

Discrimination is not a Texas value.

Dear Texas Lawmakers:

Welcome to the 88th Session of the Texas Legislature. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to securing the needs of all Texans.

We write to you as members and leaders of faith communities throughout the State of Texas. Our faith is the foundation on which our political priorities are built. We care deeply about our neighbors - all of them, and especially the most vulnerable among us. As you know, people of faith make up a significant part of your constituency. We remain fully engaged and trust that you will continue as steadfast partners in creating needed change.

We wish to bring lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) Texans to your attention, as they remain at great risk. They are the target of routine mistreatment ranging from unkindness to life-ending assault, and they are forced to navigate unjust policies and practices on a daily basis. Alarmist language, fear-based rhetoric, and general mis or disinformation fuels discrimination, and discrimination does great harm.

Mainstream faith communities across Texas share values of safety, equality, and dignity for each and every person. We're called to do no harm, and to do all the good we can. Discriminatory legislation that targets individuals based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity is an affront to the values we hold as people of faith, and as Texans.

As legislation is developed, filed, and negotiated, we urge you to use the authority provided you by your office to unequivocally reject the targeting of marginalized people, and to both protect and do good for vulnerable Texans.

We are counting on your voice and your vote in the pursuit of safety, equality, and dignity for LGBTQ+ Texans.

With both gratitude and great expectation,

Texans of Faith

Notes added by Shepherd of the Hills:

If you would like to e-sign this open letter to lawmakers, [click here](#).

If you would like to learn more about Texas Impact, visit their [website](#).