



Testimony in Opposition to HB 2376  
House Committee on Local Government

Chairman Bergquist and Members of the House Committee on Local Government:

The City of Mission opposes HB 2376, specifically New Sec. 2, which would invalidate existing local Non-Discrimination Ordinances (NDOs) and prohibit all future county or city level anti-discrimination measures that are more protective than current state law.

In December of 2018, the Mission City Council passed a City ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, marital status, familial status or military status. While state and federal law provide protections for many of these classes, Mission's NDO specifically added "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the list of protected classes, and in that respect Mission's NDO is more protective ("restrictive") than the provisions of the Kansas Act Against Discrimination (K.S.A. 44-1001 et seq., and amendments thereto). Mission's full NDO is available for review at: <https://www.missionks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NonDiscriminationOrdinanceExecuted1573115414082619AM.pdf>.

Mission's NDO is reflective of our City's values. Our NDO **states**: "Mission is a community that respects and actively seeks to welcome and protect all those who reside visit or do business in our community... [and] providing protection against wrongful discrimination," including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, "contributes to the creation of a diverse welcoming community that promotes harmony and mutual respect and otherwise promotes the health safety and welfare of the citizens of Mission." It is also a key component of our broader Diversity + Inclusion efforts (<https://www.missionks.org/about/diversity>). Our 2023 State Legislative Priorities document further provides: "Mission supports comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation that offers protections to every person in the state of Kansas without regard to age, race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, military status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We further support State efforts to encourage racial equity and promote diversity."

HB 2376 would take the State of Kansas and the City of Mission backward. Not only would it fail to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity at a state-wide level, it would also gut actions by local governments across the state that have been implemented to protect our LGBT+ citizens. Simply put, under HB 2376 Mission's NDO would be rendered "void and unenforceable." Such legislation is an affront to local control more broadly and an example of the Kansas Legislature's attempts this session to undermine and attack LGBT+ rights.

**This bill appears to support civil rights, but the contents prohibit NDOs in contrast to the will of our Council, our community, and our state.** It is disingenuous that this bill concealed the NDO prohibition and repeal within what purports to be pro civil rights legislation. Such subterfuge breeds

cynicism in government and undermines voter trust, to the detriment of both state and local government. We as Kansans can and must do better.

Equality is not a zero-sum game. This legislation pits African American and Jewish rights against LGBT+ rights in a manner that is entirely unnecessary and unjustified. Mission encourages the Committee to take up HB 2174 instead of HB 2376 allowing the Committee to take up the topic of restrictive covenants without undermining local control and established measures designed to protect our LGBT+ citizens. To address racism and antisemitism (past and present) we need not cause harm to additional vulnerable Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Solana Flora". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Solana" and the last name "Flora" clearly distinguishable.

Solana Flora  
Mayor  
Mission, KS