

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Bob Compton from Midvale, Idaho and I am not in favor of this Bill.

It has been argued that sexual orientation and gender identity are genetic, just like skin color. They are not.

Your genetic code – DNA – determines who you are. The color of your skin is determined by DNA. It will not change no matter how badly you may want your skin to be a different color.

Scientists can look at your X and Y chromosomes to determine your gender. Those X's and Y's in your DNA cannot change no matter how badly you may want them to.

Your DNA is a scientific fact.

Here is another scientific fact: Sexual relations solely between male with male or female with female will never produce any offspring. If sexual orientation or gender identity were governed by DNA, those genetic 'traits' would be eliminated from a population in the first generation. There is no way those "traits" could ever be passed on. So, where would they come from in the first place? Not DNA.

From this we can conclude that sexual orientation and gender identity are CHOICES made by individuals.

If you vote to protect such choices by calling them science, will you also "add the words" to protect pedophiles who claim their desire for children is part of their DNA? How could you not? I hope we have not reached that point of cultural evolution. Sound science does not support that choice. I hope you won't either.

Some have complained that those who oppose this bill are placing their own morality above science.

Unfortunately for those detractors, science is not on their side as I have pointed out. But, that doesn't mean that morality is not part of your discussion. I suggest that it must be.

After all, morality is the fundamental basis for every law. There is higher power in the mix for good reason. History has proven that when man is left to himself, things do get very ugly. Mankind alone is not capable of correctly wielding the power to determine where lines should be drawn between right and wrong. The laws of Nazi Germany and Communist Russia are good examples of how wrong man can be – though fully convinced he is right – when he tries to go it alone.

Our Founding Fathers understood this well. That is why Thomas Jefferson was compelled to point out that all men are "endowed by their *Creator* with certain unalienable rights" in our Declaration of Independence.

I hope that you are able to see that you need your Creator's help just as our Founding Fathers did. Your decision will be affected by your morality and in that way it will affect the morality of others, including generations of children. You may find this to be a difficult decision to make.

May I suggest this: The correct moral decision is clear when you ask yourself what choice the Founding Fathers and your Creator have made.

January 26, 2015

Dear Legislator:

"Add the words": short, concise and catchy phrase. "Human rights": makes us feel so included because we are all so "human". Letter in Idaho Statesman, Lawler 2/28/12: "My gay and transgender friends lead the same life as every other person in Idaho. They work, pay bills, fix dinner, take care of their kids and contribute to this community."

OK, so that confirms to me that they DO enjoy the same rights as anyone else. Sexual orientation/gender identity is a category of **"self-identification"** that is UN-identifiable by a fellow *human... unless one human chooses to identify their preference about their most intimate sexual activities. How am I to know??* Can I be held accountable as an employer or fellow employee for an orientation that I can't identify? As I walk the streets amongst strangers, can you suggest to me how I am to identify them as trans-gender/gay or lesbian? Will they voluntarily choose to create a publicly- visible identifying mark so I will have the advantage of knowing whom I may not offend? **I have no ability to discern their sexual orientation/identity and it is none of my concern UNLESS that individual chooses to make it my business.** It's not the same as race, sex-of-birth, or age; those at least offer some small, objective, observable clue! I'm told that the sexual- orientation/gender-identity-contingent feel cheated because if they choose to display their partner's picture at work, they can be fired. Well, any of us can display a picture of a partner and/or children and we could be fired as well.

I wonder - should I create an "add the words" campaign for mothers of multiple children so we can't be discriminated against because we have to take extra time from work for family business? After all, isn't that a "human right" to care for one's children? The "human rights" advocates (believing the village raises the child) should be pleased to know my campaign would support their philosophy; *others in my "work-village" would have the privilege of putting-in extra hours at work to cover my absenteeism as I care for my multiple children. Shouldn't my particulate flavor of "human rights" get at least as much legal protection so I wouldn't have to worry about being fired?* Sound logical? Think it will make your village of co-workers happy to work in such an arrangement?

Should Idaho and other municipalities continue to "Add the Words", it will then make it everyone's responsibility to ferret-out someone's "sexual orientation" or "gender identity" because we will be subject to penalty of law should we inadvertently offend. **I do not want to make it my business** and I again inquire - are they willing to create some kind of self-identifying, public label so I do not find myself at a disadvantage?

I lived discrimination; as a child I had horribly crooked teeth. I was teased and embarrassed for years because my family could not afford braces. However, I knew I had defenders in my parents, teachers and other folks that cared for me. Why should we expect 'the village' to create new laws when individuals/parents/ grandparents/teachers should step in and insist on common courtesy? I submit: society continues to "enable" the disconnect-of-responsibility from the individual!; they want Orwell's 1984 style government to be the ultimate solution.

Do we really think students and children need a movie (played around the country in 2012) to convince them there is 'bullying'? They see it/ live it every day. Human nature will never be "fixed"; there will always be a pecking-order; there will always be the bully and the victim and we'll never stop it. But every one of us can help protect another; and we need to be there to help soothe the wounded heart of someone that is a victim. As for me, I know that having been a victim of vicious teasing as a child made me a much better, compassionate person as I grew up and it helped me to resolve to always go the extra mile to help others. Those tears of pain as a child created a young adult and an older woman with a strong shoulder-to-cry on for others. We can use our trials for strength-training-of-the-soul and that enables us to be a blessing in someone else's life as we travel through mortality.

