



# equality FOR ALL

“Every Michigander deserves equal protection under the law. For too long, we’ve allowed discriminatory practices to be carried out against members of the LGBTQ community. My office is currently fighting for the rights of the LGBTQ community in our court system, but the Legislature can immediately end the need for continued litigation – and provide finality for thousands of Michiganders, their families, friends, communities, and employers – by passing this bill. I join in urging the Legislature to take this important action.”

**Dana Nessel**

*Michigan Attorney General*

“Michiganders deserve to pursue their dreams free from discrimination, and that includes discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Codifying these protections by amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act will ensure that individuals across our state can work, live and thrive without fear that who they love may hold them back. I fully support these amendments, as they are long overdue.”

**Jocelyn Benson**

*Michigan Secretary of State*

“It’s past time for the Legislature to include protections for the LGBTQ community into the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. The business community has long understood the value to their workforce and Michigan residents have shown widespread support for more inclusion. It’s unacceptable that it’s taken Republicans in the Legislature so long to recognize that it’s just plain wrong that members of the LGBTQ community can still be fired or refused housing just because of who they are and who they love.”

**David Coulter**

*Oakland County Executive*

“In Detroit, we believe everyone should feel welcomed and be protected under the law. My administration has made a conscious effort to expand our protections against discrimination since I took office. I’m proud that Detroit has consistently ranked high in the Human Rights Campaign earning 100 out of 100 in the 2020 Municipal Equality Index in each of the past several years. There’s no question that diversity makes us stronger — and that’s why many businesses choose to locate in Detroit and folks from the LGBTQ community call our city home.”

**Mayor Mike Duggan**

*City of Detroit*

“At every level of government, we need to do a better job of building communities where everyone feels welcome and safe. In Michigan, we have an opportunity to do exactly that by expanding protections for our LGBT+ neighbors through this legislation. I hope all Michigan residents will join with me in supporting this important legislation.”

**Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan**

*City of Livonia*

“This equality legislation is common-sense legislation that will ensure everyone has the same opportunities and protections. The LGBTQIA community should not have to hide who they are to get a job or have housing. I am proud that the City of Lansing has these protections in our Human Rights Ordinance and I hope that everyone in Michigan has these same opportunities. I was proud to sponsor this legislation when I was in the House of Representatives, and I urge the Legislature to take this up and pass it as soon as possible!”

**Mayor Andy Schor**

*City of Lansing*

“Grand Rapids strives to be nationally recognized as an inclusive, equitable and welcoming community. We have long been proud of our strong commitment to civil rights protections, yet we need to go beyond policies within our City and ensure all Michiganders have these protections. As Mayor of the second largest city in Michigan, a big part of my job is to bring new businesses and conventions to our city. Now, more than ever, business leaders and event organizers ask about Michigan’s nondiscrimination protections including those for LGBTQ+ individuals. They want their employees, customers, and families to work and enjoy their time in our state without fear of discrimination. That is why we have prioritized legislation and public policy that promotes equity, diversity and inclusion for all including expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity protections.”

**Mayor Rosalynn Bliss**

*City of Grand Rapids*

“The original intent of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act was to protect the rights of ALL individuals. Mel Larson went as far to say it was written so that no one has the right to discriminate against ANY citizen and that sexual orientation and gender identify should have been included. Supporting these changes is not only the right thing to do, but also allows our state to attract the best and brightest as we grow our economy. Any limitation on human rights does little to support our growth and economic vitality. I am proud that Traverse City’s Human Rights Ordinance includes protections for this crucial population and wholeheartedly support expanding these protections statewide to make it clear that in Michigan, we support protections for ALL.”

**Mayor Jim Carruthers**

*Traverse City*

“The Detroit Regional Chamber has long been a proponent of expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. A robust economy starts with Michigan businesses having the broadest access to a diverse and talented workforce, which requires sending a clear message that all are welcome. Expanding civil rights for all Michiganders is good for businesses and society.”

**Sandy Baruah**

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Detroit Regional Chamber*



# equality FOR ALL

“Updating the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights to prohibit discrimination in the workplace and commerce on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is not only the smart thing to do, it is the right thing to do. We believe everyone deserves the right to show up as their whole person in all aspects of their life and inclusivity is vital for Michigan to remain competitive while attracting and retaining top talent.”

**Rick Baker**

*President & CEO, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce*

“An update of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights to prohibit discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is consistent with the values of an inclusive workplace driven by mutual respect without any assumptions or judgements. Building such a culture provides a secure and productive work environment that will attract and maintain a dynamic workforce for Livonia and all communities in Michigan.”

**Dan West**

*President/CEO Livonia Chamber of Commerce*

“Michigan’s labor movement is enthusiastic and united in our commitment to and support for protecting the freedoms of all working people. All workers deserve dignity and safety in the workplace, and no one should be fired because of who they are or who they love. We are proudly in support of anything that will help root out discrimination in all its forms, and we’re working hard to pass this legislation.”

**Ron Bieber**

*President of the Michigan AFL-CIO*

“Words matter. Actions matter more. Through written submissions, public comment, and recorded testimony, Michiganders have spoken and said they want protections under law for the LGBTQ community. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission has spoken and interpreted “sex” to include sexual orientation and gender identity under ELCRA. Voters have spoken by signing petitions in support of the Fair and Equal Michigan Ballot Initiative. Not even COVID-19 could stop them from having their say. NOW, it is time for the Michigan Legislature to heed these voices. Extend to our LGBTQ children and parents, neighbors and co-workers, union sisters and brothers, fellow Michiganders and visitors the same civil rights protections provided to others in our great state. Equality for all, not just for some. ACT NOW!”

**Cynthia L. Thornton**

*President of Pride at Work Michigan*

“The U.S. Supreme Court held in the Bostock decision last year that LGBT people are protected against discrimination under civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. This was a historic and a giant step forward towards inclusion, dignity, and fairness for the LGBT community. We fully support amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to explicitly add the protected categories of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression so that there can be absolute certainty that LGBT people are protected against discrimination in Michigan.”

**Jay Kaplan**

*LGBT Project Staff Attorney ACLU of Michigan.*

“Nothing is more necessary to the progress of a people than equality. If any are held down, we are all held back, and that includes the current denial of equal protection under the law for citizens of Michigan’s LGBTQ+ community. By adding sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes, this legislation from State House and Senate Democrats extends critical protections to Michigan’s LGBTQ+ community. The headlines in Michigan over the last week concerning the outdated positions of former state legislators should make it clear to every state legislator currently sitting that the public is not only done with these types of discriminations, it is ready to punish businesses and individuals who continue to practice them. This is no longer a partisan issue, this is important human rights legislation that should move quickly through our legislature and land on the desk of our Governor.”

**Lavora Barnes**

*Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party*

“It’s unconscionable that our state still allows people to be fired or denied housing because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. LGBTQ+ Michiganders have already waited too long for the legal right to be who they are and love who they love without fear of discrimination—and the swift backlash we saw to Southwest Michigan First’s decision to hire former House Speaker Lee Chatfield makes it clear the people of Michigan agree. Expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act will be an important step toward creating a more welcoming and inclusive Michigan and these efforts have our full support. We hope the Michigan legislature will stand on the right side of history and pass these bills immediately.”

**Lonnie Scott**

*Executive Director of Progress Michigan*

“Michiganders continue to face discrimination for who they are and who they love. It’s time to change that by passing this legislation to expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to ensure that every LGBTQ resident feels safe and welcome in our State. As a proud openly-LGBTQ person, I want us to guarantee that no kid will ever have to hide their identity for fear of discrimination.”

**Jason Morgan**

*Commissioner, Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners*