

JOHN JACOBS, Chairman
DAVID BROWN, Vice Chairman
MICHAEL SCHNEIDER, Member

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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ERICA BATDORF
Township Manager

September 5, 2017

Senator John Rafferty Jr.
Senate Box 203044
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3044
Room: 20 East Wing
(717) 787-1398
FAX: (717) 783-4587

Senator John Rafferty Jr.
3818 Germantown Pike
Collegeville, PA 19426
(610) 831-8830
FAX: (610) 831-8837

Re: West Vincent Township Support of Amendment to the Pennsylvania
Human Relations Act

Dear Senator Rafferty:

West Vincent Township is committed to ensuring that all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, familial status, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, use of guide or support animals and/or mechanical aids enjoy the full benefits of citizenship and are afforded equal opportunities for employment, housing and the use of public accommodations. While the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act currently protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, non-job related handicaps or disabilities, the use of guide or support animal, or physical handicaps, and we applaud your efforts in ensuring that all citizens of the Commonwealth are afforded the same protections and equal opportunities for employment, housing and the use of public accommodations; more must be done to fully protect all Pennsylvanians.

Currently, citizens of the Commonwealth are not protected from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or marital status because these are not defined as protected classes by either Federal or State law. Wherefore, any citizen of the Commonwealth belonging to any of the above classes are vulnerable to potential discrimination.

Throughout the Commonwealth, individual communities have taken it upon themselves to petition their local governments to enact ordinances ensuring protections from discrimination for these groups. Though West Vincent Township prides itself as being a tolerant and accepting community, and has not experienced reports of discrimination within the Township; we believe that these issues would be best addressed through an amendment to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. To be clear, we are not

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seeking to grant any one group any special rights. Instead, we merely desire to ensure that there are legal remedies available and protections for all citizens of Pennsylvania.

We thank you for your continued efforts in representing West Vincent Township and all of its residents.

Sincerely,

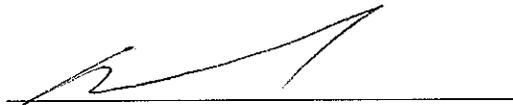
The West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors



John Jacobs, Chairman



David Brown



Mike Schneider