My point is that no amount of "human rights" activism will ever solve the problem of "human nature". If you choose first-and-foremost to identify your life by your sexual-orientation/identity, then you are free to do so. Whether we be gay, lesbian, heterosexual, married or single, young or old, smart or not so smart... we experience one set of problems or a different set of problems. Trying to **create human rights - under penalty of law - for all of our human proclivities is a Pandora's box.**

**Please "add my words": practice the golden rule, be honest, work and play to the best of your ability, and remember that your rights end where my nose begins.**

Ronalee Linsenmann  
6821 Deer Flat  
Nampa, ID 83686  
208-467-1458

## A No Vote on HB2

By Derek Cassel, Caldwell, ID

Please vote no on HB2 for the following reasons:

1. We weaken our existing Human Rights Act by adding new classifications that could conflict with existing measures. We've seen too many news stories across the nation to doubt that this will be the outcome. Though religious liberty is a cornerstone of our society, laws elevating homosexual activities to the level of a human right have frequently been used to target and punish those in disagreement. The pattern is too clear to doubt that the same thing will happen here.
2. Are we to cheapen the classes that have already been listed for every new group that comes along and feels that they aren't getting the respect they deserve? The classifications already in our Human Rights Act are those for which people have fought and died over the centuries and have history behind them. Can we really claim that the LGBT community can stand on equal footing with the sufferings of those who were owned as slaves because of the color of their skin?
3. It's wrong. They say that supporting the bill is "right" and opposing it is "wrong". Inherent in those words is the belief in a moral code. I simply subscribe to a different moral code. Supporting my view are a vast majority of Idahoans as must anyone who subscribes to any faith that holds the Bible as its foundation.
4. What is to prevent this language from being used by pedophiles? We should not be shocked by such a question as there was a time when the thought of same sex marriage would have given an equal shock. In fact, much to the consternation of some in the LGBT community, many pedophile groups are already using this same reasoning and attempting to piggyback on the success of the LGBT movement.
5. Every person in Idaho could stand up and give a story of a hardship they've endured or a time when someone was mean to them. Are we going to pass legislation each time someone gets their feelings hurt? Life is not easy, and life is not fair, and no legislation can change that. If a company chooses not to hire

someone because of who they choose to have sex with, in an age of social media, they are more than capable of letting others know and hurting that company financially with lost business. Do we really need to go running to government every time our feelings are hurt? This has never been what Idaho is about.

6. We are now legislating by "sad story" in America. If you can get enough people together with enough sad stories, you magically create a new right. New rights have historically been conferred in order to protect people from the government or institutionalized bias. Where is the government oppression? There isn't any. Where are the hordes of people who are biased against the LGBT community? They don't exist. On the contrary, the tide of public opinion is clearly in their favor as we've seen change after change moving in that direction across the country in the last year. They are the new majority. Rights have historically been recognized in order to protect the minority against the majority. So instead of establishing a new and unnecessary right, this is exactly the occasion that makes our existing right to practice our freedom of religion so important. This is when our existing rights are most needed.

7. I'm a small business owner, and though it is likely to cost me some business, I am in opposition to this bill. And that really is the main point that I'm making. I will likely lose business because I oppose this bill. People may choose not to hire me because they don't like what I think. And they are well within their rights to look elsewhere if they don't want to do business with me. I ask for that same right. When I'm next in the market for some labor and would like to hire someone to work for me, why may I not hire whomever I will for whatever reason? Why are their rights superior to mine?

8. When the Declaration of Independence was drafted by Thomas Jefferson, he did an amazing and somewhat novel thing by listing specific rights common to all people. But why did he do that? Who was he afraid would infringe on those rights? The answer is that he was afraid of the government or of a majority taking away his rights. Here in Idaho, we have the Human Rights Act for the same reason, so that no government and no majority can take away specific rights that we have. If this bill passes, that concept will be turned on its head. Here, as we've seen across the nation in news stories, the law will be used to force individuals to bow to the will of a majority, and that majority will use the club

of the government to enforce its will. The very document that was intended to ensure my religious right will instead be used to take away that right.

In conclusion, what we are really talking about is not simply adding words, but exchanging words. Because a yes vote takes away the religious rights of all, in favor of a lifestyle choice for some. No more, no less. Thank you.



Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee. I'd first like to thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak with you today regarding House Bill 2.

My name is Patrick Smith and I currently reside in Meridian. I'm 27 years old and work full time as a care-giver for individuals with varying degrees of developmental disabilities. It's a difficult job for sure, but one that comes with many rewards. I've also worked with the elderly and mentally disabled.

In my free time, I can usually be found with my friends or family or when the weather is right, outdoors, cycling or long boarding. I love camping and spending time on my family's farm. I have a dog and cat. I love watching movies, reading a good science fiction novel, and rocking out to Bon Jovi. I play guitar and sing in a choir.

I don't mean for this to sound like a dating ad. However, one day, when the time is right, I do hope to find that special someone and settle down and start a family. I'm truly excited about the idea of being a father and passing on the stories and legacies that we have begun to write here today.

I believe in working hard and striving for the life you want, rather than settling for the life you have. I pay my bills on time and I pump my own gas. I support myself, but believe that sometimes asking for help is okay too.

I'm here today in support of adding the words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the existing Idaho Human Rights Act. I believe that everyone deserves respect and the freedom to work hard and support themselves without fear. I believe that everyone deserves to be judged based on their work performance rather than their private lives.

Almost two years ago, I began my life-saving transition. I am a transman, which means I was born biologically female, but as you can see, I now live my life full-time as a man.

Because this is who I am.

As a small child, the typical gender stereotypes just didn't fit. As I got older, it became more and more difficult to hide who I really was, but it wasn't until recently that the puzzle fell together and I discovered my true identity.

I need to clarify, I didn't choose this. I have yet to meet a single person within the LGBT community that has CHOSEN this life.

Friends and relatives walked out of my life. I discovered the bitter line of rejection within a church family and watched as the ministries and community I was so actively involved in were lost to me. I struggled, and continue to struggle with my faith after being told repeatedly that I was a mistake and an abomination to the God I had served for years. The beautiful church I had

once called home now regarded me as a stranger, and no longer feeling welcome, I left.

We're not here to stomp on anyone's beliefs, I promise. However, religious freedom stops when it begins to encroach on the rights of others. Honestly, we just want to live our own lives and celebrate our own faiths. Isn't that what American is all about?

Within society, I've faced a different kind of rejection, a much more violent one. From simple name calling to being full-on assaulted in a public restroom. I've also been spit on, shoved, and harassed. When applying for jobs, I've been refused interviews because I don't fit into the company "standards", despite my experience and qualifications.

But why? I'm not violent. I'm not abusive. I work hard and if I found you on the street tomorrow, I'd do what I could to help you. I am a good person. What makes me deserve less than the freedom of a life well lived?

I believe that we can work together to resolve the fears and misunderstandings that have arisen with this bill. Ladies and gentlemen, when you really think about it, what harm could possibly come of allowing a group of dedicated individuals to succeed and contribute to a society that we love? We only want what's best for this economy like you do, and really, we're not going anywhere. Wouldn't it be better to work together rather than in opposition?

We matter.

I matter.

Add me.

Add the four words.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Jon Young of Boise, ID.

I'm grateful for both my membership in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and my association with my brothers and sisters the LGBT community.

It saddens me that there is much political mistrust between these two groups. Our common human nature often results in both sides creating their own walls and barriers. There is frustration and anger under the guise of righteous indignation. When feeling threatened by non-conforming information, we subconsciously ask ourselves, "Must I really believe this?" and the smarter we are, the easier it is to find a reason not to. I've heard some Mormons claim official church stances friendly to LGBT brothers and sisters are not official, some kind of hoax, or believe a rumor of hidden church regret. Some LGBT people see only hate and bigotry over the doctrinal disagreement on marriage regardless of steps the church takes toward reconciliation. When we do this, we are not communicating; we are not empathising. We are not looking for solutions.

So how should we communicate? On the official Church web site at [www.mormonsandgays.org](http://www.mormonsandgays.org) we read:

"If we want to understand one another we have to see ourselves in one another. Open the book of each individual life and you will find a familiar story. We all need forgiveness, because we all sin. We all need comfort, because we all suffer. Along this common path each of us carries a cross. But we can't do it alone. Latter-day Saints believe that Jesus Christ suffered and died for this very reason — to bear our burdens with us.

We also need each other. Belonging to a community of family, friends and believers allows us to help and be helped. We recognize in each other our common needs for intimacy and companionship and can discuss them without shame or rejection. Our individual blind spots can be filled in by our collective wisdom. Here we find our truest selves."

Let me repeat: Our individual blind spots can be filled in by our collective wisdom. Here we find our truest selves. Today I ask all of us to leave our biases behind and seek to find our truest selves in the wisdom of the other.

With these thoughts in mind, I'd like to share how my faith and observances of official church actions and statements inform my stance on the bill before us.

### **What The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints says about homosexuality.**

The Church has officially stated: ( [www.mormonsandgays.org](http://www.mormonsandgays.org) )



There are at least two important takeaways:

1. Non-discrimination in housing and employment **does not** threaten the institution of marriage.
2. Religious freedom for religious institutions should be protected.

As others will attest, the bill before us will work under these important requirements.

### **Implications:**

The church was and is currently comfortable with legal protections for employment and housing, but has shied away from public accommodations as “potentially problematic.”

### **My view of public accommodations:**

Renting a home to a gay couple is enabling, respecting, and dignifying those who act in a way we may consider a sin. Yet, the church seems more interested in showing respect and giving dignity to others rather than to worry about enabling or supporting their choice to be different.

We learn from the Savior himself to give others dignity and respect rather than condemnation and social separation.

Do we recall Christ eating with publicans and sinners to the disgust of those who opposed His mission? When He rescued the woman caught in adultery from death by stoning, He worried more about her personal growth and redemption than enabling sin by going soft on it. He asked us to serve “the least of these” with food, drink, and clothing. We do not assume the list of services stops there. We also understand that “the least of these” are not only the poor or those whose choices put them in prison, but those who are estranged from us culturally, religiously, and behaviorally, regardless of social standing. Christ tells us that there is a greatest law, amending and overriding all others, when he says “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” And a second great commandment is like unto it: “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” Why is the second law like the first? He’s told us: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

For me, these words of Christ suggest helping a religious vegetarian co-worker identify food without meat products as much as selling goods and services to a gay couple celebrating their union. My religious beliefs contradict either choice these persons are making, but those beliefs more strongly support loving and respecting others while they make their own choices. Consider the words of Ty Mansfield who is attracted to other men, but is married to a woman and teaches family relations at BYU.

NEWS STORY — 1 JANUARY 2009

## Statement Given to Salt Lake City Council on Nondiscrimination Ordinances

*The following statement representing the position of the Church's leadership, was read by Michael Otterson, managing director of Church Public Affairs, as part of a public comment period discussing the ordinances at a Salt Lake City Council meeting 10 November 2009:*

Good evening.

My name is Michael Otterson, and I am here tonight officially representing The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The nondiscrimination ordinances being reviewed by the city council concern important questions for the people of this community.

Like most of America, our community in Salt Lake City is comprised of citizens of different faiths and values, different races and cultures, different political views and divergent demographics. Across America and around the world, diverse communities such as ours are wrestling with complex social and moral questions. People often feel strongly about such issues. Sometimes they feel so strongly that the ways in which they relate to one another seem to strain the fabric of our society, especially where the interests of one group seem to collide with the interests of another.

The issues before you tonight are the right of people to have a roof over their heads and the right to work without being discriminated against. But, importantly, the ordinances also attempt to balance vital issues of religious freedom. In essence, the Church agrees with the approach which Mayor Becker is taking on this matter.

In drafting these ordinances, the city has granted common-sense rights that should be available to everyone, while safeguarding the crucial rights of religious organizations, for example, in their hiring of people whose lives are in harmony with their tenets, or when providing housing for their university students and others that preserve religious requirements.

The Church supports these ordinances because they are fair and reasonable and do not do violence to the institution of marriage. They are also entirely consistent with the Church's prior position on these matters. The Church remains unequivocally committed to defending the bedrock foundation of marriage between a man and a woman.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Danielle Lundgren. I have 4 children, 2 boy and 2 girls and I live in Idaho Falls.

I am a detective for a large sheriff's office in east Idaho and I am a transgender woman. I have been in law enforcement since 1997 and have been a detective for the last 6 years specializing in crimes against children and domestic violence. I transitioned on the job over a year ago and I'm currently the only out transgender cop in the state of Idaho. There are others like me. Some have reached out to me expressing fear after seeing the treatment that I have received from people in my community. The fear of job loss the fear of losing our homes our families our friends are all very real for us. I live with these fears on a daily basis.

And yet another fear that we live with every day is public persecution for using such basic human services as public restrooms. The opposition would have you believe that if this bill is past that throngs of men will enter women's bathrooms to attack and abuse women and children. This simply is just not true. The fact is if a pedophile wanted to attack a child they're not going to use this bill to do it. There are already laws in place to protect against voyeurism, child-abuse, and rape. Passage of this bill will not give pedophiles added access to children. While there may be very rare instances of a transgender person doing something in the bathroom it is certainly not the norm. There are far more instances of members of other demographics that prey on our women and children.

Transgender men and women just want to use the bathroom in peace and quiet just like you. To paraphrase Dr. Martin Luther King the law cannot make a man love me but it can help to keep him from lynching me. I work every day to help protect our community's women and children. I would never advocate for anything that would bring harm to them.

I am good enough to lay down my life in service to this community. Am I not good enough to use its public facilities and services in peace? We just want to be productive members of society and to be given the respect that we have earned based on our merits. I urge you to help protect me and those like me, I urge you to pass this bill.

Danielle Lundgren  
Idaho Falls Idaho  
sodapopprincess@icloud.com

Please distribute to all members of House State Affairs Committee

Honorable Representatives,

I write today to ask for your support of HB2. I support equal protections for all Idahoans. When Boise held a hearing on a non discrimination ordinance, the community overwhelmingly supported the ordinance. Since its implementation, there have been only 2 complaints, both which were resolved prior to any charges being filed. There have been no reports of businesses feeling targeted for “testing” of the ordinance.

Our business community has supported the ordinance as an important component of economic development. Business recruitment is made easier when people feel that all of their employees will feel protected and safe.

Thank you for holding a hearing on this issue. Please send HB2 to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

Sincerely,  
Maryanne Jordan  
President, Boise City Council

Mister Chair, members of the House State Affairs Committee,

My name is JamieLou Delavan. Today I am representing myself. My sexual identity is heterosexual. My gender identity is female. I am a public employee, engaged community volunteer, and an ally, friend and relative to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. I stand in support of HB-02.

I have lived in Boise, Idaho for the last twenty years, the longest I have lived in any one place. My husband has confirmed that I am truly an Idahoan now. I I guess he should know. He grew up in Idaho. His grandfather worked in the mines in Wallace. His other grandfather laid the brick on the streets of Coeur d'Alene. After my husband's 10 years in the military we decided to move to Boise, raising our children in his childhood town

I have been all over this beautiful state and I have met people of varied backgrounds and experiences. Individuals who have shared their hopes, their dreams, and their successes. They have also shared their personal experiences of LGBT discrimination, family abandonment, and being unable to find a doctor who will treat them or simply feeling unsafe to come out to their doctor.

