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Portland, Oregon

April 10, 2015

Rep. Martin Carbaugh,
Rep. Dale Devon,
Rep. Douglas Gutwein,
Rep. Kathy Kreag Richardson,
Rep. Don Lehe,
Rep. Donna Schaibley

Dear Representatives Carbaugh, Devon, Gutwein, Kreag Richardson, Lehe, and Schaibley,

I recently purchased the domains for each of your names. To be honest, I was surprised that these were not already purchased, since all of you are elected officials having run political campaigns. Regardless, while purchasing these domains may seem aberrant or out of the blue, it really is not.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act, more aptly known as the Right to Discriminate bill, was a poor example of officials grossly underserving their constituency. To be more specific, it was an example of you six, as well as your colleagues, grossly underserving the people of Indiana and America. I purchased these domains to help educate you about the population you are trying to undermine.

The domains for each of your names now forward to the Human Rights Campaign's page on Youth Statistics. Some of those statistics are quite startling: 42% of youth say the community in which they live is not accepting of LGBT people; LGBT youth are twice as likely as their peers to say they have been physically assaulted, kicked, or shoved at school; 92% of LGBT youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBT. The list goes on.

Why did I forward those domains to that page? To show you the population you are trying to further undermine is already disadvantaged and have less accesses to family, community supports, and healthcare. A disproportionate number of homeless youth are LGBT; why would you support a bill that lets organizations turn these people away?

The RFRA bill was an obvious example of retaliation for marriage equality being allowed in your state, giving people and businesses the ability to refuse service to someone – or a group of people – for any reason, as long as they cite “religious objections”. What you seem to have forgotten, however, is this fight has already been fought in the 1950s and 60s with the culmination of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. At that time, the legislation only included barring discrimination on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. I fully believe that that act will be expanded in the future to include gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation. In the meantime, barring services to an already stigmatized population shows the singularity and self-serving agenda you are promoting: that discrimination against LGBT people is perfectly fine. Eventually, queer people will have the same rights as their heterosexual counterparts, but why undermine them in the interim? Why not protect everyone you serve?

Governor Michael “Mike” Pence, now on holiday in Europe I believe, recently stated, “I don’t support discrimination against anyone.”

If Indiana, your governor, and you as House Representatives do not support discrimination, why not support the bill Freedom Indiana is proposing: a statewide nondiscrimination policy protecting LGBT people? This would ensure LGBT people are treated in the same way as their heterosexual counterparts and given fair and equal access to services and businesses. It would ensure that people cannot be arbitrarily turned away for perceived “otherness”. Contact Jennifer Wagner, spokesperson of Freedom Indiana, and she will be happy to talk with you about the nondiscrimination proposal.

If you bring to the floor a nondiscrimination policy protecting LGBT people in Indiana, vote for it, and it is passed, I will happily donate the domains in question to you. I’m sure they’ll come in handy come stumping season.

Live up to your word. Protect your constituency from discrimination. Protect a minority population. Do so, and I’ll happily sign over the domains.

I am looking forward to hearing your response,

Konrad Juengling