



April 14, 2025

The Honorable Angie Chen Button  
Chair, House Committee on Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairwoman Button,

We, the undersigned organizations, community leaders, and concerned citizens write to respectfully urge you to schedule a committee hearing for **House Bill 1549**, the *Retail Decency Act*, authored by Representative Hillary Hickland and joint authored by Representatives Manuel, Ordaz, Leach, and Leo-Wilson. This critical piece of legislation is designed to safeguard the innocence and well-being of Texas children by ensuring that sexually explicit products—namely obscene devices and related paraphernalia—are not displayed or marketed in ways that are accessible to minors. HB 1549 has bi-partisan support.

We believe HB 1549 is essential to upholding community standards, protecting children from premature exposure to adult content, and affirming the rights of parents to shield their families from overtly sexualized material in public retail spaces.

Across Texas, there is growing documentation of mainstream retailers—ranging from drug stores to large chain stores—placing obscene devices on open shelves, often near children's products or in high-traffic family aisles. These displays are frequently accompanied by brightly colored packaging, cartoon imagery, or suggestive slogans that draw the attention of young eyes. Some stores have even advertised obscene devices on trucks in major cities and displayed them next to children's toothbrushes and in Valentine's displays next to stuffed animals and candy.

**The practice of displaying obscene devices in front of children is not only inappropriate—it is dangerous.**

The unrestricted display and advertisement of obscene devices to children and families in public settings mirrors the psychological strategies of grooming, a term used to describe how predators desensitize minors to sexual content. By normalizing explicit material in everyday environments, society creates a pathway that conditions children to view sexual paraphernalia as commonplace, eroding natural boundaries and confusing age-appropriate understandings of sexuality.

Scientific and psychological studies have shown that early exposure to sexual content is linked to increased vulnerability to sexual exploitation. It is also correlated with a higher incidence of sexual aggression among youth. When retailers display obscene devices within children's reach, they are, intentionally or not, contributing to this trajectory.

**The Retail Decency Act is a reasonable and necessary solution.**

HB 1549 does not propose to ban the sale of adult products. Rather, it creates common-sense boundaries and is a balanced response to a serious cultural and public health concern, one that seeks to affirm Texas's long-standing commitment to family values and the protection of children.

**Time is running out. Please schedule The Retail Decency Act for a hearing.**

Given the urgency of this matter and the widespread support from parents, educators, faith leaders, and health professionals across the state, we respectfully request that the House Committee on Trade, Workforce, and Economic Development grant HB 1549 a prompt hearing. This will allow the public an opportunity to voice their concerns and support a measure that defends the innocence and safety of Texas children.

Thank you, Chairwoman Button, for your leadership and commitment to the values that make Texas strong. We hope you will give HB 1549 the attention it deserves in your committee.

Sincerely,

Christin Bentley, M.S.

SD-1 State Republican Executive Committeewoman

Chair, Legislative Priorities Subcommittee: Stop Sexualizing Texas Kids

A Better Dallas

American Liberty Forum (Dallas)

Dallas County Republican Party

Dallas Eagle Forum  
Dallas Jewish Conservatives  
Refuge for Women North Texas  
Alliance for Freedom  
Bastrop County Conservatives  
Capitol Area Conservative Republican Club  
Citizens Defending Freedom  
Denton County Conservative Coalition (D3C), President  
Fredericksburg Tea Party  
Grassroots America We The People PAC  
Jaco Booyens Ministries  
Moms For America, Texas Chapter  
Protect Childhood  
Protecting Texas Children  
Protecting The Gift  
Texas Coalition for Kids  
Texas Eagle Forum  
Texas Family Project

Monty Bennet, Chairman Ashford Inc.

Allen West, Chairman Dallas County Republican Party

Melissa Katz, Precinct Chair #2057 Dallas County Republican Party

Tami Brown Rodriguez, Policy Director Jaco Booyens Ministries and Precinct Chair #2039 Dallas County Republican Party