And the experiences of violence. Sometimes LGBT individuals were reluctant to report violence to the police for fear of being outed and possibly losing a job, housing, or the love of family. Sometimes they reported violence only to be ignored by police who chose to blame them, the victim, for the incident. "What did you expect, being gay?"

As a public employee I have worked side-by-side with individuals who are lesbian and gay and noticed that their pictures of family members are tucked away and not featured in prominent areas as in other office cubicles. They are careful to share information, making sure that it is safe to share with co-workers and always measuring exactly what is shared. It's not surprising. We participate in a respectful workplace training every year, and every year there is a question about LGBT employees and rights against harassment in the workplace. We are flat out told that there are none. End of discussion.





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A. DEAN TRANMER • *City Attorney*  
NANCY A. FERRIS • *Chief Deputy Attorney*  
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IAN C. JOHNSON • *Deputy City Attorney*  
TIFFANY G. OLSEN • *Assistant to City Attorney*  
CARA LEWIS • *Prosecution Coordinator*  
JULIE YEATES • *Risk/Legal Assistant*  
MANDY CHASE • *Prosecution/Legal Assistant*

February 7, 2014

[REDACTED]

RE: Written Records Request to the City of Pocatello of February 6, 2014

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Your above-referenced records request has been forwarded to me for response. Upon checking with the appropriate City Departments (i.e. Police and Legal), we have been unable to locate any documents which meet the parameters of your request. To the best of our information, as of the date of this letter, no complaints have been reported or filed with the City pursuant to Pocatello Municipal Code §9.36, et al.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

RICHARD A. DIEHL, JR.  
Deputy City Attorney

RAD/jay  
cc: Pocatello City Clerk

I support House Bill 2, Add the Words.

Mary Dittrich, MD, FASN  
Boise Kidney & Hypertension Institute  
3525 E. Louise Drive, Suite 100  
Meridian, Idaho 83642

My name is Ryan Dockins and I'm from Boise, Idaho  
I am here in support of HB2

I just want to start by saying that people act unlovingly out of fear or out of ignorance and to see fear as a call for love and ignorance a call for understanding.

There is a scene from one of my favorite movies called 42. And in the scene Jackie Robinson has had to endure being discriminated against with racial slurs in the middle of a ball game. He breaks down in the tunnel because he can't take the abuse any longer. Harrison Ford's character consoles him by telling him that he's medicine. That because he was there in front of the whole world to see that that was what it was going to take to heal the white people of their racism. That's how they were going to learn to accept their black brothers and sisters. The black community has had to endure horrific experiences in order to heal people of their fear and ignorance. The LGBT community is today's medicine. They are here and will continue to grow and will continue to be the medicine that this world needs in order to heal. I feel like the LGBT community has been in the process of healing for a long time. More and more people are coming out and living their lives according to the gender they identify with and also loving the gender that they feel attracted to with more and more support of an understanding community. The moment a person chooses to come out and be who they really are I would say is the moment that the healing process has begun. I cannot say that I know that to be true since I'm not gay and I certainly don't want to speak for anyone, but for the sake of philosophy that's how I see it. The progress that the LGBT community has made towards healing won't stop whether or not this bill gets passed, but it will send a clear message on whether or not this state chooses to hinder that progress. To hinder the healing that has begun and is taking place. To vote no on this bill is to prevent the opportunity to heal the separation that is so desperately needed. To vote no strengthens that separation. I've learned in my life that love is always the answer. That love unifies, heals and transforms everything. Fear on the other hand creates and us vs them mentality. It makes us sick and it separates. As Bill Hicks would say The eyes of fear want you to put bigger locks on your doors, buy guns, close yourself off. The eyes of love instead see all of us as one. The choice in passing this bill is a choice between fear or love. And so I ask... Will you unite us or keep us separate?

This is not an issue that just effects a certain group of people or the LGBT community specifically. This is a bill that effects everyone. Can straight people not be discriminated against as well for being straight? This bill is all encompassing. It's not the "Gay rights act", but the "Human rights act" It protects everyone.

I am a spiritual person and I subscribe to A Course in Miracles as my source of spiritual teaching. Love is my only reality and the only thing that matters. It's the most beautiful thing in the world and it's what God is. God is unconditional love. God does not forgive because he has never condemned. He understands our innocence. He understands that we

are all doing the best we can within our own evolutionary state. That if people knew how to not create pain and suffering for themselves or others they wouldn't. They just don't know how, but are learning. There is a latin saying that is pronounced: Kw-ai no-kent doh-kent

Which translates to: Those things which hurt, they teach. We learn from our suffering and we suffer out of ignorance. To be made aware of the cause of suffering is to heal... That which loves you unconditionally is free of judgment and free of ego so we are given every opportunity necessary in order to do just that. That to heal is to love as God does. That is the opportunity that we are given everyday and that is the opportunity here today. To heal. I wish for you all to know inner peace, healing and miracles. Thank you and God bless.

I support Add the Words - Liberty and Justice for all!

Penny Lee Dodd, Boise, Idaho

Sent from my iPad



Please support the "add the words" bill. My family and I strongly support the idea that all men are created equal and deserve the same rights under all of our laws. Discrimination is wrong. Period. We all know that discrimination exists today and this would be a step forward that says we will not tolerate treating anyone as a second class citizen in Idaho.

Thank you for your support.

James C. Dodd  
2443 East Gloucester St.  
Boise, ID 83706

Please make this message part of the record.

I am in support of adding protections for all Idahoans so they can not be discriminated against on basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. All of us should feel safe in our home state, and be able to hold jobs or find a place to live on merits outside of how we look on the outside or who we are attracted to. This is not a religious issue, it is a humanity issue. There is nothing in adding the four words that will take away from anyone's religious freedom to worship as they see fit, yet there are many gains to be had by making Idaho a more inclusive place that is safe for everyone to live and work in. It is time for Idaho to make more strides toward the future, and adding the words is a good first step.

Thank you,  
Tamara Dooley  
Boise, ID

Representatives of the House State Affairs Committee:

Please vote to add the words protecting our LGBTQ community members. This legislation is long overdue. No one in Idaho should have to fear firing or eviction because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Help make Idaho safe for all its citizens.

Thank you,

Juan Carlos Duque

juan carlos duque | [themostrighteous@gmail.com](mailto:themostrighteous@gmail.com)

Please vote to add the words protecting our LGBTQ community members. This legislation is long overdue. No one in Idaho should have to fear firing or eviction because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Help make Boise safe for all its citizens.

Thank you,

Amy Duque  
5292 E Quarterpath Dr  
Boise, ID 83716

Dear Mr. Chairman & Idaho Legislators,

My name is Elyse Durand, I'm a junior at Boise High School, and a full supporter of House Bill 002. I originally grew up from the DC area, and have moved around the nation and Europe before settling in Boise three years prior. Being of an active duty military family who relocated on a consistent basis, I was exposed, from a young age, to all demographics, all walks of life. I've never felt myself to be above another human being solely based upon skin color, religion, political preference, sexual orientation, or whether or not they eat meat. We are all equally deserving of love, regardless of any external factor, in our control or not.

Being the perpetual "new kid", I learned early on that the best way to make friends and establish trust is to be open-minded, tolerant, and supportive.

Although it has been alluded to over the course of the hearing, passing HB 2 will not immediately create a safe and tolerant society for those of the LGBT community, it is a wonderful, and important place to start.



Progress is inherently tangible, and watching it occur is an incredibly beautiful and inspirational ~~process~~ process.

In the military, watching the aggregate atmosphere grow from a homophobic and transphobic, with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies to recognition & celebration of pride month in June.

Although I love to believe in the inherent goodness of people, we often tend to put our interpretation of the law above any previously established moral compass. Telling Idaho citizens it's legal to discriminate against gay or transgender people opens the doors for validating further discrimination. Passing HB2 will negate this horrible concept.

lastly, in previous civil rights movements, the only thing that came about from granting oppressed minorities legal rights and protection ~~is~~ is a more accepting and tolerant society.

A few have expressed concerns regarding backlash if we were to add the words. How intense will lawsuits & controversies be, and how will they affect our current order?

Yes, some public criticism is inevitable, and essentially unavoidable, but what overall, lasting harm has erupted from other successful civil rights movements? Has allowing African Americans to be equal citizens ruined opportunities for the rest of us? Has allowing women to vote ruined the voting process, or made our votes less valid? No! We are all fully deserving of basic human rights. All the pros heavily outweigh the cons of passing this bill.

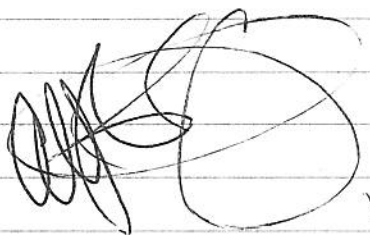
Adding the words is simply the right thing to do.

Thank you.

(please call or email questions to)

(618) 409-4749

elysedurand@gmail.com

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Elyse Durand'.

Elyse Durand

Dear Idaho House State Affairs Committee Members:

January 22, 2015

It is with a sad heart that I write this letter of support against the passing of House Bill 2, otherwise known as the "Add the Words" bill. What makes it sad is that one would never imagine that he or she would have to resort to writing a letter like this in our free republic. Due to my profile in the community as well as for the safety and well-being of my family, I write this letter, in lieu of taking a public stand, out of the fear of the bullying and the intimidation tactics which supporters of this bill and ones like it are known for nation-wide.

I will not insult this house committee's intelligence when it comes to the documented harassment, threats, and bullying which have taken place across our land of the free on organizations, businesses, individuals and groups which have taken a conscientious stand against such legislations like House Bill 2. Within our own state, we have already seen businesses threatened with lawsuits and/or taken to court in cities like Coeur d'Alene as a result of similar words added to their laws.

When individuals and entities can no longer stand on their convictions and consciences in a free society due to intimidating behaviors like those of the LGBT crowd and its supporters, that society no longer is free. And when fearing to take a stand against legislation like House Bill 2 is there, it truly speaks volumes about the legislation and its supporters. One would think that fear of this sort only occurs in communist or tyrannical societies, but the list of evidence can be found in volumes when it comes to the fact that this fear is present in America today. Sadly, that same fear is present in the great state of Idaho.

