

Dear House Judiciary Committee members;

I am unable to attend the hearing on HB 4003 and SB4 because of the late notice of this hearing. HOWEVER, I would like my comments to be included as part of the record. I urge you to adopt the amendments that are being offered that will include religious liberty protections within the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. Twenty some other states have passed a similar statute, but have included religious liberty protections.

I would like to remind this committee that the first right delineated in the Bill of Rights was not the freedom of speech, or freedom of the press, but the freedom of religion, with the free exercise thereof. That means not just the freedom to worship on Sunday morning, but Monday morning as well. Nowhere in the Constitution is the LGBTQ community mentioned.

It is paramount that you protect strongly held religious beliefs, even if you disagree with them. There are Christian schools, day cares, churches, and businesses that need to be protected. Typical legislation has been weaponized by those that are radical LGBTQ activists in other states. The Colorado baker is one. His case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, which sided with him in a narrow decision. Those activists passed over 30 other bakeries to get to his. They knew his strongly held Christian beliefs. They could have gone somewhere else but went to him on purpose. The Colorado Civil Rights commission fined him over \$150,000, which was overturned by the Supreme Court. Christian businessmen need to be protected. The Amendments being offered would do that.

I am against discrimination of any kind, whether it is against someone from the LGBTQ community, or against a Christian businessman with strongly held religious beliefs. Without the amendments included in this bill, it could cause great harm to those in the Christian community.

I have also been in touch with former State Supreme Court justices that have told me that this legislation could be in jeopardy if the Supreme Court rules against this and other bills like it on religious grounds. I am told the legislation will get struck down and depending on who is in power in the House and the Senate at that time, it could mean that this legislation may never see the light of day again without protective amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Cross  
Senior Pastor  
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