

HB 2

TESTIMONY HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

January 26, 2015

Good Morning

My name is Julie Lynde. I am the Executive Director of Cornerstone Family Council Idaho. We work ~~help~~ make Idaho a place where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished.

I want to talk to you today on a few of the many reasons HB 2 is legislation that should be rejected.

I want to begin with a point on which I think we would all agree....every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any person regardless of the reason is to be repudiated.

HB 2 is marketed as a bill that would stop or diminish discrimination that is thought to be based on perceived opinions, thus creating equality. The proponents deny that religious freedom, free speech rights, or rights of association...God-given & Constitutionally protected First Amendment Freedoms would not be impacted.

The reality that has been experienced all over the country and right here in Idaho is exactly the opposite of their talking points and assurances.

Asking for your NO vote

HB 2 is an affront to our Constitutional Freedom of association, speech, rights of conscience and inhibits the free exercise of religion. It is, bad for Idaho, bad for the marketplace, bad for the church, and the public accommodation component makes it dangerous for women and children.

Four Words...It's just Four Words....just add them, we are told. But it's not JUST 4 little words.

It is 4 words that...in HB 2....have not been defined. Four words that have pages and pages of subcategories and definitions. Four words whose subcategories and their definitions are fluid.

Definitions can range from 3 main descriptions (Monosexual, polysexual, and asexual)with multiple tiers full of layers of subsets and definitions.....

The APA says that Gender identity refers to "**one's sense of oneself as male, female, or transgender**" (American Psychological Association,

2006). When one's gender identity and biological sex are not congruent, the individual may identify as transsexual or as another transgender category.

Sexual orientation refers to the sex of those to whom one is sexually and romantically attracted. Categories of sexual orientation typically have included attraction to members of one's own sex (gay men or lesbians), attraction to members of the other sex (heterosexuals), and attraction to members of both sexes (bisexuals). **While these categories continue to be widely used, research has suggested that *sexual orientation does not always appear in such definable categories and instead occurs on a continuum***

The Guidelines are available on the APA website at <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/guidelines.aspx>

FB has 51-58 different gender identities...in the UK, FB just added 21 more...The definition of Gender Identity and Sexual orientation...

The common theme is that the definitions of the 4 simple words is fluid...a continually moving goal post.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau less than 3% of the population identifies as LGBT. That means that over 97% of the population is required under HB 2 to act a certain way according to a designation that is undefinable. How do you know if you are even breaking this law...

Regarding hiring:

Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect in the workplace---both employers and employees. Employers should have the freedom to hire the individual whom they believe are the best applicants for the job and most likely to advance the mission of their particular business.

There are a lot of reasons people are not chosen for a job....and a variety of reasons that people are dismissed from a job. Defaulting to an accusation of discrimination based on a self-defined gender identity or sexual orientation lays the groundwork for expensive and frivolous litigation with a sue first ask questions later mentality.

The very threat of litigation can have a chilling effect on most small businesses in both financial cost and the cost to their reputation. How can that possibly be good for a thriving and diverse marketplace?

Religious Freedom:

Government should safeguard constitutionally-protected freedoms. ID lawmakers duty is to affirm and uphold constitutionally protected freedoms for all citizens of Idaho, not pass laws that threaten those freedoms

Both the United States and Idaho Constitutions protect freedom of expression from government coercion. Any new law passed in Idaho must respect every Idaho citizen's freedom of speech and freedom of religion..HB 2 grants special privileges and coercive power to a few at the expense of freedom for all.

Art. 1 Sec. 4 of the Idaho Constitution, entitled Guaranty of Religious Liberty states in part, "The exercise and enjoyment of religious faith and worship shall forever be guaranteed; and no person shall be denied any civil or political right, privilege, or capacity on account of his religious opinions...."

HB 2 opens a pandora's box that threatens that constitutional guarantee.

Ultimately, HB 2 creates a special class with special protections which undermines equality limits freedom. Idaho lawmakers shouldn't pick and choose who gets freedom and who doesn't.

Every citizen of Idaho has the right to live free, including family business owners. No state agency or elected official should use their power to coerce or force a citizen of Idaho, under threat of punishment, to surrender their constitutionally protected freedoms.

The proponents of HB 2 would have us believe that there is a viral denial of services to LGBT customers in Idaho.

In testimony promoting these ordinances at the city level, statements discussing rampant anguish incurred by LGBT citizens in Idaho have been made citing a variety of grievances..... often the catchphrase: "the violence must stop" has been used in the media. These grievances we given as reasons to pass the ordinances, even though few if any substantiated cases could be pointed to and no legal documents existed of complaints.

The idea was that the ordinances would provide the appropriate outlet for the aggrieved citizens and would "provide balance."

While no reports were filed prior to the ordinances, a FEB. 2014 FOIA request to all municipalities that enacted ordinances, indicates not one city had an issue to validate the need for the ordinance.

In contrast, across the country there are numerous examples of how these laws have been used to attack good hard working people in churches, schools, and businesses. These unfair and destructive situations have greatly burdened the individuals and businesses involved and prove as a warning as to the dangers these so-called equality inducing laws create.

As you know, the Hitching Post in Coeur d'Alene became ground zero in America last fall when the city council informed the pastors there that they would be forced to perform ss marriages, regardless of their rights of conscience, association, and free speech.

In mid-October, the interim Ex. Director for the ACLU, Mr. Morales issued a statement that the Chapel does not have to comply with the SOGI in Coeur d'Alene and then said this, "However, the ACLU would reconsider its position IF the Hitching Post begins offering secular services, such as providing flowers, cake, or hold non-religious ceremonies." www.lgbtnation.com

So if the Hitching Post wants to grow its business, grow its brand, it now does so under the ACLU's threat of litigation if the owners of the Hitching Post dare to do something non-religious as defined by the ACLU and the ordinance.

On the heels of the Coeur d' Alene issue, pastors in Houston had private conversations and sermons subpoenaed by the mayor under the Houston SOGI

To be given your first amendment rights only if the government agrees with your beliefs is wrong.

Public Accommodation:

The public accommodation component is objectionable on a level incredulity. The protection, privacy and safety of women and children is paramount. This CAN'T be negotiated.

Legally inviting men, heterosexual or homosexual into public restrooms locker rooms, and dressing rooms used by women and girls needlessly compromises the protection, privacy and safety of women and children.

I spoke with a woman who as a 4 year old was molested and as an adult attacked and raped. With tears in her eyes she said, "This bill can't happen.

I can't go into a bathroom and be confronted by a man. I can't relive that terror."

This isn't about whether a guy can wear a dress...it is about whether he can take off his dress in front of your daughter, your wife, your mother, sister, aunt, niece or the friend I mentioned.

In fact, since "gender identity" is self-defined, he doesn't even have to TRY to look female. He just has to say, "I am woman".