On the grounds of maintaining a safe and fear-free environment for all Idahoans as well as the ability for all – individuals, businesses, and organization alike – to have their stands of conscience and convictions upheld, I encourage this committee and your fellow lawmakers to vote against the passing of House Bill 2.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for your service to the people, that is to the state of Idaho.

David E.  
Middleton, Idaho

Benjamin J. Earwicker  
1508 S Riverstone LN APT 302  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
(208) 639-0019

Monday, January 26, 2015

Idaho Representative Christy Perry  
Idaho State Legislature

Dear Representative Perry,

My name is Ben Earwicker, and I reside in Ada County. I am a former small-business owner and former social worker for the Department of Health and Welfare in Caldwell and Nampa. I am currently Assistant Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies at Northwest Nazarene University and a resident of Idaho since 1997.

**I write to express my support of HB2 and urge you to vote "yes" to add the words "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the Idaho Human Rights Act.**

I know this is a controversial bill. This bill adds language that makes some in our state – some of your constituents – uncomfortable. Adding "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the Idaho Human Rights Act will draw the ire of some constituents, constituents who already enjoy the protections and provisions of the Human Rights Act. Voting "yes" is the right thing to do for all Idahoans, because it will ensure a more equal state and equal protection under the law for all citizens. I understand that this vote will not be without political cost, which is why I believe it is important for you to hear from everyday citizens like me who support HB2.

As a compassionate citizen and person of conscience, I believe that all Idahoans deserve fair and equal treatment under the law, regardless of status. Minority groups deserve equal protection precisely because their interests and status are not equally represented within and by the majority. In the case of sexual orientation and gender identity, you have heard compelling testimony today regarding the social pressures and psychological reasons that LGBTQ individuals may not report their experiences of violent crime, harassment, or bullying. The very real possibility and previous experiences of discrimination in housing, employment, and other daily interactions create an environment of pervasive and persistent fear. This is not a state of equality under the law. These are conditions of inequality.

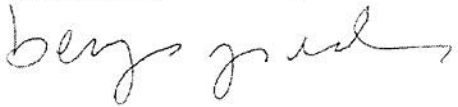
Many of my closest friends are gay and lesbian, and I fear for their safety and well-being. Voting "yes" on HB2 may not immediately change the social realities faced by my friends and other LGBTQ Idahoans, but it will immediately provide equal protection under the law. As we heard from city officials and others, codifying equality and equal protection creates a safe environment within which minority groups and individuals feel they can report violent crime and discrimination without fear of reprisal. This is good for our youth and good for the people of Idaho.

Those who oppose HB2 do so because of their moral and religious beliefs. I think it is essential to communicate the fact that extending legal protection to one group does not limit the legal or religious protections of another. Much of the testimony you heard today from opponents of HB2 expressed their deep convictions about sexual orientation and gender identity. Many of their opinions and beliefs were based on inaccurate information and stereotypes. I respectfully disagree with the opponents of HB2 and their religious beliefs. That is the beauty of our legal system, though; we can disagree on the basis of religion and faith, yet still enjoy the benefits of a legal system that provides equal protection under the law.

Can I count on your vote to add "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the Idaho Human Rights Act? Will you join me and other citizens of conscience to protect ALL Idahoans from violence, bullying, discrimination, and hate crimes?

Please vote "yes" on HB2.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Benjamin J. Earwicker".

Benjamin J. Earwicker, PhD



My name is Malori Eckersell. I live in Boise and I have for five years now. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I was born and raised in Idaho Falls, and I was born and raised with Idaho values. My great-grandparents homesteaded land in Eastern Idaho. My Grandpa Smith came back after WWII to raise his family. My dad is a potato farmer in eastern Idaho. My mom grew up in a small rural town. Both were raised in religious households and raised me with similar morals and beliefs. I graduated from one of our public high schools, Skyline High School in Idaho Falls. A high school, mind you, that true to Idaho values holds a commencement dance rather than prom, because prom has sexual connotations.

I attended both University of Idaho and Boise State. I received undergraduate degree from an Idaho institution and will shortly be receiving a Master's Degree from an Idaho institution. I love everything about this state and would love to live here and raise a family here.

I am an Idahoan and I am an ally. I implore you to pass this bill.

I stand here on behalf of all the LGTB kids I knew in high school, most of whom left the state after graduation to escape the discrimination and hate they felt on a daily basis. None of which have returned.

I stand here on behalf of those who never did reach 18 because they couldn't handle the torment and the bullying.

I stand here for any member of the LGTB community who chose to end their life early.

I stand here because as an ally, I will not be fired or kicked out of my home for testifying. I stand here because those who will most benefit from this bill are those who risk the most by showing support.

I stand here because there are people who cannot take the risk.

There has been a lot of talk about Religious freedom and beliefs. In America, we all have the right to our religious beliefs, but this does not give us the right to use our religious beliefs to discriminate against others.

In the 1960's, we saw institutions and individuals oppose the integration of restaurants because it was their sincerely held religious belief that God wanted the races separate. Universities denied acceptance to student who participated in interracial relationships.

