

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2015
TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
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 5:05 p.m.

H 002: Continuation of the meeting of January 27, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

Cindy Gross, Chairman, Add the Words Campaign; **Mary Selena-Melhado**, self; **Linda Crozier**, self; **Terry Crozier**, self; **David Tufthill Jr.**, self; **Michael Base**, self; **Jim Busbee**, self; **Katie Durken**, self; **Larry Chase**, self; **Carol Growoski**, self; **Reverend Kenneth Watts**, self; **Astrig Wilde**, self; **Marc Schlegal-Preheim**, self; **Joseph Christopherson**, self; **Beth Lahny**, self; **Ben Wilson**, Board Member, Interfaith Alliance; **Marylynn Schuler**, former Director, Human Rights Commission; **Aaron White**, President, Idaho AFL-CIO; **Rick Just**, self; **Elliot Royan**, self, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. They were of the opinion that the legislation gives equal protection, not special protection.

Kelly Miller, Executive Director, Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. She stated if any one person's rights are diminished, all of our rights are diminished. She said gender violence is a broad category and is the root cause of domestic violence based on gender identity. She said there are over 550 people a day seeking services from Idaho domestic violence centers. She also stated public accommodations should be afforded to all gender identities.

Melissa Ruth, Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. She stated that as a licensed counselor she knows that people in the LGBT community want healthy relationships and family in the community. She stated that homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Diagnostic Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) because the DSM evolves with the times. She stated "exhibitionist disorder" is not linked to gay, lesbian or transgender persons. She stated we need to support the equal rights of everyone and that a hostile environment is created when society doesn't accept the science of gender identity differences.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Ruth** stated there are disorders like obesity that also affect a person's mental health but the distress level from sexual orientation is very high. She stated that transgender people do not go back and forth between genders, they choose one and seek treatment to obtain it.

Patrick Malloy, self; **Barry Peters**, self; **Linda Brown**, self; **Dan Owen**, self, spoke **in opposition** to **H 002**. They were of the opinion that the State does not need to provide services to special groups and implementation of this legislation would cost the State money.

ADJOURN: Due to time constraints, **H 002** will be carried over to the meeting of January 28, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary