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FJP Statement on Today's Temporary Injunction Blocking Texas's Attack on Transgender Youth and Gender-Affirming Healthcare

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to the Travis County District Court's decision today to enjoin Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Department of Family and Protective Services from carrying out a February 22 directive ordering the department to investigate – and potentially refer for prosecution – gender-affirming healthcare as “child abuse”:

“Today's District Court injunction prohibiting Texas Governor Greg Abbott and the Department of Family and Protective Services from carrying out their heinous attack on transgender youth is a win for the rule of law, public safety and basic human decency. We join transgender youth, their families and healthcare providers, and all the advocates fighting for them across the country in celebrating today's decision as a victory against hate, ignorance and fear. This work is far from over, but we are thrilled that transgender youth across Texas will continue to be able to access medically necessary healthcare without fearing that they will be removed from their homes, parents and loved ones. Today's decision is not the end of this unfortunate but necessary legal battle, but for now, it will save lives.

As 93 elected prosecutors, law enforcement leaders and former Department of Justice officials and judges affirmed in an [amicus brief](#) filed in this case earlier this week, Governor Abbott's directive posed a real, serious threat to public safety by undermining community trust in the legitimacy of the criminal legal system. It threatened to isolate transgender youth—who have long experienced devastatingly high rates of mental health challenges, suicide and violent victimization—from the family members, teachers, doctors and law enforcement officials they might turn to for help. The harm done, absent today's injunction, is unthinkable and impacts us *all*.

We are deeply grateful that Travis County District Court Judge Amy Clark Meachum recognized that the governor's directive was not just dangerous and inhumane, but also illegal. Her ruling affirmed that the governor and DFPS overstepped their authority and usurped the legislature when they attempted to change the definition of child abuse to encompass medically necessary gender-affirming care. We expect and hope that further decisions in this case will continue to embrace that view as this case goes to trial in July and makes its way to the appellate courts.”

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).