

Chair Eklund, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Minority Member Thomas, and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

My name is Doron Kalir and I am submitting this testimony in support of Senate Bill 11.

I am not a member of the LGBTQ community. Nor are my two boys – age 9 and 12. Still, I have a great deal of interest in the proposed legislation. I believe that LGBTQ rights are human rights. I also believe that when LGBTQ members of our community are hurt, our entire community is injured. I further believe that members of the LGBTQ community - as well as my two sons - should be allowed to grow (and thrive) in a free and open environment. An environment where no discrimination against any person is allowed, whether it is on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. I believe that when the U.S. Supreme Court declares a right to marry one's love as a constitutional right, the idea that that same person might be fired for exercising this right is an anathema. Indeed, I believe that all of us - gay and straight, black and white, religious and not - would be better off by removing this stain of intolerance from our midst. I support the anti-discrimination legislation being considered wholeheartedly.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 11.

Sincerely,

Doron Kalir