



Abbie Kamin

Houston City Council Member, District C
Chair, Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

March 23, 2021

Texas House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee
Room: E2.014
Capitol Building
Austin, TX 78768

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION: cassidy.zgabay_hc@house.texas.gov &
<https://comments.house.texas.gov/home?c=c330>

Dear Chairman Leach and Members of the Committee:

I write in opposition to House Bill 610 as proposed by Representative Valoree Swanson. HB 610 is a direct threat to local control and poses a significant risk to our State's diverse population. Cities and our local businesses are the economic engine of Texas. Localities are growing, diversifying, and rapidly changing for the better. Local jurisdictions are the closest form of government to constituents, and need the ability to respond to local needs. This bill would open up challenges to standard operations and interactions between cities and license holders.

As an elected official representing the most diverse city in the country, I am sensitive to the unintended consequences legislative action may have. Specifically, I'm concerned about the impact this proposed bill would have on local non-discrimination protections – which many cities have put in place due to the lack of any statewide law addressing this. This bill would open up challenges to necessary non-discrimination ordinances that are in place to protect all residents. It is unacceptable that the State has refused to act to protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans, and at the same time, wants to crack down on local government's ability to step up and take action for our communities.

I respectfully request our state representatives use extreme caution and oppose HB 610 for the safety and liberty of those who have given us the privilege to represent them and to whom we are accountable.

Sincerely,

Abbie Kamin
Houston City Council Member, District C
Chair, Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee