

MEDIA ALERT

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“TREY’S LAW” VOTED OUT OF TEXAS SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*The vote follows last week’s powerful testimony in support of the bill,
which would regulate the misuse of NDAs against sexual assault victims in civil settlement agreements.*

AUSTIN, Texas (May 13, 2025) -- This afternoon, the Texas Senate State Affairs committee [unanimously voted SB 835](#), authored by [Sen. Angela Paxton](#), R-McKinney, and known as “Trey’s Law,” out of committee 10-0, adopting the preferred language of witnesses in favor of the bill. The House companion bill, [HB 748](#) authored by [Rep. Jeff Leach](#), R-Plano, is still pending in committee. These now identical public safety bills seek to end the misuse of nondisclosure agreements (“NDAs”) against sexual assault victims in civil settlement agreements.

The committee’s unanimous vote on SB835 follows [powerful testimony](#) by numerous survivors, advocates and subject matter experts at the committee hearing last Thursday, including victims of child sexual abuse at Kanakuk Kamps, Boy Scouts, Assemblies of God, and in other contexts. While the hearing included two versions of “Trey’s Law” - one that was focused solely on survivors of childhood crimes, and one that would apply to sexual assault and trafficking victims of any age - both the invited and public testimony overwhelmingly supported language that would apply to all sexual assault and trafficking victims.

“[Trey’s Law](#)” is named after [Trey Carlock](#), a Dallas native who sued Kanakuk after enduring a decade of child sexual abuse by their popular director, Pete Newman. His civil case was settled and included a restrictive NDA that family members say led to his death of despair in 2019. Carlock’s older sister, Elizabeth Carlock Phillips, testified in support of the bill last week.

“Sadly, a lot of truth dies with people because of NDAs. That only protects bad actors, which is contrary to public interest,” Phillips testified. “To me, that’s the point of Trey’s Law and this hearing today - Public safety, protecting children, prioritizing life, liberty, and the pursuit of healing and happiness.”

Cindy Clemishire, whose abuser Robert Morris [made his first appearance in court on Friday](#) for child sex abuse charges, also [testified in support](#) of Trey’s Law.

“Because I refused to sign that NDA at 37, I am able to sit here today at 55 years old and share my story in hopes of helping others,” Clemishire testified on Thursday, the day before Morris’ first court appearance for a preliminary hearing.

SB 835 now awaits a Senate floor vote before it would be sent to the House. If HB 748 were to pass out of committee, it would only require a Senate floor vote before it could be sent to Governor Abbott’s desk to be signed into law.

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How does NDA reform serve survivors of child sexual abuse?

NDAs (also known as non-disparagement or confidentiality clauses) can be part of a larger settlement agreement or a standalone contract wherein one or more parties agree that certain information will remain confidential. While NDAs were created to keep proprietary business information, such as trade secrets or sensitive client information, confidential, they have since become a standard practice in civil settlements related to child sexual abuse, trafficking and other crimes. As a result, bad actors are protected while survivors are forbidden to share their stories to various extents, depending on the language in a particular settlement agreement or contract.

While 18 states and the U.S. Congress (via the “[Speak Out Act](#)”) have clarified the law on NDAs for witnesses and adult survivors of sexual harassment in the workplace, Tennessee is the only state to pass [legislation](#) in 2018 specific to prohibiting NDAs in civil CSA settlements, rendering them “void and unenforceable.” More information is available at TreysLaw.com.