



T E X A S
HOME SCHOOL
COALITION ASSOCIATION
Keeping Texas Families Free

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott
GOVERNOR OF TEXAS
State Capitol
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

The Texas Home School Coalition (THSC) thanks you for your clear dedication to upholding the rights of all Texans, particularly the rights of parents. Your principled approach to protecting freedom has been an exceptional testimony of your character and your willingness to stand with conservative values.

We hope that you will continue to stand against violations of rights, particularly regarding the right to refuse medical service. Senate Bill 359 allows for hospitals and medical facilities to detain individuals who are “unable to consent for themselves”—including minors—for up to four hours if they claim to believe that person has a mental illness and may cause harm to himself or others. This detention period can be extended if the health facility contacts a law enforcement official to take the individual into protective custody.

While the temporary withdrawal of parental authority is short, the Texas Home School Coalition feels the bill gives undue latitude to medical personnel to make decisions typically reserved to the individual, or the individual’s parent. While we understand the need to be mindful of safety, we believe this bill does not adequately account for the preferences and authority of a minor’s parents. There is significant precedence against allowing medical personnel to direct a patient’s actions without his consent, or the consent of his conservator.

Please veto this bill and keep the rights of the parent central to medical services. Allowing this bill to become law would reverse a strong precedent and fail to restrain the legislature from allowing continued violations of those rights.

Sincerely,

Tim Lambert