



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROTECTING TEXAS CHILDREN RESPONDS TO SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER ATTACK

Being Targeted by the SPLC Is Not Intimidation, It's Confirmation

Houston, Texas — June 10, 2026 — Protecting Texas Children is honored to be included among the organizations and individuals targeted in the Southern Poverty Law Center's latest publication attacking those who oppose the medical transition of minors.

The SPLC's article does not address the growing body of testimony from detransitioners, the concerns raised by parents, the findings of whistleblowers, or the international reassessment of pediatric gender medicine occurring across the world. Instead, it follows a familiar pattern: attempting to discredit and attack those who question the medicalization of children.

For Protecting Texas Children, that comes as no surprise.

"Our response to the SPLC is simple: **thank you** for confirming that our work is making an impact," said Vanessa Sivadge, President of Protecting Texas Children. "For years, activists and powerful institutions have tried to silence parents, whistleblowers, and anyone willing to question the medicalization of children. The SPLC's attack is just the latest example."

Since our founding, Protecting Texas Children has worked to uphold biological reality, protect children from sexualization and exploitation, and support public policies that prioritize the health, safety, and long-term well-being of children over ideological agendas.

The SPLC's attempt to stigmatize child advocates like our President, Vanessa Sivadge, is particularly troubling given the organization's own controversial history. In 2012, a gunman entered the headquarters of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., after reportedly using the SPLC's "hate map" to identify the organization as a target. The attacker later admitted his intention was to kill employees. Even after widespread

criticism following that attack, the SPLC has continued to use labels and lists that recklessly blur the line between disagreement and inciting violence against opponents.

Today, the SPLC faces unprecedented scrutiny of its own conduct. In April 2026, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging the organization with wire fraud, false statements, and conspiracy to commit money laundering related to allegations that donor funds were secretly routed to individuals associated with extremist organizations. The indictment has raised serious questions about the organization's credibility, transparency, and stewardship of donor resources.

The SPLC wants people to believe that anyone who opposes the medical transition of children should be feared, ignored, or silenced," Sivadge said. "We reject that completely. The real story is that more parents are asking questions, more whistleblowers are coming forward, more detransitioners are telling their stories, and more Americans are recognizing that children deserve protection—not lifelong medicalization."

Protecting Texas Children will not be intimidated by activist organizations or media attacks.

"We wear this attack as a badge of honor," Sivadge added. "If standing up for children puts us on the SPLC's enemies list, then we're exactly where we need to be."

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Protecting Texas Children's mission is to safeguard the innocence of every child by affirming biological truth while advocating for legislation that will champion the health and well-being of children so they can fulfill their God-given potential.