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Statement of Paxton Smith

My name is Paxton Smith. I'm 22 years old, born and raised in Texas and I just graduated from the University of Texas at Austin.

There's a reason that Dr. Bredt has held his position for over a decade. He's regularly received positive performance reviews and that's because he's good at his job and he protects Texans. That is undeniable.

But now he's left his job under an incredible amount of pressure from politicians who have argued that he doesn't align with Texan values because he's worked with Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood exists in Texas because over 100,000 Texans use their health services every year.

To me that doesn't sound like a question of Texan values or a question of competence. It sounds like the currently elected officials are trying to push good doctors out simply for working with an organization they don't morally agree with.

Planned Parenthood in Texas operates 100% legally. They offer cancer screening, STD testing, fertility treatment, and access to contraceptives. It is a reproductive healthcare facility that operates 100% legally. And yet, Dr. Bredt has been pressured out of his position just for working in a Planned Parenthood Laboratory.

If this can happen, what does this mean for the health of Texans?

If doctors can be retaliated against for doing their jobs, who is going to want to be a doctor here, let alone a doctor that focuses on women's health or reproductive health? Where are we supposed to go if the doctors that provide that care are retaliated against?

If I want to start a family or not start a family, I want to get tested for STDs or get a cancer screening, my doctor should be able to help me, without fear of future career repercussions.

If you protect doctors, you protect the health of patients.

I love Texas.

I was born and raised here.

And we Texans deserve a healthcare system where our doctors are reliable for their ability to help people, not for their ability to align with the currently elected officials' morals.

I think that Dr. Bredt should be reinstated as Medical Director of the Texas Medical Board.

Paxton Smith

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