



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION

CITY - COUNTY BUILDING

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Joanna E. McClinton
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives
139 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202191
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2191

Dear Speaker McClinton,

We are writing to you today first to thank you for your sponsorship of, vote for, and leadership that helped to ensure passage of HB 300 this past May. For decades, many of us have been supportive of and continue to hope for passage of what is currently referred to as the Fairness Act. Your leadership means a lot to a great number of people in our state.

The Senate version of the Fairness Act (SB 150) currently languishes in a Senate committee. Thus, we want to bring to your attention, and have included with this communication, the letter we wrote to Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman. The opportunity to get the Senate bill passed and a reconciled version to the Governor's desk should not be squandered because of a slim Republican majority in the Senate. The people who would most directly benefit from SB 150 deserve to see it get that vote.

If you have any guidance for us in an effort to move SB 150, please feel free to share it with us. Our Commission email address is **lgbtqiacommissionpgh@gmail.com**. All fifteen Commissioners will receive any communication you send to this email address.

Additionally, because of your leadership role in the House we want to bring to your attention our letters to the prime sponsors of three (3) House bills that are culture war attacks on LGBTQIA+ communities. Those bills are:

- HB 132, an effort to put a chilling effect on providing gender affirming care;
- HB 216, an effort to ban trans youth from playing sports;
- HB 319, an effort to ban public schools from teaching/recognizing the history and lived experience of LGBTQIA+ people.

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Cathryn Calhoun • Denise DeSimone • Calvin Aster Ecker • Billy Hileman • Sue Kerr • Bruce Kraus
Julian McClain • Maria Montaño • Lenny Orbovich • Richard Parsakian • Chauntey Porter • Christopher Robinson
Sarah Rosso • Rev. Deryck Tines • Guillermo Velazquez

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Although we do not expect these bills to get beyond the committees they are in, we want you to be aware of our thinking on the bills and that their existence is causing real harm. In our communications, we attempt to explain that to the bills' sponsors.

At this moment, we cannot let go unchallenged some legislators' attempts to interfere with effective healthcare for trans persons, to deny the existence of transgender, non-binary, and intersex persons and deny the developmental benefits of play. Nor can we be passive towards their attempts to erase the history and lived experience of LGBTQIA+ persons from classrooms and school libraries. We are committed to doing what we can.

Of course, we cannot end this without letting you know how empowering and meaningful it is that you are the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. We wish you the best in this important role. And, we look forward to your efforts in PA House on behalf of LGBTQIA+ communities, and to making Pennsylvania a state that respects and values all people.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink.

Sarah Rosso
Co-Chair
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan R. Kerr".

Sue Kerr
Co-Chair
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Billy Hileman".

Billy Hileman
Secretary
Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Commission

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