

# **EXHIBIT 4**

**PFLAG, Inc., et al.**

**Plaintiffs**

**v.**

**GREG ABBOTT, et al,**

**Defendants.**

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**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF**

**TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
\_\_\_\_ JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

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**DECLARATION OF BRIAN K. BOND**

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I, Brian K. Bond, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age, of sound mind, and fully capable of making this declaration. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration, they are true and correct, and I would testify competently to those facts if called to do so.

2. I am the Executive Director of PFLAG, Inc. (“PFLAG”). Founded in 1973, PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (“LGBTQ+”) people, their parents and families, and allies. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

3. PFLAG has over 250 chapters across the country and approximately 250,00 members and supporters nationwide. Our members and supporters cross multiple generations of families in major urban centers, small cities, and rural areas across America. PFLAG envisions an equitable and inclusive world where every LGBTQ+ person is safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved. Our mission is to create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

4. Our founder, Jeanne Manford, marched with her son Morty in the 1972 Christopher Street Liberation Day March in New York City and created the very first support group for parents

of LGBTQ+ people in 1973. Supporting LGBTQ+ young people by supporting and strengthening their families has been a core part of our work ever since. Today, the gold-standard advocated by PFLAG parents and families—and set forth by pediatricians and therapists—is to accept, support, and affirm LGBTQ+ people’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression; parental rejection is widely understood to be abusive and damaging.

5. We know, too, that LGBTQ+ youth thrive when supported in their schools and community. So, our work also includes ending bullying, discrimination, and harassment in educational settings by providing training for teachers, administrators, and district leaders, and advocating in the public square to ensure LGBTQ+ people are treated fairly and equally when accessing public accommodations and health care.

6. We know that change happens and support grows one interaction at a time. One family at a time.

7. PFLAG is a national chapter-based membership organization and we have local chapters in every state and the District of Columbia. Our chapters in Texas include PFLAG Abilene/Big Country, PFLAG Austin, PFLAG Beaumont, PFLAG Boerne, PFLAG Brenham, PFLAG Dallas, PFLAG El Paso, PFLAG Fort Worth, PFLAG Houston, PFLAG Lubbock, PFLAG Midland/Odessa, PFLAG Montgomery, PFLAG San Angelo, PFLAG San Antonio, PFLAG San Marcos, PFLAG Seguin, and PFLAG Tyler/East Texas.

8. PFLAG’s membership is comprised of chapter members and members at large. Individuals can become a PFLAG member by joining the national organization directly or by joining their local chapter, which sends a portion of the member’s dues to PFLAG national. In addition to our formal members, PFLAG serves thousands of community members through our programs, events, and services every year.

9. PFLAG's members play a central role in electing our organizational leadership. Of the 21 members of PFLAG's national Board of Directors, seven are elected directly from our membership. Seven more are elected by the Council of Regional Directors, a body of volunteers who are themselves each elected by the members of one of PFLAG's thirteen regions to work with PFLAG national staff to provide support, resources, training, and help to start new affiliates, and to share the perspectives and activities of members with national staff. The remaining seven are elected by the Board itself.

10. As Executive Director, I am the leader of the professional staff who carry out the work of the national office, including supporting the development and work of PFLAG's chapter network and promoting PFLAG's presence in the national arena, including through policy advocacy, coalitions with organizations who share our goals, developing trainings and educational materials, and engaging with the media. Supporting our network of chapters is PFLAG's largest program and our national staff works closely with chapter leaders and members across the country to reinforce their efforts to establish and grow their chapters, providing them with infrastructure, publications, online learning and gathering tools, advocacy support, media training, and countless other services and supports.

11. Because promoting the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ youth through encouraging and supporting love and affirmation by their families is a core part of our mission and because we have an extensive network of chapters and over 600 members who live in Texas, we heard an immediate outcry from our members and constituents in the wake of Attorney General Ken Paxton's opinion purporting that certain forms of health care for transgender adolescents constitute "child abuse" under Texas law.

12. While Attorney General Paxton’s opinion caused alarm and sparked outrage among our members, especially those with transgender or nonbinary children, the directive Governor Abbott issued shortly thereafter deeming all affirming health care for transgender adolescents, regardless of medical necessity, to be “child abuse” and ordering Texas’s Department of Family and Protective Services (“DFPS”) to investigate parents helping their children access such care, caused abject panic. Suddenly the very thing we know to be good for LGBTQ+ children—supporting and loving your child for who they are and ensuring they receive care they need to thrive—was a reason to be reported and subjected to an intrusive and traumatic investigation.

13. In the wake of the directive and DFPS’s decision to operationalize it and begin investigations, we immediately began providing information and support to our Texas families about the opinion and directive. Our Texas chapters heard from members who were parents of transgender or nonbinary children who wondered if they would soon be investigated and asking about their rights and for assistance; members whose children’s health care was cut off when facilities specializing in providing gender affirming care to adolescents closed or stopped providing it under the mistaken assumption their provision of care was “illegal” or “abuse,” or for fear their doctors would be prosecuted; and members contemplating leaving Texas so as not to have to choose between helping their children access the prescribed, medically necessary care they need and keeping their children under their roofs.

