



The Senate of West Virginia  
Charleston

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March 3, 2008

Kevin McCoy, President  
WV Family Foundation  
P.O. Box 3421  
Charleston, WV 25334

Dear Kevin:

Thank you for bringing the issue of SB 600, "Adding Certain Terms to Human Rights Act and Fair Housing Management" to our attention. It was introduced in the Senate on February 7, 2008 and sent to Senate Judiciary, passed out of Judiciary on February 22, 2008. When the bill came up in Judiciary, with no advance review, Senator Barnes made an amendment to exempt churches and community organizations who hold views in opposition to the homosexual life style. This amendment passed: However, the bill was sent to the floor without the amendment and had to be reinstated into the legislation on the final reading.

When questioning the legislation, Senator Sypolt asked the Judiciary Chairman exactly what this bill did. His response was a confirmation that this legislation only brought West Virginia's code into compliance with the Federal Law. Since the members understood that the bill brought the State Code up to Federal Code, it was voted unanimously and there was no further discussion before it was voted out on February 26.

This legislation has since been reviewed by the undersigned and we have determined that it goes further than Federal requirements and would Codify into State Law Sexual Orientation as a Civil Rights Entitlement. This was not our understanding nor would we have supported such legislation if it had been fully understood. We will work diligently within the remaining week of the session to defeat the bill in the House of Delegates and by any other means we are able to employ.

Sincerely,

Senator Dave Segatz

Senator Clark Barnes

Senator Rommy Coley

William M. Hill

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