

To the elected leaders of the Indiana General Assembly,

As faith leaders from across traditions and denominations, we strive every day to make Indiana a safe place to live, work, worship, and learn for all people, including members of the LGBTQ community. We write to you today unified by our deep concern regarding bills introduced by the Indiana General Assembly that unfairly target the LGBTQ community- particularly transgender youth.

As our elected leaders, your first responsibility is the well-being of your constituents. Above all else, your actions first must do no harm. But the Indiana General Assembly's Slate of Hate is a disgraceful attempt by a handful of politicians to score political points by harming the children, teachers and families they claim to represent. We ask you to ensure that no action is taken on any of these bills.

As clergy and pastors from a variety of faith traditions, we all share in common one religious value: God's commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves. None of the record number of bills threatening our LGBTQ community are rooted in love of neighbor. And as a wise old preacher once said: "If it isn't about love, then it isn't about God."

We are especially concerned about the ways these proposed bills will harm young trans people in our communities. We know that these harmful laws threaten their physical safety and mental health by denying them access to evidence based health care and erasing them from their schools. Across our diversity of faith traditions and backgrounds, we share the fundamental belief that we are all called to treat others with respect and love and in that same sense of human dignity we ask you, our leaders: quit making political pawns out of our LGBTQ friends, neighbors, and family members.

Each and every LGBTQ Hoosier is made in God's own image and all God's people deserve dignity and respect. We encourage you to join us in this public commitment to equality, respect and justice for all by opposing the Slate of Hate.

Sincerely,

Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals, Associate Pastor, Plymouth Congregational Church, Fort Wayne  
Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Murphy, Senior Pastor and Teacher, Plymouth Congregational Church, Fort Wayne

Rabbi Justin Kerber BCC, Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel

Dr. Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis

Dr. Dennis C. Sasso, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis

The Rev. Ben Wyatt, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Nativity, Episcopal, Indianapolis

The Rev. Heidi Haverkamp, Pastor, Author, Spiritual Director, Episcopal Church USA, Indianapolis

Rev. Mary Slenski, Episcopal, Indianapolis

The Rev. Jason Fortner, Priest, St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette

Dr. David M. Mellott, President and Professor of Theological Formation, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis

Father Chales Allen, Priest Affiliate, The Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis

Rev. Tyler Orem, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Highland PC (USA), Highland

The Rev. Canon Kristin Uffelman White, Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development and Leadership, The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen, Assistant Professor of New Testament, Christian Theological Seminary; Theologian in Residence, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Brownsburg

Rev. Michael Everett Davis, Spiritual Leader, Unity of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

The Rev. Don Treadwell, Senior Pastor and Director of Education, Progressive Spiritualist Church, Indianapolis

The Rev. Dr. Hilary E. Cooke, Chaplain, Chapel of the Good Shepard, West Lafayette

The Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick, Bishop of Indianapolis, Res., Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, Rector, Grace Episcopal Church, Muncie

Rev. Dr. Calvin C. Brandenburg, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Brownsburg

Rev. Yvonne Bardsley Brandenburg, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Brownsburg

Jerusha Van Camp, Pastoral Intern, PCUSA, Evansville

The Rev. Joan Smoke, Retired Priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Bedford

The Rev. Julia Whitworth, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

Rev. Cathy Scott, J.D., Deacon, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Anne Fisher, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Richmond

The Rev. Bruce W. Gray, Rector, Holy Family Episcopal Church, Fishers

Rev. Adam J. Bradley, Associate Pastor, Downey Avenue Christian Church, Indianapolis

Rev. Connie Pepler, Deacon, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington

The Rev. Jim Said, Vicar-in-Charge, The Episcopal Church, Brownsburg

The Rev. Kirsteen Wilkinson, Rector, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Plainfield

The Rev. Kate Wilson, Interim Rector, St. David's Episcopal Church, Bean Blossom

The Rev. Mary Taflinger, Missioner for Pastoral Care, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, Indianapolis

Rev. Nikki Shaw, Pastor, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Angola

Rabbi Suzanne Griffel, Sinai Temple, Michigan City

Rabbi Michael Friedland, Sinai Synagogue, South Bend

Rabbi Karen Compane, Temple Beth-El, South Bend

Rev. Beau Underwood, Senior Minister, Allisonville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis

Rev. Melissa Millis, Pastor, Trinity Church, Indianapolis

Rev. Molly DeWitt, Presbyterian Church (USA), Indianapolis

Rev. Aaron Hobbs, Senior Pastor, Broadway United Methodist Church, Indianapolis

The Rev. Patrick Burke, Minister for Justice and Community Collaboration, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

The Very Reverend Gray Lesesne D.Min., Dean and Rector, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis

The Rev. Dr. John Denson, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis

Rev. Melody Merida, Senior Pastor, Downey Avenue Christian Church, Indianapolis

The Rev. Chris Duckworth, Pastor, New Joy Lutheran Church, Former Chaplain, Indiana Army National Guard, Westfield

Rev. Dr. Felipe N. Martinez, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Columbus

The Rev. Robert Dekker, Retired Clergy, Noblesville

Jesse Longworth, Coordinator of Children and Student Ministries, United Methodist, Muncie

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The Rev. Samuel T. Vaught, Chaplain, Grace Unlimited Episcopal, Lutheran Campus Ministry - Butler University, Indianapolis  
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The Rev. Rebecca Nickel, Pastor, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis  
Rev. Richard Safford, Presbyterian Church, Columbus  
Rev. Dr. Cal Brand, Parish Associate, First Presbyterian Church, Columbus  
Rev. Paul Dazet, Pastor, Sandy Hook United Methodist Church, Columbus  
Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling, Pastor and Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne  
The Rev. Andrea Arsene, Rector, The Episcopal Church of All Saints, Indianapolis  
Rev. Christen Pettit Miller, Minister, Peace United Church of Christ, Fort Wayne  
Jennifer Riddle, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, First United Methodist Church, Columbus  
The Rev. Dr. Matthew T. Seddon, Rector, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington  
Rabbi Meir Barger, Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Fort Wayne  
Rev. Duane Carlisle, Lead Pastor, First United Methodist Church, West Lafayette  
Robert Abner, Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Cross (ECLA), Muncie  
Rev. Eric Brotheridge, Senior Minister, Hazelwood Christian Church, Muncie  
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Rabbi Bruce J. Pfeffer, BCC, Indianapolis  
Rev. Howard E. Boles, Senior Pastor, Columbus First UMC, Columbus  
Rev. Dawn Black, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Sullivan  
Rabbi Roxanne J.S. Shapiro, Director of Lifelong Learning, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Carmel  
Rev. Kim Olson, Pastor, First Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church (USA), Indianapolis  
The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli, Rector, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Carmel  
Marc Hayden, Pastor, United Church of Christ, Indianapolis  
Rev. Dr. James Higginbotham, Associate Dean & Professor of Pastoral Care, Earlham School of Religion, Richmond  
Rabbi Lew Weiss, Indianapolis  
Rev. Tyler Thompson, Senior Minister, Zionsville Christian Church, Zionsville  
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Beth Henricks, Associate Pastor, Quaker, Indianapolis  
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Senior Rabbi Brett Krichiver, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Indianapolis  
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Rev. Erica Gibson-Even, Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Valparaiso  
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The Rev. Canon Jodi Baron, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis  
The Rev. Canon Hipólito Fernández-Reina, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis  
The Rev. Canon Greg Baker, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis  
The Rev. Tom Kryder-Reid, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis  
Canon Mariann Scott, Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis  
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The Rev. Dr. Joanna Benskin, St Paul's Episcopal Church/St. Stephen's Episcopal Church New Harmony, Evansville  
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The Rev. Dr. Calvin Brandenburg, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Brownsburg  
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Rev. Brian Flory, Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne  
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The Rev. Dr. Andrew Scanlan-Holmes, Senior Pastor, Roberts Park United Methodist Church, Indianapolis  
Rev. Gale Stutz, Carmel Christian Church, Carmel  
The Rev. T.J. Freeman, Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Wayne  
Rabbi Jordana Chernow-Reader, Indianapolis  
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Rabbi Karen Fanwick, West Lafayette  
Rev. Sarah Reed Jay, American Baptist Churches, USA, Crawfordsville  
Rev. Scott M. Simmons, Faith United Church of Christ, Indianapolis  
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Rev. Mindie Moore, Midtown Campus Pastor, St. Luke's UMC, Indianapolis  
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, First Congregational UCC, Indianapolis  
Rev. David W. Heim, Retired United Methodist Pastor, Winona Lake  
Rev. Shannon Abbott, Indianapolis

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The Rt. Rev. William E. Smalley, Retired Bishop of Kansas, The Episcopal Church,  
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