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Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred

Good morning. I am attorney Gloria Allred, but I am appearing before you today as a citizen of the United States, not as an attorney representing Dr. Bredt or any other person, organization or entity. I am here because I was shocked to learn of what appears to be the forced termination of Dr. Robert Bredt as Medical Director of the Texas Medical Board.

This termination appears to have been based at least in part on a false and defamatory statement made by a Texas legislator about Dr. Bredt.

The legislator posted on X that Dr. Bredt is an “abortionist”.

Had the legislator checked the facts prior to publishing his false and defamatory statements, he would have learned that Dr. Bredt has

never performed an abortion and has never been an “abortionist,” but it appears that the facts did not seem to matter to the legislator.

Instead, the legislator went on a verbal rampage and according to news reports, demanded that Dr. Bredt be terminated because of his association with Planned Parenthood which he also falsely characterized. Further, this same politician demanded that the Governor and the Texas Medical Board terminate not only Dr. Bredt, but also anyone else who was associated with Planned Parenthood.

The same politician threatened the Governor that if he failed to comply with his demands, he would seek to withhold funding for the Texas Medical Board.

What is especially surprising to me about this course of events is that the Governor caved in to those demands and Dr. Bredt was told that he needed to either retire or be terminated.

The reason that I was surprised by Governor Abbott’s capitulation to the Texas politician’s demands is because of the Governor’s judicial opinion when he was a Justice of the Texas Supreme Court. At that time, then Justice Greg Abbott stated:

*“Freedom of association for the purpose of advancing ideas and airing grievances is a fundamental liberty guaranteed by the First Amendment. . . . It is immaterial whether the beliefs sought to be advanced by association pertain to political, economic, religious or cultural matters, any state action which may have the effect of curtailing the freedom to associate is subject to the closest scrutiny.”*¹

Unfortunately, it appears that although that is what Justice Greg Abbott believed at the time he stated his judicial opinion, Governor Greg Abbott has not appeared to follow his own judicial opinion, because he afforded no due process and no legal scrutiny (let alone “the closest scrutiny”) to Dr. Bredt. Instead, Governor Abbott’s office seems to have simply retaliated against Dr. Bredt because he was also employed to oversee a laboratory for Planned Parenthood which is considered by some extremists to be a politically disfavored organization.

The United States Supreme Court has similarly recognized that “we have long understood as implicit in the right to engage in activities protected by the First Amendment a corresponding right to associate with others in pursuit of a wide variety of political, social, economic, educational, religious, and cultural ends.” (“free association [is] a right

closely allied to freedom of speech and a right which, like free speech, lies at the foundation of a free society").²

It has long been understood that our government cannot punish a public employee because of the employee's First Amendment rights, including freedom of association with a particular group.³

Also, multiple courts have also held in various contexts that the First Amendment protects associational rights relating to Planned Parenthood.

There is abundant, compelling evidence that Governor Abbott and the TMB retaliated against Dr. Bredt because of his association with Planned Parenthood South Texas (PPST).

It is my firm belief and opinion that Dr. Bredt has been denied his fundamental constitutional rights. Dr. Bredt has been an exceptional public servant and a true medical hero who has helped countless Texas women to receive access to medical information and test results which have helped them to make informed decisions about their treatment and medical conditions. I believe that Governor Abbott and the Texas

Medical Board should reinstate Dr. Bredt and thank him for his service of three decades to Texas women.

Statement of Attorney Gloria Allred

October 17, 2025

Footnote:

1 [*In re Bay Area Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse*, 982 S.W.2d 371 \(Tex. 1998\)](#)

2 *Roberts v. U.S. Jaycees*, 468 U.S. 609, 622 (1984). *See also Shelton v. Tucker*, 364 U.S. 479, 486 (1960)

3 *Minn. State Bd. for Cmty. Colls. v. Knight*, 465 U.S. 271, 286, 104 S. Ct. 1058, 1067 (1984)