For any man of any sexual proclivity, who is inclined to attack women or children, bills like HB 2 provide a new lucrative collection of places to troll for victims.

HB 2 is bad for freedom, bad for Idaho, bad for the marketplace and the public accommodation component makes it dangerous for women and children.

Idaho is already a kind and tolerant state full of good, caring, compassionate people who are happy to live and let live.

In the end HB 2 is really about creating a special class and giving social engineers a license to bully fellow Idahoans and the marketplace.

I urge you to vote no and hold HB 2 in committee

Thank you,

Julie Lynde

Chief Mike Masterson 1/27/15

Testimony of Boise Police Chief Mike Masterson, January ~~26~~²⁷, 2015

Good morning Mr Chairman and members of the

and thank you for the opportunity to talk about the importance of "Adding the Words" as one of the final remarks I make as Boise's Police Chief.

It is fitting that I am here today as both myself and my successor, Chief Bill Bones feel the discussion around "Adding the Words" is – at its foundation – one of public safety... yours, mine, and every Idahoans.

We all have a stake in equal justice and fair treatment.

Public Safety is rooted in trust and justice.

Citizens must first feel a sense of safety before they can realize the other aspects of our society that make it functional and livable.

For myself and my colleagues in law enforcement, public trust and confidence is the basis for the social compact we have as police officers with those we serve. We need citizen trust for compliance with our laws... to solve problems and establish policing priorities for our communities.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, I'm DW Trantham and I live in Boise, Idaho. I'm like any other teenage girl, probably a lot alike, your daughters, or grandkids I like, makeup, mermaids, and fashion, but I've had to deal with more adversity than your average teen.....because I'm a transgender teen. I'm here to testify in support of house bill 2 and ask the committee to approve adding sexual orientation and gender identity into the Idaho Human Rights Act, nothing more, nothing less. The importance of this bill to me is to know that the people around me and I can live in a state where everyone is equal in not just hearts and minds, but in the laws that guarantee the rights, and protections that every Idahoan deserves!

I am here because I want to tell you my story. I was born a girl, but others thought I was a boy. I've had to fight all my life to receive acceptance. Living up to everyone's expectations of who I should be, felt like a costume, but not a fun one like a Halloween, but a suffocating one. Growing up as a transgender girl in Idaho has been very difficult at times mainly because of discrimination. I live a life where discrimination and prejudice is the norm. Schools used to force me to use the boy's bathroom and now the nurses. They treated me as if I was wrong, then made me feel different! Teachers, the people I was supposed to be able to rely on for a safe education, have called me it, sure, he, she whatever I am.. My whole life I've been bullied and even beaten up on a daily basis, I had built up so much self hate because of this, I've wanted to kill myself. This is all happened to me, in just my 13 years of life, imagine what a thirty three year old has gone through, and is going through! When I'm just trying to make a living, and stay alive. If we add the words, it gives me hope that I could be protected from the several forms of abuse I've experienced in my 13 years of life, it gives me hope that I can live in a state

that values me and respects me, as the women, I am growing to be, and am. I've appeared in the local news media several times voicing my goals, and dreams of acceptance for all.

But my story is just one story. There are many across our state. Many people fight the same bullying, prejudice, and discrimination that don't have the chance to be here in front of you to share their support for this bill. Since I have been given this opportunity to let my voice be heard. Imagine, if I was your daughter, or granddaughter, what sport time would u want me to play on? What cloths should I wear? What bathroom would u have me use? In closing, I would like to thank you for listening, and ask u again to vote in favour of house bill 2

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Tim Trantham. I live in Boise, Idaho. I am here in support of House Bill #2 and I request the committee to approve including sexual orientation and gender identity in the Idaho Human Rights Act. Nothing more... Nothing less...

You just heard my daughter's testimony. I am filled with pride after seeing her bravery in front of everyone here. I am a hammer-swinging, construction worker who has built all over the state of Idaho. I was at first very confused about trans issues. I did not even know what transgender was. After finding out that my child was transgender, I went through denial at first. I didn't know what to do so I did what many other dads might do. I decided to put an end to it, but it did not end.

I threw away makeup and girls clothes. They kept coming back. I would find Barbies and barbecue them on the grill. They kept coming back. I found notes that said I just want to die and I want to kill myself. I threw them out. They kept coming back. I saw the closeness and trust I had with my child had also gotten thrown out. I knew it was time to get it back.

I realized it was time for a change. I faced my fears and sought knowledge... then gave acceptance. When I learned about the high suicide rate in the trans community that is caused by lack of acceptance from family, schools, churches and many others in the community,

fueled by people just like me I decided to make it my mission to help not only my daughter, but also all of the others who face discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. I get the strength to do this by following my daughter's example. She has put herself out there on television and the internet so that others like her self will know that they are not alone. I see her struggles on a daily basis. Life is hard enough as a teenager... but imagine being a transgender teen with no protections in place to prevent these daily battles, from bullying... issues with physical education... and even which bathroom my child is allowed to use. Because there are no protections currently in place for the LGBT community... we must all be ready at all times to fight these battles alone.

The amount of time given to speak to you is short and many others wish to be heard. Thank you all for the opportunity. Please know that if a man like me can go from burning Barbies to buying bras, then there should be no chance for this bill to die in a committee filled with highly educated, elected officials who pledged to make Idaho a better state for all who live here, without exception. Please pass this bill or it too will keep coming back.

Read by Barbara Abersold, mother

Lauren Samball
1526 N Anderson
Tacoma, WA 98406
January 24, 2015

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the House State Affairs committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard in support of HB 2. I am first and foremost an Idaho native. I was born at St. Luke's. My memories of Idaho include playing rec soccer through high school, swimming for a swim team every summer, performing with my elementary fiddling group in countless senior centers and even on a float at one of the Centennial parades. My summers included family camping trips to the mountains of Idaho. I came out as a lesbian to my closest friends and family while I was in high school. Mostly I was given unconditional support, but I knew that I couldn't be my whole self if I stayed in Idaho. There were many people in my life that I purposefully didn't come out to because being gay was not socially acceptable in most areas of the state at the time. Being gay was only talked about in hush tones when moms got together to whisper about that punk girl who dyed her hair and started wearing spikes. "She was such a pretty girl. You know she's a lesbian now...." always followed by awkward silence. Two kids who I went to elementary school with committed suicide in their teen years shortly after coming out to their families. The community climate for gay youth was rough. Nineteen years ago, I proudly graduated from Boise High School and promptly left the state to attend university in Washington State. You wouldn't have known that I was gay just by looking at me when I left for college and you still wouldn't now. But the fear of being found out by the wrong person, someone who had power over me like a boss, a teacher, a landlord, was enough for me to know I wanted to be somewhere other than my Idaho home. My freshman year in college, my roommate found out I was gay and her mom demanded that I be moved to another room. The Dean of Students at my university supported me and told the mom that I would not be treated differently because of my sexual orientation. She was told if her daughter was uncomfortable, her daughter could wait for another room to open up and be the one to move. I knew that if I had been in Idaho, this would have been a very different experience. I never imagined that someone would stand up for my right to be exactly who I was and I knew I would never live in a place where I would have to hide again. While I visited Idaho for summers during college, my trips home at this point are much further apart. Even though both my parents and many life time friends still live in the area, I can't bring myself to consider living in Idaho even though I tell my friends all the time about all the great things I loved about Idaho growing up. I hope you will Add The 4 Words(No More No Less) and help the state of Idaho send the message that you are committed to protecting the rights of all of its citizen. These days, while my friends know I am gay, they are more interested in talking with me about my work as a teacher in high poverty elementary schools or one of my latest crafts. Being gay is only part of who I am, but it is critical for me to feel protected in being me so that I can share my other talents with my community. I look forward to the day when the State of Idaho commits to protecting the equal rights of all the other faceless gay and transgender citizens who want to contribute their gifts and passions to their local communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,

