



March 13, 2019

Florida House of Representatives, State Affairs Committee  
209 House Office Building  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

**RE: PCS for CS/HB 3 (Preemption of Local Regulation) and LGBTQ Impact**

Dear Members of the Florida House of Representatives State Affairs Committee:

We write to share our analysis of **PCS for CS/HB 3**, the strike all amendment filed to HB 3, and its effect on local protections for LGBTQ Floridians and visitors. As you know, this amendment would narrow HB 3 from a broad preemption bill to one more focused on occupations, professions, and licensure. We believe this narrowing may have, in part, sought to address concerns we have raised about HB 3's effect on local human rights ordinances, equal benefits ordinances, and conversion therapy bans that provide local LGBTQ protections to 13 million Floridians. If so, we thank the bill sponsor and House leadership for hearing the concerns of Florida's LGBTQ community, the business community, and our allies about HB 3's unintended consequences. We regret to share the PCS has not yet remedied our concerns.

First, PSC for CS/HB 3 **continues to preempt policies in 20 communities that ban the practice of "conversion therapy" on children.** Local conversion therapy bans provide redress for victims of this harmful and debunked practice by licensed mental health providers. Additionally, **the breadth of the definitions of "occupation," "profession," and "regulation," and the lack of language clarifying their scope risks preempting protections provided by local human rights ordinances that currently cover 60% of Floridians.**



When states pass laws that repeal LGBTQ protections, whether unintentionally or by design, there is an economic impact. Equality Florida would like to be a resource to this Committee and the Legislature to ensure that Florida avoids the costly mistakes of states like Arizona, Indiana, and Georgia that have all lost millions of dollar in economic development and tourism after passing anti-LGBTQ laws. North Carolina, for example, suffered \$600 million in lost tourism and business in the year after passing a law that repealed local LGBTQ protections.

Florida leads the South in the number of local protections for the LGBTQ community. We hope to work together to make Florida an inclusive state where all families are welcome. We stand ready to support you and Representative Michael Grant to address the unintended consequences of HB 3 and this amendment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Harris Maurer".

Jon Harris Maurer  
Public Policy Director  
Equality Florida

CC: Speaker of the Florida House Jose Oliva  
Representative Michael Grant