14. We, and our Texas chapters and members, breathed a sigh of relief when, in the wake of a lawsuit by the Doe family and Dr. Megan Mooney, the Travis County District Court issued a statewide injunction prohibiting investigations into families, including some of our members, and any action against mandatory reporters who failed to report families. Our members with transgender or nonbinary children were afraid once again when the injunction was stayed and

the alarm ebbed and returned after the reinstatement of the injunction by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the ultimate limiting of that injunction to the specific plaintiffs in that case by the Supreme Court of Texas.

15. After the Texas Supreme Court limited the Court of Appeals' injunction, our Texas chapters heard from members yet again. The investigations of parent members that had been paused were suddenly restarted or under the threat of imminent resumption. Members who are parents of transgender or nonbinary children who had not yet been investigated expressed fear and concern about whether they soon would be and if their children might be subjected to interviews at school, removed from home, or lose their health care.

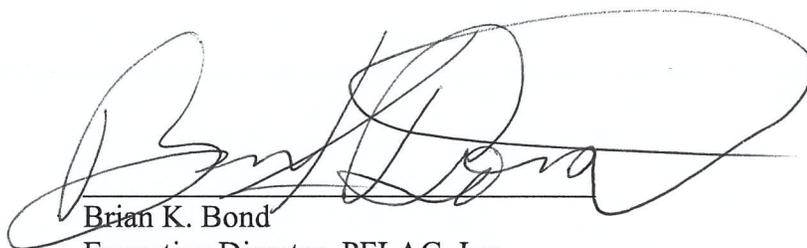
16. Given the scope of the Governor's directive, the breadth of DFPS's investigations, and the current lack of a statewide injunction preventing their pursuit, every one of PFLAG's Texas members with a transgender or nonbinary child is at substantial risk of harm. PFLAG has members who are being harmed right now by these actions, whether because they are facing active investigations, have had their medically necessary health care disrupted, or were otherwise forced to alter their interactions with schools, care providers, supportive services, or others in order to avoid being reported for child abuse by mandated reporters, all solely because they are or are suspected of seeking the established course of medically necessary care for their transgender or nonbinary children. Other current and future PFLAG members with transgender or nonbinary children face a substantial risk of being harmed by the directive and its implementation because their care for and affirmation of their children may include seeking gender affirming care for them. Although these members could challenge the Governor and agency's actions in their own right, PFLAG is bringing this case to represent the interests of those members to shield them from harm,

to avoid exacerbating current investigations, and to protect members from becoming targets of future investigations.

17. Representing the interests of these members in challenging the Governor's directive and DFPS's substantive change in policy implementing it is directly connected to PFLAG's mission in two ways. First, that mission includes encouraging and supporting parents and families of transgender and gender expansive people in affirming their children and helping them access the social, psychological, and medical supports they need. We work with our families to encourage love and support of their transgender and gender expansive children and to help them ensure that the children's needs are met. DFPS's actions send the opposite message. If you support your child's affirmation of their gender identity by seeking the established medically necessary care that has been prescribed for them, you do so at the peril of being labeled a "child abuser" and having them removed. In order to fulfill our mission to our members, we cannot allow them to face drastic penalties for doing the very thing we encourage because we know it is in the best interests of the children.

18. Second, we teach our members to advocate for a caring, just, and affirming world where LGBTQ+ people are safe, celebrated, empowered, and loved, and to advocate for equitable laws and policies that protect them. Governor Abbott's directive and DFPS's pursuit of families directly conflicts with our members' ability to do just that. The Briggles family could not be a clearer example. If you stand up and fight back for equitable treatment for your child, including by speaking out against harmful legislation that would deny your child basic human rights, your very advocacy makes you a target for investigation by the child welfare agency. We cannot in good faith ask our members to advocate in the public sphere for community affirmation of their child's basic humanity, if it puts them at risk of harm.

19. PFLAG exists to foster a world where LGBTQ+ children can become thriving, healthy, and happy LGBTQ+ adults. Our members depend on us to provide support and community for them in a society that often still treats their children as second-class citizens, attempts to silence them, or denies their very existence. For our members who have transgender and nonbinary children and are doing nothing more than loving them and following the advice of qualified medical professionals, PFLAG is here to do all we can to protect them from harmful, invasive, and unwarranted investigations.



Brian K. Bond  
Executive Director, PFLAG, Inc.

**Notary Verification**

State of Kansas

County of Sedgwick

Brian K. Bond, personally appeared before me, and being first duly sworn declared that he signed this declaration in the capacity designated, if any, and further states that he has read the above declaration and the statements therein contained are true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 06 day of June 2022, by Brian K. Bond.



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Notary Public's Signature