Lauren A Samball

To the members of the House State Affairs Committee
Regarding House Bill 2

My name is MaryEvelyn Smith. I have been a citizen of this state for 46 years and a citizen of this nation since my birth. I am a church member and deacon in my local church. I am a tax payer; I pay taxes every time I buy groceries or clothing, each time I register my car or purchase gasoline. I worked for the state of Idaho for nearly 31 years. I choose to live in this beautiful state, yet I do not feel entirely comfortable here. Living in any one of the cities in Idaho which have adopted non discrimination ordinances provides some reassurance. However once leaving those cities's limits anything could happen. There is no legal recourse if denial of service happens.

Should I have to move from my home where I have lived for nearly 21 years there is no guarantee that I could find an apartment that would rent to me. If my doctor were to retire I do not have full confidence that I can find another physician who would provide equitable health care. There is always the possibility that a restaurant or other establishment could refuse me service because of my perceived sexual orientation. If a business does not care for how I define my gender, I can be asked to leave or be denied service. Denial of service would not depend upon my ability to pay or how I am behaving, but only on the whim and pre-judgment of the service provider.

I know of people who have moved from this beautiful state because they did not feel totally free to be themselves. How much energy and creativity have we lost because of this? There are businesses that decline to move here because they cannot guarantee all their workers would be treated fairly. How many job opportunities and how much revenue has the state lost because of the lack of those guarantees.

Far too many young people in this state have killed themselves because they experienced prejudice, hateful behavior, and despair and they did not see any change in attitude or law that gave them hope. How many more will we lose? How many families will be grieving?

I urge you to vote yes on HB 2. Add the words "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to our human rights code. No more, No less. We must not allow our progress toward the full potential of America and Idaho be stymied by fear of equality for all. We all deserve legal protections.

Testimony in support of HB 2

Jan 27 2015

Rev. Marci Auld Glass,
Southminster Presbyterian Church
6500 Overland Road
Boise, ID 83709
www.marciglass.com
marci.glass@mac.com

Thank you , Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee.

My name is Marci Glass and I am the pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Boise. I'm here on behalf of the 200 plus members of my congregation who believe Adding the Words is the Christian thing to do.

*Sermons
online.*

While people pointed out already that you cannot legislate kindness, you can legislate equality under the law. And until people are willing to treat Idahoans with kindness, equality will have to do. I was concerned yesterday at the amount of hatred expressed toward Idaho's LGBT community in some testimony against this bill. What concerned me even more, as a pastor, is how much of that testimony hid behind the name of religion. Much of that testimony yesterday illustrates exactly why this bill is needed to protect people from hatred in the name of God's love.

*gay, r.
lesbian
trans*

As a heterosexual white woman, I acknowledge that I know nothing of discrimination in my own life. Those of us with the privilege to live our lives in comfort without fear of violence, exclusion, and loss should not equate the inconveniences we experience with the very real threats of violence and loss that jeopardize the lives of people who live without protection under the law.

I am here as a pastoral response to the pain I have seen inflicted on members of my congregation and on people in the community.

My call, as a minister of the Good News of Jesus Christ is to proclaim justice for the oppressed, and to stand with people as Christ would. Jesus offered radical hospitality, inviting all people to participate in the work of God's mercy and love.

So it is my deep commitment to the God revealed in Scripture and to the teachings of Jesus that I am here today to speak for adding the words.

Testimony to Idaho House State Affairs Committee in Support of House Bill No. 2

Paul D. Rolig
9877 W Ripley St
Boise ID 83704-2758
208-863-2521

2015 January 27

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Good morning. My name is Paul Rolig. I live in District 15 in West Boise.

Thank you very much for hearing this bill!

I am a member of the Board of Directors of Humanists of Idaho, and I am also a Media Contact for the Treasure Valley Coalition of Reason. TVCoR is an umbrella organization of half a dozen secular groups in southwest Idaho. I represent **non-religious** voters from throughout our state.

We **support this bill as written** because, as mentioned in The Affirmations of Humanism¹, “We attempt to transcend divisive parochial loyalties based on race, religion, gender, nationality, creed, class, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, and strive to work together for the common good of humanity.” It is way past time to extend this civil rights protection to our gay, lesbian, and transgender brothers and sisters.

Mr. Chairman, opponents of this act have claimed that it **creates special rights**, when the truth is it does precisely the opposite, namely, it **protects equal rights**. Why do these opponents **bear false witness** on this point?

They give other completely illogical arguments. Opponents have claimed that this act is not needed because there is no discrimination against gay and lesbian people now. However, now that this act is actually being heard, opponents suggest that they should be given **special rights** to be exempt from it – in other words, so they can continue to engage in exactly the kind of discrimination they have been claiming does not happen now.

The clincher is that they want to **base these special rights on their religion**. Our view is that all Idaho citizens should live by the same laws and rules. Idaho

HB-2-- "Add the Words". I am not writing to advocate for Gay Rights, nor am I writing to oppose Gay Rights. I am writing in support of Democratic principles and the values of Representative Government. HB-2 "Add the Words" is a bill whose time has come for a vote by the Peoples' House. Please pass this bill from the committee to the Peoples' House.

Let the whole of the Representatives of the Idaho vote, and let us see where the whole of Idaho stands on this issue. Denying passage of HB-2 will symbolize that this committee served only as a wedge to separate the People's Will from the Peoples' Legislatures.

David Heavener
Boise, Idaho

My concern for House Bill 2 to add the words sexual orientation leaves it open to allowing those who exploit children to say this is just their sexual orientation. They can then rent apartments, homes, etc. and bring children there to exploit them and the landlord cannot "discriminate" against them. This is not just a matter of conscious, but a grave matter of protection for the most vulnerable in our society. Please vote No on House Bill 2. It is too broad and would protect those who would harm our children.

