ACTION NEEDED FROM LUTHERANS:

Write a Letter to the Editor of Your Paper!

Did you know letters to the editor are one of the most read sections of a newspaper? What a great way to get out our message as we defend LGBTQIA+ folks against discrimination. Using the four easy steps outlined below, we can send hundreds of letters to the editor to newspapers all across the map.

As people of faith we have been taught through our traditions, sacred text, and worship the values of love, welcome, inclusion, and non-judgment. We know that treating some differently because of who they are and who they love is wrong. But too often an inaccurate story is told that people of faith, especially Christians, are “anti-LGBTQIA+.”

We can help change this perception and bear witness to our faith and values. One way to do this is with letters to the editor. This worksheet will help you and your friends, family, and fellow faith community members write letters to the editor that will help share our convictions against discrimination.

STEP 1: Pick 1 or 2 of the talking points below to write about.

• Treating people differently because of who they are causes tremendous harm and unforeseen consequences to them. As people of faith, we believe in the common good of treating people as we want to be treated. We believe that treating people differently, simply because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and asexual and asexual (LGBTQIA+) is fundamentally wrong. This discrimination, for any reason, is counter to who we are and the values we share.

• LGBTQIA+ people are our friends, neighbors, work with us, worship with us, and are members of our family. They work hard, serve in the military, and pay taxes. When they walk into a business or a government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against. This is how my faith inspires me to act -- treating people with dignity and fairness.

• Business owners and service providers have the freedom of their religious beliefs just like everyone else. But businesses and services that are open to the public should be open to everyone on the same terms, regardless of their customers sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

• If these bills pass, it will allow people to take advantage and claim that their religion gives them the right to ignore laws. It would mean the law no longer applies to everyone in the same way, resulting in special treatment.

NOTE: Feel free to base your letter off this language-- or you can put it in your own words!

Don’t forget to look up the sponsors of ANTI-LGBTQIA+ bills and utilize the power of social media. Ask your pastor to tweet your letter to them from your congregation.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION
Dear Editor,

As a person of faith, I am writing in response to the up and coming discrimination initiative ____ will be seeing in the legislative session.

My Lutheran faith has taught me through its tradition, sacred text, worship, and community strong core values. Those values are love, welcome, inclusion, and non-judgement. It is because of my faith I know treating someone differently because of who they are and whom they love is wrong. Religious freedom is a fundamental part of America, which is why it is in the federal and state constitution. However, that freedom does not give businesses or corporations the ability to deny good and services to someone because of who they are and whom they love.

I believe all ____ should treat one another as one would want to be treated. Faith is about loving our neighbors, not discriminating against them. I understand not everyone holds the same religious beliefs I do, however, I do know ____ is about building strong communities. Discrimination has no place in ____. Religious freedom is not being threatened. What is being threatened is strong communities and a strong economy.

It is because of my faith I want to keep discrimination out of ____.

Sincerely,

Sarah Smith

Note: Replace “____” with your state’s name.