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We are calling you, as members of congregations in Texas, to speak out. Your state legislators need to hear from people of faith on this issue. Religious freedom is vital to Lutherans and to all people of faith in our country, but this revered value is being used in these bills to hurt rather than help. Instead of allowing us to live amidst our differences, these bills are facilitating discrimination, making reconciliation between God's people more difficult.

- Write letters to the editors of your local newspapers of record. Visit www.RWKS.org/TX-letters to get started.



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- Testify at hearings at the state capitol when these bills come forward.
- Present educational forums in your congregations and synods.
- Talk with your families, friends, and congregation members to let them know how your love for God and your neighbor leads you to advocate—in civil life, in teaching, in preaching—that these bills need to be stopped before they become law.

Visit www.RWKS.org/RFRA-faq for a list of frequently asked questions.

The 1991 ELCA social statement, *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, provides a firm foundation for advocating in the public sphere, stressing the Christian’s “*responsibility to defend human rights and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well-being, and good order in public life*” and to “*recognize the vital role of law in protecting life and liberty and in upholding the common good.*”

Additionally, we highlight the ELCA’s commitments made in the 2009 social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, declaring its support for “*legislation and policies to protect civil rights*” for all and, in our call to “*welcome, care for, and support same-gender couples and their families*” to also “*attend to the need for equal protection, equal opportunities, and equal responsibilities under the law.*”

Please join us in the work to ensure all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Texans are able to live free of discrimination.



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