Barbara Howard, MA

Associate Professor

bshoward@nnu.edu

208.467.8669

To the Idaho State of Affairs Committee,

I am writing to inform you of my opinion on the upcoming vote on H2B. I ask that you vote NO on H2B because I feel that passing it would take away some of the rights I currently enjoy as a resident of Idaho and the United States. I am for marriage between a man and a woman. I feel that the non discrimination rights do indeed discriminate one side while giving the other side tolerance.

For example:

- The religious liberty cases of the baker, florist, and photographer did not involve anyone saying they would not serve a gay individual. These business owners' only concern was being asked to participate in or facilitate a ceremony that conflicted with their religious beliefs.
- Nondiscrimination laws give special protections for LGBT citizens in all "Public Accommodations" including public restrooms, locker-rooms and showers. Some also include criminal penalties with potential jail time for those who do not comply.
- Even without an explicit "public accommodations clause," nondiscrimination laws set the stage for legal conflicts with freedom of religion and rights of conscience.

I have many friends who live in Idaho that I know have the same views as I do but may be uninformed that this vote is about to take place or feel that their voice may not count.

Thank you for your consideration and for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

Janelle Jenkins

State Affairs Committee –

Please vote no on house bill 2 and hold it in committee. The LGBTQ community has the right to make their own choices, but the rights of private educational institutions and businesses must also be protected. Add words to this bill threatens private businesses and educational institutions such as BYU-Idaho, which have policies against enrolling or hiring LGBTQ's. There are ways to satisfy the rights of all involved, but this bill is not it.

Sincerely,
Carol Jensen
2131 Cassia St.
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208)244-4175

Hello. My name is Kim O. Johnson. I am writing concerning HB-2.

People with gender identity should not have any right to force their agenda and associated problems onto others.

Their claim, to use public accommodations on the basis of their perceived sexual identity compared to their natural physical sexual gender, is objectionable for several reasons.

They claim that persons with the the natural anatomy of a male, but perceive themselves as female, are entitled to use any public accommodation of their choice.

Likewise persons with natural anatomy of a female, compared to their perceived gender as a male, claim the same privilege of using public bathrooms on the basis of their perceived gender identity.

This warped concept is being promoted for the use of of public school showers, college dorms and other places.

These warped perceptions are wrong for several reasons. Consider this one. What happens concerning the laws regarding indecent exposure?

Why do those who exercise their right of free speech to "--- add the words---" use the symbol of putting their hands over their mouths?

Vote NO on "---add the words---" .

Hello, My name is Sharyn Johnson. I'm calling about the "add the words bill" HB2. I am in opposition to it. I am worried that the bill will interfere with personal and religious freedom and I feel strongly about it degrading our constitutional rights. It is these rights that make America great I appreciate your service.

Respectfully,
Sharyn Johnson

Good Morning, I would like to voice my opposition to HB2, the "add the words" bill. This legislation sounds like a good idea on the surface but I worry about the unintended consequences. As I look at similar legislation around the country it seems that religious liberty and liberty in general suffers when such legislation is enacted. I do not believe in discrimination in general but certainly a business that offers individualized service should not be required to serve someone if it violates their conscience. To be convicted of a crime for doing so seems completely unjust. I appreciate your efforts on behalf of our state.

Respectfully,
D. Orson Johnson

Dear Representative:

Regarding written testimony on HB2 I want to request that you vote No!
This would violate the rights of Idahoans on many levels, including, the right of clergy to act according to their beliefs, derogatory effects on business, bathroom and locker room privacy for children and adults and the list goes on.

Please just leave the words out and vote NO on HB2.

Thank you for all you do to serve our great state.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Jones



Heart of the Arts

February 7, 2014

[Redacted]

RE: Request for Public Record,

Dear [Redacted]

Your request for public records [seeking information/data on # of complaints filed under the City's Non-Discrimination Ordinance, If any; 1) the date(s) filed 2) the basis the complaint was filed under (housing, employment or public accommodation) and the outcomes/determination of the complaint (i.e. was probable cause determined, dismissed for lack of cause, resolved by mediation, referred to courts, etc.)) noted above was originally received by the City Clerk of the City of Moscow on February 7, 2014. Your request for information falls under the Idaho Public Records law and the City Attorney, Roderick Hall, has reviewed this response.

The information you requested will not be provided because the documents you requested do not exist. No complaints have been filed.

The denial of a request may be appealed by filing a petition in conformance with the provisions of the Idaho Public Records law, Title 9, Chapter 3. Any such petition must be filed in the Second Judicial District Court of Idaho within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of the mailing of this response.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Stephanie Kalasz]

Stephanie Kalasz
City Clerk

Bill Lambert
Mayor

Walter M. Steed
Council President

Dan Carscallen
Council Vice-President

Art Bettge
Council Member

Wayne Krauss
Council Member

Tom Lamar
Council Member

John Weber
Council Member

Gary J. Riedner
City Supervisor

City of Moscow, City Hall
c/o Gary J. Riedner, City Supervisor
206 East 3rd Street
P.O. Box 9203
Moscow ID 83843
Phone (208) 883-7000
Fax (208) 883-7018

Website: www.ci.moscow.id.us
Hearing Impaired (208) 883-7019

PALOUSE



Knowledge Corridor

To the State Affairs Committee

Regarding testimony on HB2,

I am totally opposed to HB2 wherein the government of this great State of Idaho seeks to deprive me of my freedom to exercise my religion, speech, conscience, and to own, control and use my rental property according to my religion. I have covenanted with God to use my property for righteous purposes. The government has no right under God or the Constitution of Idaho or the United States to force me to rent my property for evil and wicked purposes totally against my religious beliefs, and to have it desecrated by wicked and perverse sexual conduct of men with men and women with women. The Lord declared such conduct as an abomination. If this bill is passed I will be forced to sell my rental property, or defend against very costly law suits of the the government and probably having to sell my property to pay for the legal fees, costs and fines. I believe that God is very displeased with this government trying to force upon his children in Idaho to rent their property for evil, wicked and abominable sexual conduct to take place thereon and totally against their inalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, which I believe includes the freedom of speech, conscience, and religion.

Sincerely, Steven L. Kauer

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, good morning. I want to talk about basic human decency and what is in our hearts. I will be brief.

I'm Jill Taylor Kuraitis, straight ally of my LGBT brothers and sisters. I have lived in Idaho 30 years, been married 33 years, have a son who is a veteran of Navy intelligence, and a daughter. They were raised in the Episcopal church, were Boy and Girl Scouts, have college degrees, write thank-you notes, take their hats off inside buildings, and are productive members of society. Our family values are just one of our strengths.

When you grow up loving someone who is gay, discrimination against them is unthinkable.

I grew up loving my brilliant Uncle Karl. He was a distinguished university librarian and a devout Episcopalian – the church to which more U.S. Presidents have belonged than any other - and a deeply loving and devoted person, stuck in the closet full of what he felt was required shame.

