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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
POLICY
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LGBTQ – CO-CHAIR
PA SAFE – CO-CHAIR
SERS
(STATE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM)

June 16th, 2020

Hon. Garth D. Everett
400 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202084
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2084

Dear Chairman Everett:

On June 15th, the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County* which found an employer cannot discriminate against an individual because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. While this was an historic victory for civil rights, this decision does not prevent a Pennsylvanian identified as LGBTQ to be denied housing, education, and access to public accommodations simply because of who they are or who they love.

Since 2001, Democrats have introduced comprehensive legislation that would prohibit discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Only once has that bill received a committee vote. This session, House Bill 1404 currently sits in the House State Government Committee and has not received as much as a hearing despite bipartisan support with over 90 cosponsors.

About a month ago after voting down an amendment that would prohibit discrimination at sportsman clubs, the Majority Leader stated we should wait for Supreme Court's decision and then proceed through the legislative process. Yesterday the Supreme Court found that one of our country's greatest legislative achievements applies to the LGBTQ community. Now it is our turn to fill the gaps in our state law through a monumental legislative achievement of our own.

As co-chairs of the LGBTQ Equality Caucus, we request House Bill 1404 to be brought up immediately for a vote. The House State Government Committee has held voting meetings almost every week during the Covid-19 pandemic, so we are confident as Chairman you will find time to vote on a bill as overdue as the Pennsylvania Fairness Act.

Sincerely,



Dan Frankel
State Representative
LGBTQ Equality Caucus
Co-chair



Brian Sims
State Representative
LGBTQ Equality Caucus
Co-chair