

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 2015  
**TIME:** 8:30 A.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 Library.

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

He announced the hearing will continue until approximately 11:15 a.m. so the committee members can attend the floor session. He stated the meeting will reconvene at 5:00 p.m. this evening until approximately 8:00 p.m.

**H 002:** Continuation of the meeting of January 26, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

**Darryl Ford**, self; **Laurie Birchfield**, self; **Darryl Birchfield**, self; **Janet Bryant**, self; **Fairy Hitchcock**, self; **Daniel Stone**, self; **Lauren Walker**, self, spoke in **opposition** to **H 002**. They were of the opinion that the legislation is not needed due to existing laws and the bill will create a breeding ground for unnecessary lawsuits.

**Pastor Jeff Estes**, self, spoke in **opposition** to **H 002**. He stated the bill creates an atmosphere where people are afraid of lawsuits which will break down the community. He stated every person should have the right to live out their values and beliefs without the threat of being sued.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Estes** stated people of faith are being sued for their beliefs. He stated there are lawsuits around the country against people because of this type of legislation.

In response to committee questions, **Ken Connelly**, legal counsel, Alliance Defending Freedom, stated the current lawsuit filed in Houston, Texas was based on affects of a gender identity bill passed by the City Council in Houston. He stated the Mayor hired an attorney who subpoenaed the sermons of five pastors because they were bad mouthing the Mayor and his staff. He stated the legislation would require gender neutrality which puts businesses in difficult situations.

**Chairman Loertscher** turned over the gavel to **Vice Chair Batt**.

**Julie Lynde**, Executive Director, Cornerstone Family Council, spoke in **opposition** to **H 002**. She stated the legislation is bad for families in Idaho. She stated that the protection of women and children should be paramount and it is the law's job to protect them.

In response to committee questions, **Richard Eppink**, Legal Director, ACLU of Idaho, stated there is nothing in the language of the bill that would infringe on the rights of anybody. He stated it does not restrict the right of clergy to provide services. He also stated the legislation is in regards to laws regarding employment and housing.

**Vice Chairman Batt** turned over the gavel to **Chairman Loertscher**.

**Chief Mike Masterson**, Boise City Police Chief, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. He stated passing the bill is a matter of public safety. He said people should feel safe from harm and discrimination. He stated there were two formal complaints regarding discrimination which brought harm to others in 2013 and zero in 2014.

**DW Trantham**, self; **Tim Trantham**, self; **Barbara Abersold**, self; **Mary Evelyn Smith**, self; **Marci Glass**, Pastor, Presbyterian Church; **Andrew Kukla**, Minister, Presbyterian Church; **Teresa Hammer**, self; **Keith Blazer**, self; **Steve McPhereson**, Pastor, Baptist Church; **Brent Matthew**, self; **Paul Rolig**, Board of Directors for Humanists; **Barbara Fairchild**, self; **Tamara Darbin**, self, spoke **in support** of **H 002**. They were of the opinion that the legislation is needed to ensure people do not get harmed or discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**ADJOURN:** Due to time constraints, **H 002** will be carried over to the meeting of January 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Kasey Winder  
Secretary