Uncle Karl traveled the world and sent me books of great literature and beautiful things from exotic places which I still treasure. We loved each other dearly.

My parents simply said, "Uncle Karl likes boys instead of girls" and showed their love for him. That was all that was necessary.

As he grew older, Uncle Karl became an even more devout Episcopalian and had great love for the church. Among his congregation it was known he was gay, and he was loved. But for him, the disapproval of society for being *just who he was* drove him to a breakdown.

The day he got home from treatment, Uncle Karl hung himself.

His note explained that he couldn't live with the derision, discrimination, and bullying he'd endured all his life.

When you grow up loving someone who is gay and who commits suicide, everything changes. *And the need for social justice, which should be present in all of us, is sharpened to the point of action.*

I choose to believe that everyone in this room endorses justice and fairness. I choose to believe that you who are inclined to vote NO on House Bill Two can change your minds after listening to days of testimony. I choose to believe that you can say, "You know what? I have listened to people here and have heard their unreasonable fear of people who are not like them, and I choose to reject that. I have listened to people here and heard stories of harshness, unfairness, pain, and sorrow, and I choose to support them."

Changing one's mind is a sign of true intellectual freedom, and essential for an intellectually honest society. I choose to believe you can do it. **You** are the ones who have a choice. You can choose to impose some people's irrational and nonfactual thinking on others who are their equals, *or you can choose to be champions of fairness and equality.*

When you love someone who is gay, as I do, discrimination against them is unthinkable.

And when you know someone who is gay –as all of you do - it **must** be the same.

Please pass House Bill Two, and thank you for your moral leadership against discrimination which I have faith you will show.

Jill Taylor Kuraitis
2031 S Springbrook Lane
Boise, ID 83706
(208) 863-9401
jillkuraitis@gmail.com

My name is Sondra Lambert and I am a voter in District 17. I would like to put the words in to protect everyone in this state. I have someone in my family who is gay. She is a wonderful person, a graduate of BSU, member of the United Methodist Church and good mother and grandmother. She should never be discriminated against in anyway. Please add the words and bring it up for a vote.

Sondra Lambert
5831 W. Elkhorn Dr.
Boise Id 83709
208-630-4697

Boise Valley Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minute Supporting a non-discrimination ordinance

For those persons unfamiliar with a Quaker minute, here is a brief explanation...

A minute is a statement of belief that our Meeting records for others to see, both now and in the future. This is recorded in our organization's minutes and held as a permanent record of our Meeting's convictions. It will become part of the history of The Boise Valley Friends Meeting. It can be used to stimulate thought and discussion among other Meetings and/or to inform various decision-makers beyond our Meeting of our deeply held beliefs.

The Boise Valley Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends supports the adoption of a city-wide ordinance in Boise that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

For over 300 years the Religious Society of Friends has struggled to understand and testify to our belief in basic human rights. We affirm again that there is that of God in every person. We are reminded that "where there is love and charity, there also God is present."

We are glad to tell in words as well as deeds the faith that is in us. We value the part we have in shaping the laws of our country.

Therefore, we endorse efforts to protect the civil rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our love and support is for all persons and is not based on the gender of the person they love.

Contact: clerk@boisevalleyfriends.org

Phone: Louis Landry, clerk (208) 890-0886

The Boise Valley Friends Meeting is a member of the North Pacific Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

1/27/2015

We submit this Minute in support of HB 2.

Louis Landry

Dear Chairman Loertscher and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing and listening to these people.

My name is Mike Lanza, I live in Boise. I am writing in support of HB2—but not because my wife or I face the discrimination it is intended to outlaw.

But we have many friends in Idaho who will be affected by adding the words “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the Idaho Human Rights Act. And they are good people who are no less deserving of equal protection under the law than I am. Many of them are raising children, who are growing up learning difficult and hurtful lessons about the meaning of equality and freedom in America, where equality may depend on the politics in the state where you live.

I believe Idaho must add the words because I believe in the American principal that all people have a right to be treated equally, and that we do not live in a truly equal society until all people share in that equality.

I also want my children to grow up in a state where equality is not in question. A majority of Americans believe that gay, lesbian, and trans-gender people deserve equal treatment under the law, and many of those Americans would not choose to live in a state that does not treat all people equally. That makes this very much an economic issue because the image we project to the nation affects Idaho's ability to attract smart, talented people. I want my children to choose to live in Idaho when they are grown.

When I listen to the arguments against adding the four words, I want to ask those people whether they feel comfortable saying the same about any other group. Would anyone believe it's right to deprive a person of equal rights because they are African-American? Jewish? Native American? Japanese? A woman?

We live in a society has in the past believed that people in those groups did not deserve the same rights as others, and in our past, that inequality was codified in law.

We now know that was wrong.

You can rightly be proud of yourselves for holding this hearing. But now that you have, it won't be enough to merely say you listened. Before this, you were only guilty of refusing to listen.

Now you will make a choice about this bill. This Legislature as a body, and you as individuals, will be known either for supporting the idea that, in America, we must keep the promise of equal treatment of all people; or you will be known for denying equal treatment to a specific group of people. You get to choose your legacy.

I believe all of you choose to be public servants because you want to do the just and moral thing when faced with difficult choices.

Adding the words is the just and moral choice. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely, Mike Lanza (Boise)

To the Idaho State Affairs Committee, I am writing to you to express my concern for HB2 before your committee. I currently live in Idaho [omit this if it is not true for you currently] and have studied Family Policy and the impact these kinds of ordinances have on various groups and communities at large. Although I am in favor of equality (in the truest sense of the word) and helping minorities, I am also in favor of helping minorities in a fair, wise, and constitutional manner. Here are a few examples of what I mean:

- Across America, wherever these nondiscrimination laws have been enacted, giving special protections to the LGBT community, it has been at the expense of the rights of others.
- The legal recognition of same-sex marriage creates conflicts with religious freedom, but it is the nondiscrimination laws that have been the legal vehicle to get those conflicts into court.
- Anti-discrimination laws do not protect all people. State and city laws that include the words “sexual orientation and gender identity” do not provide equal protection under the law; they provide special protection under the law. Special protection is not equal protection. With anti-discrimination laws, someone will ultimately be discriminated against.
- The religious liberty cases of the baker, florist, and photographer did not involve anyone saying they would not serve a gay individual. These business owners’ only concern was being asked to participate in or facilitate a ceremony that conflicted with their religious beliefs.
- Nondiscrimination laws give special protections for LGBT citizens in all “Public Accommodations” including public restrooms, locker-rooms and showers. Some also include criminal penalties with potential jail time for those who do not comply.
- Even without an explicit “public accommodations clause,” nondiscrimination laws set the stage for legal conflicts with freedom of religion and rights of conscience.
- Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, but no one should have to choose between making a living, and living their beliefs.

Please vote “No” on HB2.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brandon Larson

--

Thank you,
Brandon Larson

Dear State Affairs Committee,

Regarding written testimony on HB 2

I find it interesting that we are calling this a non-discrimination bill when it sets the stage to do the exact opposite. This bill is more aptly described as a wide-reaching pro-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender bill and it is a direct threat to the rights of all who live and work in our state.

This bill seeks the power of government to force individuals and businesses to affirm homosexual conduct and gender identity issues or face criminal penalties and fines. If this bill advances, you will be sending a direct message: The rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens are more important than the rights of citizens who do not fall into one of those categories. State and federal laws already prohibit discrimination against race, color, national origin, sex, and religion. This proposed bill seeks to elevate sexual preference to a legally protected class.

The verbiage of this proposed bill is couched in non-discrimination language but, without question, discriminates against people, like you and me, who want to live by our own personal convictions and values. We strongly believe that no one should suffer from discrimination and that each person is entitled to his or her own rights and beliefs. Yet, those who oppose this ordinance have been labeled as ‘intolerant.’

Tolerance should not be defined as casting aside and acting against one’s own beliefs to accommodate someone else’s. Simply put, the homosexual community wants us to tolerate their behavior and beliefs but does not want to give the rest of us that same courtesy. On top of that, they want to use threats of criminal prosecution and fines to accomplish our acquiescence. Here are two practical points I would like you to seriously consider:

1. Under the proposed bill, ladies’ restrooms will be open to men who feel or claim to feel that they are women. As a result, restrooms, showers, and locker rooms throughout Idaho will be open to sexual predators that can use this proposed bill as a cover of protection to violate women and children. For example, a biological male could claim that his perceived gender identity is female, walk into a women’s restroom, locker room, or shower and, under this bill, and he—not women and children—would be protected. The business owner could face prosecution or a lawsuit if he asks a man to leave a ladies’ restroom. Makes me wonder if this bill shouldn’t be called “The Sexual Predator’s Protection Act.”

2. This ordinance offensively violates Idahoan’s rights as American citizens. By proposing this bill, this legislature is basically telling local businesses: “Believe as I believe or close your doors.” Consider the case in Colorado in which the owner of a bakery refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The baker was sued for standing by his beliefs and for declining to celebrate and condone a same-sex marriage. Under the proposed bill, this same situation in Idaho would result in a taxpayer-funded investigation of the baker, a costly lawsuit for the state to pursue and for the baker to defend (in our already crowded judicial system), and criminal and financial penalties for the baker.

And we are doing all this to remedy a problem that we have only anecdotal proof even exists? We already have laws on the books that protect people from violence and discrimination. So why would

anyone on this committee want to compromise the safety of women and children? Why would you give one group of people a legal club to beat down others who disagree with them – particularly when it appears that there is no compelling reason to do so?

Finally, as my elected representative, why would you support the creation of a bill that will allow another person's rights to trump mine?

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Kelly Larsen
392 Jupiter Hills Dr.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
208-789-4800

Mr. Chairman and members of the House State Affairs Committee, my name is Mel Leviton and I'm here today to testify in support HB2. I'm a resident of District 16 in Boise. I represent myself.

I'm a longtime resident of Idaho, parent of adult children, grandparent and tax payer. Much of my own story has been shared in the last few days with more relevance because it regards abuses, harassment and discrimination that still happen today. I was beat up for being a Tom-boy in Ammon 45+ years ago, in California as one of the first young girls to play Little League and in the Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene area during my teenage years because I didn't fit the mold. I made multiple suicide attempts. I was terminated from City employment in Pocatello 18 years ago because I was suspect. I've been refused service in Moscow based on someone's perception of who I am. Let me be clear. I am a lesbian. I've been pulled into court for custody of my children based on that one thing. I'm generally private about my life, believing if I live as who I am without hiding, people will be generally respectful. For the most part, as a now middle aged woman, my belief holds true.

I had until this afternoon, resisted a request for reasonable accommodation to speak sooner, based on my disability. Others have as much need, perhaps more to speak as I. However, my health demands that I get out of this chair soon. I am already part of a protected group in both state and Federal law, based on my disability. I work in the disability rights field. When I thanked my executive director for his support and told him that his support and that of my supervisors and co-workers would be part of my testimony, I also jokingly told him not to worry, I wouldn't mention our name. He didn't miss a beat. He said, "Please, do." I do not represent DisAbility Rights Idaho (DRI). That is the generally the job of our executive director, Jim Baugh and specifically related to issues affecting the disability community. However, I do work there. DRI had a non-discrimination policy in place when I started working there more than 11 years ago. We have had domestic partner benefits, since the year after Regence began issuing such group policies in the state some 6-7 years ago. Asking for that benefit was really scary. I was afraid that might push too far. It wasn't and here I am.

We have had great difficulty finding accessible housing since we sold our home in Moscow seven years ago, both in Moscow and then here in Boise. We found, that though protected under state, federal and local law, my wife's calls for places would not be returned more than 50% of the time. Yet my calls were returned. Could it have been her last name, clearly of Hispanic origin? We didn't have time to pursue it further. We just wanted a safe place to live that we could afford. We put out the word to anyone who would listen that we needed a place. I was contacted through a complete

stranger by the owner of a small, totally accessible house. The house was amazing: 1100 square feet, built totally accessible. I've never lived in a house since acquiring my disability that was so user friendly to me – It has a toilet and a shower that I can use without squeezing and angling for painful transfers. It was a dream. However, the landlord who lived next door would not budge that he couldn't allow for roommates. The sunroom was not up to code as a bedroom.

I could have asked for a reasonable accommodation saying that I need 24/7 help. People often assume that my wife is my caregiver. She is brown and I clearly cannot manage on my own... Usually, we let them assume. Not to deceive, but because it is our private concern and our lives are too busy to give full testimony about who we in public places. Instead, I held my breath and told the owner that we are a couple. He said that changed everything of course, and rented us the house. He and his family live next door.

As I said, in housing, bathrooms are critical to me. Here these last few days and other times I have been here for meetings, and other events I have been acutely aware of the lack of accessible bathrooms in the newly remodeled Capitol. The accessible women's bathroom has been out of order during much of the week. The next closest one is two floors up, through a maze of elevators. I have a medical condition that requires the timed use of a bathroom. Most of the time, I simply use the men's bathroom when this occurs. However, in light of recent testimony, I have not done so. It has been like being in the second grade again. So many people want to tell me I'm in the wrong bathroom, no matter where I go. I find I do get more of a pass with the wheelchair... or helpful people who want to push me the "right way."

My friends in the disability community have many reasons to file complaints and lawsuits around this state of our. Reasonable access, means parking, accessible aisles in stores, it means doctors and lawyers offices can be entered and I can gain access to an exam bench. I am here to tell you that these things are most often not in place. Yet we haven't filed innumerable lawsuits as we surely could. There is currently a complaint through the Department of Justice related to Capitol access.

Lawsuits regarding just these issues take place regularly in Florida and California. Generally they are settled out of court for \$10-12K each. Often they could be seen as frivolous, because the same people file over and over. I don't like that. However, I am not responsible for what they do. I cannot account for the actions of people across the country regarding disability and more than I can for the LBGTQI community.

Our system is different in Idaho than it is in these other states. Our judges and juries tend not to make punitive awards. We use a complaint process through agencies like

the ICRC or Intermountain Fair Housing Council. Like DRI, thoroughly investigate and seek to mediate resolution in the least adversarial manner possible. Is it always possible? No. Can people hire private attorneys? Yes.

In my work, I tell clients that it can be difficult to substantiate allegations of discrimination through the complaint process or the courts. The bar is high. It is a right to work state. If someone wants to not hire me or fire me, they can. Do I not get interviews because of my disability? Unlikely as it isn't part of my resume. Do I not get hired because of it? Could be, but most are smart enough not to say it out loud. The same can be said for race, color, ethnic background and age. It can be very hard to prove. People get to be jerks as long as they are jerks to everyone. Unfortunately, some people are.

I travel for work. Being what I'm told is an obvious lesbian, using hand controls and a wheelchair, can make travel to parts of the state scary. Will adding sexual orientation and gender identity make me less careful? Less afraid? No. Will it stop discrimination? No. But it will reduce it over time. Will it change hearts? Again, over time. Our civil rights laws change nothing overnight. We still work toward ending housing, employment, public access discrimination among groups already protected by law.

I have great pride in Idaho's disability statutes. I teach people with disabilities about their rights under the law. I teach them to people in schools at summer civics camps and in mental health care facilities. Does the fact that a person with a guardian in Idaho can vote make a polling place accessible if it cannot be entered? No. It does not. But the fact that we are included is a source of pride when we visit other states that do not provide the same protections that we have in Idaho.

Will adding the words sexual orientation and gender identity end discrimination for the LBGTQI community? No. But the pride in knowing that our state has included us in Idaho civil rights laws will be a start.

My name is Leslie Madsen-Brooks, and I live here in Boise. I am straight, married to a man, and a mother.

Like many people in this room, I was not born here. I have lived in many places in the U.S., both red states and blue states, and I have traveled through most of them. Idahoans take rightful pride in many of the state's traditions and beautiful landscapes. These make it special. However, Idaho is an outlier in other ways as well.

As a professional historian—I am a history professor—I have realized that Idaho is 50 or more years behind much of the nation. But I don't have to be a professional historian to tell you that. Let me speak from lived experience.

We've been hearing a lot in this room about how if Idaho bans discrimination against LGBT people, we'll be starting down a slippery slope that heads toward some kind of physical and cultural hellscape. Let me tell you a different story. Forty years ago, I was born into, and subsequently raised in, a respectable, middle-class neighborhood where at least 25% of the homes in my street were occupied by gays or lesbians.

It was a vibrant neighborhood, full of families with children who went to the nation's best colleges and universities. Today, the neighborhood appears to be more than a third, if not half, LGBT, and it is full of professionals and business owners, some of whom own and run restaurants and shops in the community. In large part due to the care of these professionals and their families, the neighborhood remains beautiful and prosperous—the already aged house my parents bought for \$28,000 in 1969, for example, is now worth approximately \$1.5 million. The large windows of these beautiful homes are often uncovered; we can see right through them into the backyards where dogs romp and children play. It feels safe, this transparency.

Here, however, my colleagues and students tell me of living in fear, quietly behind closed doors, hiding their identities. The few LGBT couples I have identified in my neighborhood, I have noticed, tend to keep their blinds and curtains closed and rarely appear together in the front yard. There's an opacity that suggests fear.

In my neighborhood—I live near Boise's LDS temple—I feel as if I have time-traveled to a decade before I was born. Idaho cannot rightfully take pride in being thus different from many states. Denying a group of people their human or civil rights because of an immutable characteristic is shameful. It doesn't

just affect their lives; it affects my life—my neighborhood life, my community, my family.

It affects my son. He is nine, and has not yet expressed his sexual orientation. However, I am so relieved he was not here to hear the words of hate emanating from this podium earlier in the testimony. It is my greatest wish that he and his friends grow up without that kind of hate and the fear and violence it engenders.

My name is Malori, and 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 dad is a local potato farmer in eastern Idaho. My mom grew up in a small rural town. Both were raised in religious households.

I graduated from one of our public high schools, Skyline High School in Idaho Falls. A high school, mind you, that 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 Idaho values. I am also an ally, and I implore you to pass this bill.

I stand here on behalf of all the LGBTB kids I knew in high school, most of whom left the state the second they turned 18 to escape the discrimination and hate they felt on a daily basis.

I stand here on behalf of them and their families who are forced to deal with the distance and separation because of the unwillingness of this state to recognize the discrimination that is very much taking place against these wonderful people.

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 LGBTB 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.

There has been a lot of talk about Religious freedom and beliefs. Religious freedom has long been used as justification for discrimination. 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 who do not share them.

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. 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. The 14th amendment of the United States Constitution ensures equal protection of the citizenry. I know how we feel about federal overreach so lets take a look at the Idaho State Constitution. Article one, section two of the Idaho State Constitution explicitly states the government is instituted for the equal protection and benefit of the people.

Right now, the LGBTB community is asking for nothing more than what the government claims to do, which is to 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.

 **JUNO** Message Center

From: "MCLEOD, RENATA" <RENATA@cdaid.org>

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Mon, Feb 10, 2014 11:55 AM

Subject: Public Records request regarding non-discrimination complaints

Renata McLeod.vcf (5KB)

[REDACTED] The City of Coeur d'Alene does not have any records in accordance with your request, as no complaints have been received pursuant to our Non-discrimination code. Please note it is my understanding that the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations received one complaint, which they were able to mediate. Thank you. Renata McLeod, City Clerk

Renata McLeod

City of Coeur d'Alene
City Clerk

(208) 769-2231 Work

(208) 691-6207 Mobile

RENATA@cdaid.org

710 E Mullan Ave

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814



333 N. Mark Stall Place
Boise, ID 83704-0644
www.cityofboise.org
www.boisepolice.org

February 11, 2014

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORD

In response to your request for a copy of a public record, there have been no complaints or cases filed under the Non-Discrimination Ordinance..

Sincerely,

Rosemary Miko
Records Custodian
Administrative Support Division
(208) 570-6041



Representatives,

I urge you to vote nay on House Bill 2. I am an 18 year old female and if this bill is passed I will not be able to use any public restrooms in Idaho without fear for my safety. This bill will make co-ed bathrooms legal in Idaho. Please stand on principle and protect Idaho's youth - oppose House Bill 2.

Thank you,

Julie Monaghan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Monaghan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

My name is Mona Morrison, and after hearing yesterday's testimony, I promise to keep my remarks brief.

I work in Boise as the manager of a small business. I am an Idaho native; the mother of four and grandmother of eleven, all of whom still live in Idaho.

I am not by nature a joiner of causes, but I am here today to keep a promise made to myself as a sixteen year old. I was a rather odd kid, and was fascinated by politics and particularly the history of World Wars I and II. I read every book on the subject I could get my hands on from the Twin Falls Public Library, and the more I read of genocide and the Holocaust the more puzzled I became. How could these atrocities take place among what was by Western standards a highly advanced society? We looked up to their scientists, their philosophers, their musicians, their engineers.....how could so many good people allow this to happen?

The answer finally hit me when reading a particular memoir, and I'll roughly paraphrase here – "...at first, it was just about the Jews. They came for the Jews. Well, I wasn't a Jew, and I didn't want any trouble for me or my family, so I thought I'd just lay low. Then it was about the dissidents – same thing; I'll just go quietly about my life. We didn't need any trouble. Then they came for the intellectuals, and then for the artists, and by that time nobody dared to speak up or they would be coming for us."

At age sixteen, I made a promise to myself to never sit quietly by when anyone was being pushed around, even if it didn't seem to be about me. That was many, many years ago.

Fast-forward to Idaho in 2015. I cannot in good conscience fail to stand up for the rights of my friends, my neighbors, my co-workers, my family, even for strangers, who are being denied the basic human rights the majority of us take for granted. If it affects them, it affects me. If it affects them, it affects all of us. I strongly urge you to protect the rights of all Idahoans, and support HB-2.

11/27/15
Mona C. Morrison
1534 Shenandoah Dr
Boise ID 83712

I was at 2 days worth of hearings
but cannot miss a 3rd day of work.

As a high school student here in Boise, I spend all of my day (and many hours outside of it) with the youth in our community. I see firsthand what they are capable of doing with their futures. They will make a mark on the future through their grit, compassion, intelligence, and drive. I know that one they leave my school, they will go out in the world, find their place in it, and leave an indelible mark upon it.

I remain deeply concerned, however, about those students whose gender identity or sexual orientation continues to put them at risk for state-sanctioned discrimination and mistreatment here in Boise, Idaho. I think less about the mark they will leave upon our community once they leave the walls of our school, and more about the mark(s) our community may leave upon them if our state's anti-discrimination laws continue to reflect the belief that they are less valuable, less worthy of protection than their peers. I do not believe that a child should have to recover from their childhood.

Kirsten N. [cucumberken@gmail.com]

Dear Esteemed Committee Members:

I have been watching the hearings and would like to comment also.

It has been said that we should do "the right thing." What is the right thing? Just what our society has deemed it to be? There is to be no higher authority?

I would like you to think about what God wants in this. It is clear in His Word that homosexuality is sinful behavior, and we should not protect such behavior.

Vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Nellis

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

As a resident and business owner, I want our laws to protect everyone from discrimination. This is what I want for my kids. This is what I want for my employees. This is what Idaho needs to attract quality businesses who care about these kind of issues.

Please support HB2. Thank you for your consideration.

Deborah Nelson, Boise

HOUSE HEARING ON HR 2

JANUARY 26, 2014

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Bob Neugebauer, I 'm publisher of the Gem State Patriot, an electronic newsletter with over 25,000 readers in Idaho.

I'm here this morning speaking as a small business owner to tell you that adding the words to the Civil Rights act would be an unwise decision. When you grant certain rights to one group of citizens, it will inevitably lead to an imposition on the rights of others. Adding these words is going to affect many small businesses as we have seen by the legal challenges in other states which have proceeded down this path. These words "sexual orientation and gender identity are not even defined. This leaves the interpretation to the courts, and they will decide how to apply them. Businesses will be challenged in the courts for denial of public accommodation because of their religious beliefs. We have already seen many cases where the courts have used very broad interpretations of the words public accommodation. **This change could actually work against the people it is supposedly designed to help.**

Businesses will become exposed to lawsuits which could adversely affect them by limiting their ability to hire and fire employees. If a small business owner is suspect of an individual's sexual orientation, they could choose not to hire them for fear of future lawsuits should they fire that employee for poor performance?

Some business organizations will proclaim that adding these words will show Idaho has come of age as a diverse state, and that this will encourage businesses to come here. **Nothing could be farther from the truth.** After 40 years as a small business owner dealing with businesses from Boston to L.A. as a financial advisor, I will tell you from experience that out of the hundreds of CEO's I have had dealings with, not one has ever said they are moving to a location because of its diversity. Fact is that companies don't like legislative changes like this one that could affect their business. They are looking for stable places without onerous government regulation, places with good infrastructure and access to an educated workforce.

Idaho already is a diverse state whose citizens are some of the most tolerant in the country. Why would you want to add these words and cause more controversy and potential legal complications? You must ask yourselves the question, **Is adding the words actually going to make it easier to run a business in Idaho or are we setting ourselves up for an entirely new set of problems.**

Small business is the life blood of our country. Jim Clifton, CEO of Gallup recently wrote about the decline of small business in the U.S. "For the first time in 35 years, we have crossed the Rubicon and the number of small business deaths out number small business births." Last year 400,000 businesses were born but 470,000 died.

OVER

I support House Bill 2.

Please Add the Words

Christine Nienstedt
2011 E. Roanoke Drive
Boise, ID 83712

Adding the Words – Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity to the list of protected, do not discriminate against, Legal list, is Wrong, immoral, and a danger to our way of life in Idaho. Every citizen of Idaho has the right to live free from government intrusion, including family business owners. Idaho has long valued Family values. The government shouldn't dictate to business owners—regardless of sexual orientation—whom they can hire or who they must serve. Passing laws that give special status or that guarantee special protections for some, but punishes others, is reckless and undermines true diversity and equality.

In the old Russia they executed all open homosexuals. I am not suggesting that, but we should recognize that they have a sickness. Everyone should be free to go to a public restroom without fear about what they might see or what might happen to them inside. Legally inviting men, even those who are sexually confused, into the public restrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms used by women and girls needlessly compromises the protection, privacy, and safety of our women and children.

Clergy men shouldn't have to choose between speaking freely from the pulpit or giving up their freedom of speech & religion under the threat of punishment. Pastors and Bishops should have the right to perform marriages and deny their services as they see fit according to the dictates of their consciences. I believe that most Idahoans still believe that Marriage is a sacred institution, the union of a man and a woman; which constitutes a new family, where children can be invited to join that family and be raised with morals and decency.

Thank you for listening to me, thank you for serving our great state of Idaho, and may God bless you and guide you as you shape our laws.

Sincerely,
William B Patterson
2690 S Ammon Road
Ammon Idaho 83406