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"TREY'S LAW" ONE VOTE AWAY FROM GOVERNOR'S DESK IN TEXAS House version of public safety bill "Trey's Law" passes another unanimous Senate committee vote

AUSTIN, Texas (May 14, 2025) – This afternoon, the Texas Senate State Affairs committee unanimously voted HB 748, authored by Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, and known as "Trey's Law," out of committee 9-0. To move the bill forward, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick must now recognize Sen. Angela Paxton, R-McKinney, on the Senate floor so that the bill can be put forward for a Senate floor debate and vote. If there are no amendments, the bill would then be sent to Gov. Abbott's desk for signature.

"Trey's Law" seeks to end the misuse of nondisclosure agreements ("NDAs") against sexual assault victims in civil settlement agreements. The identical Senate version of the bill, <u>SB 835</u> authored by Sen. Paxton and co-sponsored by <u>Sen. Tan Parker</u>, R-Flower Mound, and <u>Sen. Brent Hagenbuch</u>, R-Denton, was also voted out of committee 10-0 yesterday.

This legislation is named after <u>Trey Carlock</u>, 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, has testified in favor of "Trey's Law" in multiple jurisdictions but pressed the committee to pass this in "[her] home state."

"As Trey's sister, I am deeply grateful to the Senate State Affairs committee and our sponsors in both chambers for moving 'Trey's Law' closer to Governor Abbott's desk in the last week," said Phillips. "We have had zero no votes so far, and I am looking forward to seeing this bill move quickly to a Senate floor vote. Once passed, this will be the strongest version of 'Trey's Law' in the country–leading the discussion on how victims of sexual assault and trafficking should never be lawfully silenced through the misuse of NDAs in civil settlements. Anyone who opposes this bill has something to hide."

For more information about "Trey's Law", visit www.TreysLaw.com.

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