

Statement from Representative Steve Toth (R-The Woodlands):

“Some people want to pit one of the most conservative legislators in the House against the most conservative Lt. Governor in Texas History — and they’re willing to print lies to do it. On Wednesday, an article was published online that misreported a conversation I had about our greatest failure last session. In a recording of the conversation that was shared online you could clearly hear an unidentified woman say something about donors she claimed influenced the Governor, Lt. Governor, and House Speaker on this issue.

“You’d think it would be easy to get a quote right when you have a recording. Nope. The article started a lie that I made that remark about donors. Up until today you could listen for yourself, but someone took down the recording. Makes me wonder if they have something to hide.

“I stand by my message:

“First, all elected leaders involved in the legislative process share the blame for the failure to ban the horrific practice of child genital mutilation aka “transitioning.”

“Second, the level of priority attached to this legislation did not rise to the same level of other emergencies such as the power grid failure that took most of the legislature’s attention throughout the 2021 Legislative Session. It should have. Think about it. The mutilation of Texas children.

“Finally, my priority is to protect children from genital mutilation this legislative session.

“As you’ve heard, the article’s lie made its way to the Lt. Governor.

“Let me tell you about our Lt. Governor. During my first session, then Senator Patrick and I passed the CSCAPE Transparency Act, which led to the eventual elimination of this common core revisionist history in our classrooms. I spent significant time campaigning for him in Montgomery County to help elect a bold conservative to that statewide office in 2014.

“The Bible says, ‘Iron sharpens iron,’ and that’s the kind of working relationship I’m honored to have with Lt. Governor Patrick. We fought hard to ban Critical Race Theory in Texas classrooms and were triumphant despite several outside attempts to sabotage the effort. In fact, those efforts to divide us then remind me of what is happening now. I’m confident that nothing will shake either my own or Lt. Gov. Patrick’s resolve to pass a ban on child genital mutilation this year.”