Bruce Dunai, Precinct Chair #1141 Dallas County Republican Party

Jan Stell McAfee, Precinct Chair #1142 Dallas County Republican Party

Judith Colleen Canion, Precinct Chair #2101 Dallas County Republican Party

Fely Eichenberger, Precinct Chair #2511 Dallas County Republican Party

Phillip Harold, Precinct Chair #4617 Dallas County Republican Party

Sheila Baker, Precinct Chair #1133 Dallas County Republican Party

Janie Brittain, Precinct Chair #1737 Dallas County Republican Party

Angela Heiter, Precinct Chair #4662 Dallas County Republican Party

Ally Raskin, Precinct Chair #2015 Dallas County Republican Party

Catherine Marrs, Precinct Chair #1143 Dallas County Republican Party

Deborah Arnett, Precinct Chair Dallas County Republican Party

Louie Jenkins, Precinct Chair #1081 Dallas County Republican Party

Louise Derrick, Precinct Chair #3601 Dallas County Republican Party

Aaron McGrue, Precinct Chair #4518 Dallas County Republican Party

Thomas Burrows, Precinct Chair #2802 Dallas County Republican Party  
Sharon Chapman, Precinct Chair #3968 Dallas County Republican Party  
Roy Getting, Precinct Chair #4601 Dallas County Republican Party  
Barb Stauffer, Precinct Chair #1752 Dallas County Republican Party  
Lauren McDonough, Precinct Chair #2523 Dallas County Republican Party  
Barbara Wood Kurilecz, Precinct Chair Dallas County Republican Party  
Darrell Day, 2024 Candidate Congressional District 32  
Brian Bodine, SD16 Republican Party of Texas Platform Committee Member 2022, 2024  
JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director Grassroots America We the People PAC  
Jennie Gilchrist, President Dallas Eagle Forum  
Gail Capps, Past President Dallas Eagle Forum  
Lola Hurt, Programs Director Dallas Eagle Forum  
Jan Gentry Howard, Secretary Dallas Eagle Forum  
Deana Johnston, Communications Director Dallas Eagle Forum  
Jennifer Rodgers, Membership Director Dallas Eagle Forum  
Cindi Castilla, President Texas Eagle Forum  
Fran Rhodes, President True Texas Project  
Christine Mann, Executive Director Refuge for Women North Texas  
Deborah Simmons, Founder Protecting the Gift  
Brady Gray, President Texas Family Project  
Kelly Neidert, Executive Director Texas Coalition for Kids  
Beth Biesel, Forum Chief, American Liberty Forum (Dallas)  
Mel Cooper, Cofounder and Executive Director Bastrop County Conservatives  
Gloria McDonald, President Denton County Conservative Coalition (D3C)  
Vanessa Sivadge, President Protecting Texas Kids  
Teresa Thomas, Texas State Director Moms for America  
Angela Smith, Founder and President Fredericksburg Tea Party  
Melinda Preston, Executive Director Alliance for Freedom  
Marcia Strickler-Watson President Capital Area Conservative Republicans Club  
Kay Butchke, Nacogdoches Republican Women (TFRW)  
Denise Bell, Chapter Chair Harris County Chapter Moms For Liberty  
Jerry Fisher, SD-2 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Rhonda Ward, SD-3 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Daniel Hunt, SD-3 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Gwen Withrow, SD-4 State Republican Executive Committeewoman and Chairwoman  
Montgomery County Republican Party  
Susan Lucas, SD-5 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Jeremy Story, SD-5 State Republican Executive Committeeman

Deborah Fite, SD-7 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Ralph Fite, SD-7 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Maggie Whitt, SD-8 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Jim Pikel, SD-8 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Susan Valliant, SD-10 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Matt Ticzkus, SD-10 State Republican Executive Committeeman and Weatherford City Council  
Place 3  
Gaylyn Devine, SD-11 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Ken Moore, SD-11 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Dr. Milinda Morris, SD-13 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Becky Green, SD-17 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Randy Purham, SD-21 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Leslie Thomas, SD-22 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Jon Ker, SD-22 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Andrew Eller, SD-24 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Adolpho Telles, SD-29 State Republican Executive Committeeman  
Rachel Horton, SD-30 State Republican Executive Committeewoman  
Jennifer Fleck, Chairwoman Travis County Republican Party  
Michelle Evans, Chairwoman Williamson County Republican Party  
Rachel Hale, Chairwoman Rusk County Republican Party  
Bonnie Wallace, Llano County, TX  
Bob Wallace, Llano County, TX  
Regan Licciardello, Llano County, TX  
Julie Ireland, Llano County, TX  
Colby Wiltse, Corpus Christi, TX  
Don Simpson, Llano County, TX  
Sherry Simpson, Llano County, TX  
Carlton Johnson, Kingsland, TX  
Buck Kelsey, Llano County, TX  
Marla Kelsey, Llano County, TX  
Debbie, Leimbach, New Braunfels, TX  
Bill Martin, San Angelo, TX  
Linda Martin, San Angelo, TX  
Tom Nobis, Harris County, TX  
Francine Erickson, Williamson County, TX

\*Updated Signatures as of 4/13/25 at 10:00 PM, Central Time