

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 26, 2015

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW02

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Batt, Representatives Andrus, Luker, Crane, Palmer, Sims, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, McMillan, Bateman, Cheatham, Nielsen, Smith, Jordan, McCrostie, Wintrow

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheets will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of session. Following the end of session, the sign-in sheets will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

H 002: Continuation of the meeting of January 26, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Bob Compton, self; **Gregory Hamilton**, self; **Ben Baker**, self; **Adam Baker**, self; **Joanna Jones**, self; **Ralph Baker**, self; **Shirley Baker**, self; **Gary Lancaster**, self; **Pro-Life**, self; **Caroline Mendell**, self; **Ronalee Linsenmann**, self; **Sisto Zavala**, self; **Donna Young**, self; **Kristen Richardson**, self; **Clinton Kramer**, self; **Rhonda Kramer**, self; **Derek Cassel**, self; **Walt Bayes**, self; **Timothy Sterling**, self; **Curtis Bowers**, self; **Fred Kretschmer**, self; **Wesley Leavell**, self, spoke **in opposition** to **H 002**. They were of the opinion that the bill will prohibit religious groups from practicing their religious freedom and there are already laws in place to protect against crimes of discrimination and harm to others.

Patrick Smith, self; **Avery Matthews**, self; **Janelle Wintersteen**, self; **David Lincoln**, self; **Chelsea Lincoln**, self; **Philip Grover**, self; **Corey Hendrickson-Rose**, self; **Nathan Hines**, self; **Taylor Williams**, self; **Rabbi Dan Fink**, self; **Shaakirrah Sanders**, self; **Lashone Bareed**, self; **Dominique Gelsomino**, self; **Jon Young**, self; **Jenny Riley**, self; **Terry Shannon**, self; **Lisa Perry**, self, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. They were of the opinion that discrimination in the community should not be tolerated and passing the bill is critical to the growth of the state.

Bishop Ryan Thom, Episcopal Church of Idaho, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. He stated there are laws now to protect certain groups and that religious texts on the issue are ambiguous at best and it is hard to interpret regarding sexuality. He said that we should lead and aspire to show mercy and protection for all.

In response to committee questions, **Bishop Thom** stated the passing of the bill will create a larger atmosphere for discriminated people to receive help. He stated that society puts expectations on others in which our culture reinforces and we disassociate the people when they are different. He said pro-creation is evolutionary and sexuality exists on a continuum. He stated we should not discriminate against consenting adults regardless of their sexuality.

Danielle Lungren, self, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. She stated she has worked as a detective in Idaho for years. She stated she has faced discrimination herself for being a transgender woman. She said transgenders are not all sexual offenders and they should be protected as everyone else is.

Maryann Jordan, President, Boise City Council, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. She stated we need to protect the citizens. She stated the City ordinances were passed before the same sex issue came to Idaho. She said the biggest supporters of the anti-discrimination ordinances were businesses because they know discrimination is bad for business.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Jordan** stated there have been two complaints in the past year and they were resolved without the Court's assistance.

Carmen Stanger, self, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. She stated her daughter was discriminated against and harassed relentlessly in school because of her sexual orientation. She said she was threatened physically and committed suicide because of the constant abuse. She stated the bill would help eliminate bullying in schools against children of differing sexual orientation and gender identity.

ADJOURN: Due to time constraints, **H 002** will be carried over to the meeting of January 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary