

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Dan Frankel

DATE: April 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Re-introduction of Legislation – Amend PA Human Relations Act (Former HB 300)

In the near future, I will re-introduce legislation from last session that amends the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act by adding the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” to the protected classes in existing statute.

This legislation is intended to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the same way we currently prohibit discrimination in these areas because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, education status, handicap, or disability.

Twenty states have already amended their civil rights legislation to protect against this kind of discrimination, including our neighbors, New York, New Jersey and Maryland. These changes will help us stay competitive in attracting business and talent to the Commonwealth. Many major employers and municipalities in Pennsylvania already have these policies in place. However, I strongly believe that Pennsylvania should join the other states that have made these permanent, state-wide changes. In a show of bicameral support, our colleague, Senator Browne, will be offering similar legislation in the Senate.

If you wish to co-sponsor this important legislation, please contact Carrie in my office via e-mail (cgoodyea@pahouse.net) or phone (705-7019).

Previous co-sponsors of House Bill 300:

FRANKEL , JOSEPHS , GERBER , BISHOP , BRADFORD, BRENNAN , BRIGGS, BROWN, BUXTON , CARROLL , COHEN , D. COSTA, P. COSTA , CRUZ , CURRY , DALEY , DePASQUALE , DERMODY , DeWEESE , D. EVANS , FABRIZIO , FREEMAN , GERGELY , HARKINS , JOHNSON, W. KELLER , KIRKLAND , MAHONEY , MANN , McGEEHAN , MUNDY , MYERS , M. O'BRIEN , PARKER , PASHINSKI , PAYTON , PRESTON , ROEBUCK , ROSS , SABATINA , SAMUELSON , SANTARSIERO, SANTONI , SHAPIRO , K. SMITH , STURLA , THOMAS , VITALI , WAGNER , WATERS , WHEATLEY , WILLIAMS , YOUNGBLOOD , CALTAGIRONE and M. SMITH