These religious beliefs were no less sincere than the religious beliefs of those whose testimonies we have heard. In those cases it was recognized that integration was not about violating religious liberty but about ensuring fairness.

I invite everyone to look around you and remember where we are. We are not in a church but a government building. In this building, a different document reigns supreme. The Idaho State Constitution.

Article one, section two of the Idaho State Constitution explicitly states the government was instituted for the equal protection and benefit of the people. (Repeat for dramatic effect.)

Right now, the LGTB community is asking for nothing more than what the government was instituted to do- protect their rights equally. Their right to housing in the neighborhood they want to live, not just housing from a landlord that accepts them. The right to apply for their dream job, or any job, without worrying "heterosexuality" is a hidden qualification. Their right to exist based on their beliefs, and not the religious beliefs of their neighbor.

Please, add the four words. No more, no less. Thank you

My name is Aryeh Chris Einhorn. I go by my middle name, Chris.

Chairman and Committee, I would like to thank you so much for agreeing to listen to us all. Even greater is my appreciation for those of you who are *hearing* us.

I will start off by giving you some information about myself. I am absolutely terrified of public speaking. I'm a master gardener. I'm a crazy fast alpine skier. I'm gainfully employed. I'm a taxpayer and a voter. I'm under 35. I'm a Jew. I hold two graduate level degrees and I'm a Mensa member. I'm white, female, blue-eyed, and of French and German descent. I am just getting over a head cold. I'm an Idahoan, and an American. I also happen to be queer.

Except for maybe the having a cold bit, and I mean who wants a cold!?, I'm proud of all of these identifiers that are parts of who I am, whether temporarily or intrinsically. When I was looking for somewhere to move after graduate school, to get away from the big city, to live closer to the pristine beauty of the mountains and the rivers and the high desert, to find a place with an affordable cost of living, Idaho won on all those counts. I've been here over a year now and the majority of the time, I am proud to call Idaho my home. I moved here from a state where my civil rights as a general human being are protected. I moved here for all the reasons listed above and it never occurred to me that I should have checked to see if I would be protected in Idaho from unfair discriminatory treatment due to my sexual orientation or gender identity. I moved here as an American, believing that I would be treated the same as any other American. Unfortunately, as you have heard many of my fellows attest to, this is simply not true. It is also simply not acceptable.

I believe that adding the words 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' to the Idaho Human Rights Act will make a difference. I urge you to vote for House Bill 2.

I am not so naïve as to believe that all discrimination will suddenly stop. Kids in school will still be bullied until parents and teachers teach their children and show by example that bullying is wrong. Hate crimes still happen in places where sexual orientation and gender identity are protected by law, but the difference is that in



those places we can report those crimes and expect not to lose our jobs or our housing because we out ourselves in the process.

I was here yesterday and the day before as well, and I listened for hours, like yourselves, to people from both sides of this issue. I heard a mixture of support and opposition. Much of what I heard from the opposition was uninformed fear, and so I'd like to address that.

In response to those who believe that protecting my rights will in any way diminish yours: No. Religious protections are already built in to the law, and have been for years. Women are already protected by sex but the Catholic Church in Idaho isn't ordaining women. **When** these words are added, religious leaders will still have the right to marry or admit or hire for ministry whomever they want. Those protections are not changing.

This isn't about abortion, or religion, or Republican or Democrat or Libertarian, blue collar or white collar. This is about validating all Idahoans.

Monday, when I was listening to testimony against this bill, I was pained to hear a number of fellow Idahoans refer to me and other tax paying, voting, God-fearing, outdoors loving, Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual- and Transgendered Idahoans as animals, pedophiles, deserving of discrimination, and consistently less than. I would like to point out that these sorts of testimonies are precisely why we DO need these words added. I do not deserve discrimination. None of us are less than.

I will end with this point. By NOT approving this bill, you are actually harming Idaho. Land is inexpensive here and the cost of living is really quite good, yet major companies are unlikely to consider moving here because they consider the rights and quality of living of all of their workers, not just their straight workers. In a state consistently facing financial and educational hurdles, You cannot afford to turn away some of the best and brightest. Without these legal protections, you are going to lose me, and many more like me, both because we will move away and because never even consider coming here in the first place. Please consider the future of our state, financially, educationally, and ethically. Vote yes on House Bill 2 and Add the 4 Words. Thank you.

We should all operate under the same laws. I oppose "Adding the Words".

Thank you, Andi Elliott

On January 14, the legislature decided to consider the Add the Words bill after nine years of delay. I urge you to support and vote for this important piece of legislation.

Please protect the rights of all citizens.

H0002 would simply protect Idahoans from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, adding those words to the Idaho Human Rights Act. LGBT Idahoans are our friends, neighbors, and members of our families. They contribute to the economic health of Idaho, earn a living, and want to be able to provide for their families, just like everyone else.

Until we Add the Words, LGBT Idahoans are at serious risk of losing their jobs simply because of who they are or who they love. In fact, until we Add the Words every Idahoan is at risk - because we all have our own sexual orientations and we all have our own gender identities.

Thank you for doing the right thing to keep all Idahoans safe from discrimination.

Dawn Estrella  
2815 Perrault Way  
Boise, Idaho