehensive housing and healthcare for LGBTQ seniors;
- denounce the use of hate speech, disguised as free speech and religion, that fosters and promotes bigotry and violence against LGBTQ citizens; and
- denounce Texas elected officials’ lawsuit stemming from President Barack Obama’s May 13, 2016 directive which states that a school “must not treat a transgender student differently from the way it treats other students of the same gender identity” and encourage schools to follow the federal administrative guidelines regarding transgender children.