



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I C H I G A N

EDUCATING AND ADVOCATING FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

November 29, 2011

Representative John Walsh, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Walsh:

The League of Women Voters of Michigan opposes passage of HB 5039, the bill to amend the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act to prohibit local governments from protecting a class or classification not protected under Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. The protected classes are "religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status or marital status."

The League of Women Voters supports equality of opportunity for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. In November, Traverse City overwhelmingly passed a referendum keeping its nondiscrimination ordinance that had been in place for a year. This ordinance has language protecting gay and lesbian people (among other classes) from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation. If HB 5039 was passed it would remove this voter approved referendum. We support the ability of local units of government and voters to make decisions that are important in their communities.

We urge you to oppose passage of HB 5039 and to support equality of opportunity for all persons in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Susan Smith

Susan Smith, President
League of Women Voters of Michigan

cc. Representative Tim McMillan

