

# Southwest Washington Chapter

## June 2017 Newsletter



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🌐 WSC Web: [www.pflagwsc.org](http://www.pflagwsc.org)

### Join us:

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Children's Home Society, 1112 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

**Next Meeting: June 13, 7 pm**  
Special speaker will be Austin Lea. He will discuss the role Planned Parenthood plays in support of the LGBTQ community. Afterwards we will have our monthly support session.

### Dates to remember:

- June 11, 11am, Pride March for Equality, Carl Anderson Park, Seattle
- July 8, 11am, Saturday in the Park, Couve's Pride event
- July 11, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA Meeting
- September 9, Peace and Justice Fair
- October 20-22, PFLAG National Convention, Portland, Oregon

[To get more information and to register visit www.PFLAG.Org/2017convention](http://www.PFLAG.Org/2017convention)



### Gender Revolution Documentary

On May 17<sup>th</sup> PFLAG Southwest Washington joined the YWCA, The Pride Foundation, Planned Parenthood, Washington Won't Discriminate, Triple Point, and other visionary organizations for a community screening of National Geographic's documentary *Gender Revolution*. Katie Couric explored the rapidly evolving complexities of gender identity. She examined how gender has been viewed over the centuries by many civilizations and the different approaches to gender found in the world today and Ms. Couric interviewed several transgendered persons and their families. Following the film PFLAG Vice President De Stewart led a discussion in which PFLAG Board Member Phaedra Baldwin and others answered audience questions. Kiggins Theater donated their venue in support of this event.

### Dangerous Initiative

For 11 years Washington's non-discrimination laws have ensured fair and equal treatment for everyone. But now, a new initiative, I-1552, seeks to repeal protections for our transgender neighbors, family and friends. If opponents of equality gather enough signatures, this dangerous initiative will be on the November ballot. Anti-transgender "bathroom bills" such as I-1552 increasingly focus attacks on the rights of transgender people — one of the most victimized groups in the country.

**For more information visit [www.washingtonwontdiscriminate.org](http://www.washingtonwontdiscriminate.org)**



### Our Mission

- We support families, allies and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ)
- We educate ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- We advocate in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws to achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

# DECLINE TO SIGN I-1552

## Tell Signature Gatherers NO to Discrimination and I-1552



*I-1552 would repeal Washington's decade old protections against discrimination for our transgender friends and family members.*

### HOW WOULD I-1552 BRING DISCRIMINATION TO WASHINGTON STATE?

- > Allows places of public accommodation – including businesses – to discriminate by banning transgender people from using gender-segregated facilities that are consistent with who they are.
- > Interferes with local control, preventing voters, cities and counties from passing or enforcing ordinances or policies protecting transgender people from discrimination in gender-segregated facilities.
- > Allows authorities to ignore legally-changed birth certificates and government-issued documents, potentially requiring transgender people to submit to invasions of privacy just to use the appropriate restroom.
- > Requires our public schools to discriminate against transgender students by denying them the use of restrooms that are consistent with who they are. And it opens the floodgates to unnecessary lawsuits by encouraging K-12 students to sue schools for a minimum of \$5,000 every time they encounter a transgender student in gender-segregated facility.



Photo: Facebook.com

*Briana (center) says I-1552 would single out transgender people like her for discrimination and privacy violations.*

### WHY DECLINE TO SIGN I-1552?



*Meghan (top right) says I-1552 would do nothing to make her family safer and could endanger her transgender daughter, Maya (bottom right).*

- > Goes against Washington State's values of liberty and freedom for all by singling out our transgender friends and family members for discrimination.
- > Causes economic hardship on Washington, driving away hundreds of millions each year in conventions, tourism, and new business. North Carolina's economy has lost an estimated \$600 million since a similar law, HB2, went into place last year (Sams Finest).
- > Hurts our public school budgets by opening up the doors to costly litigation and lawyers' fees.
- > Would do nothing to keep us safe. In Washington, and the more than 200 cities and 17 states with these same protections against discrimination, transgender people have been protected from unfair discrimination with no increase in public safety incidents as a result. (Source: National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women)
- > Encourages confrontation and invasion of everyone's privacy by encouraging strangers to confront and question each other in restrooms.

