

May 15 2016

Dear ( Representative or Senator )

We are your constituents, and members or friends of the Community Church of Chapel Hill. Our Standing on the Side of Love ministry team is part of a wider movement of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith, working for justice and raising our voices with a message of love, when we see fear and prejudice driving public opinions and policies.

We are very much opposed to HB2 in its entirety and appreciate the fact that you did not vote for it. We are aware that the part of the bill legislating which restrooms transgender people must use was never intended to be enforced, and see it as a form of trickery, used to push through all the other provisions limiting our communities' power to govern themselves. Nevertheless, the prejudice against people of transgender identity had to exist in order to be used as a motivating factor. Prejudice, rooted in ignorance, leads to fear and meanness and can't be legislated away. It takes a change of perception, a change of heart.

There is little more that you or we can do to overturn HB 2 in this short legislative session, but we hope that you will persevere in educating and influencing your colleagues towards a more understanding and open-minded attitude. And we wish to offer you this resource, I am Jazz, an autobiography/picture book, written by a girl-child in a biologically male body. We chose it because those of your colleagues who are in support of HB 2 and who hold a prejudice against transgender persons, are likely to resist any argument that seeks to change their opinion. But if they could hear this story, it might reach the part of their minds that remember their mothers or fathers reading stories to them when they were children; they may respond more openly to story and pictures than data and arguments.

Perhaps in the next session of the legislature, you might read this story into the record. Or you may find other fitting ways to share this resource with your colleagues at some other gathering, We hope you will find this storybook helpful, and that you will share it wherever you think it may do some good.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Klinger Jenny Warnasch Ruth Gibson

For the *Standing on the Side of Love* ministry of Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist.

CC: Representatives Verla Insko, Larry D. Hall, Paul Luebke, Graig R. Meyer, [Henry M. Michaux, Jr.](http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=H&nUserID=71), [Robert T. Reives, II](http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=H&nUserID=684) and Senators Valerie Foushee, [Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.](http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=S&nUserID=228), [Mike Woodard](http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/viewMember.pl?sChamber=S&nUserID=379)