[www.WashingtonWontDiscriminate.org](http://www.WashingtonWontDiscriminate.org)

Paid for By Washington Won't Discriminate, 119 1st Avenue South, Suite 320, Seattle, WA 98104.  
Top 5 contributors: Pride Foundation, Microsoft, Amazon, Freedom for All Americans, Legal Voice

**OPEN LETTER  
FROM WASHINGTON FAITH LEADERS TO OUR FELLOW FAITH LEADERS  
REGARDING INITIATIVE 1552**

May 24, 2017

Dear Fellow Faith Leaders:

We are followers of many different faiths that share a basic common tenet: love our neighbors as ourselves — including those who may seem different from us.

Like many people, there was a time when we didn't know much about what it meant to be transgender. Because so few of us personally know a transgender person, the idea of a person being born one gender but knowing themselves to be another can sound unusual, confusing and may be a bit uncomfortable at first.

Now more and more of our congregants express to us their journeys of confusion, acceptance, love, and also worry for the safety of their transgender family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors.

Like many of our congregants, we're concerned about the impacts of a proposed ballot initiative – I-1552 - that seeks to repeal the last decade of Washington's non-discrimination protections for transgender people.

The supporters of I-1552 say safety and privacy are their goals. Many of us are parents, and it's only natural to worry about the well-being of our families and children, especially when we hear so many tragic stories about people victimized by physical assaults or sexual violence.

But when we're anxious or concerned, it's important to step back and get the facts.

That's why we listen to our law enforcement and violence-prevention experts. These leaders, like former Snohomish County Sheriff John Lovick and the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs, know that non-discrimination laws permitting transgender men and women to use public facilities that match their gender are not, and have never been, a threat to anyone's safety.

In fact, they say I-1552 would do nothing to improve public safety. It might even make things worse by encouraging strangers to confront and question others in public facilities and violate each other's privacy and safety by demanding proof of "sex at birth."

This is not how we, as people of faith, treat each other. We should not single out our transgender neighbors for different treatment and potentially put their safety at risk with a proposal that would have unintended consequences for all of us.

We have prayed about this and come to believe that protecting people from discrimination is about treating others as we want to be treated — including people who are transgender — and we should all be treated equally under the law.

Please search your heart and do not allow the backers of I-1552 to sow fear and distrust among us. And if you feel so called, please join us in opposing I-1552 by signing here: <http://action.wawont.org/page/s/i1552-faith>

Signed,

Bishop B. Kirby Unti, Northwest Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop Greg Rickel, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

Presiding Elder Spencer Barrett of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

President R. Skyler Oberst, Spokane Interfaith Council

Rabbi Bruce Kadden, Temple Beth El

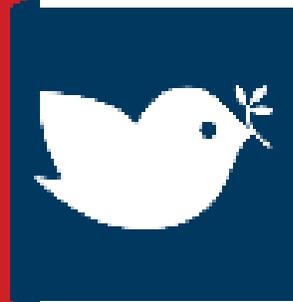
Rabbi Jason Levine, Temple Beth Am

Reverend David Wright, University of Puget Sound

Rabbi Daniel Weiner, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

Reverend Paul Benz, Faith Action Network

Reverend Michael Denton, Conference Minister, Pacific Northwest Conference of The United Church of Christ



# WASHINGTON'S FAITH LEADERS SAY NO ON I-1552!

PROTECT WASHINGTON'S LONG-STANDING  
NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.

## WASHINGTON FAITH LEADERS SAY NO ON I-1552!

Add your name to the pledge below to join hundreds of people of diverse faiths from across Washington standing up to efforts to repeal Washington's longstanding transgender non-discrimination protections.

*As Washington faith leaders and people of faith, from a diverse group of religions committed to lifting up our fellow human beings, we affirm the basic dignity of all people—including our transgender congregants, friends, family members and neighbors.*

*We are calling on Washingtonians across the state to reject I-1552, a proposed ballot initiative that would repeal our state's non-discrimination protections that, for 11 years now, have helped ensure transgender people are treated fairly and equally under the law.*

*We believe in treating others the way we'd like to be treated. And in Washington, that's how we have done things for more than a decade. We should all be treated equally under the law—and we cannot back away from that commitment now.*

*As people of faith we are called to take a stand for those who face discrimination. We oppose I-1552's attempt to repeal our state's non-discrimination protections. Doing so would single out transgender Washingtonians for different treatment and potentially put their safety at risk. It would have unintended consequences for all of us.*