

Christie Wood comment re: antidiscrimination ordinance – 6.2.13

I read with interest Mary's position on the proposed anti-discrimination ordinance being presented by the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations. Her statements were very similar to a conversation I had with Councilman Gookin earlier this week. He has made his support for her very public, and they are very good friends so I assume they share similar values. Mary stated she cannot support the ordinance because "There are exceptions for certain groups that don't have to follow that law." Dan told me that he cannot support it for the same reason. Dan made it very clear to me he supports same sex marriage, and equal rights for the LGBT community. He said there should not be an exception in this ordinance for religious organizations because that still allows for discrimination. He asked me to share his thoughts with the Task Force and I have done so. While their argument is a strong position, and I very much appreciate their commitment to equal rights I submit that the majority of our laws, ordinances, and policy decisions are born from the great spirit of compromise and recognition of many different viewpoints.

The Task Force has great respect for our faith based communities, and have worked hard to find common ground while still advancing equal rights in employment, housing, and public accommodation for all citizens. The City of Boise with a population of 212K has found common ground with this ordinance. We suggest that the City of Coeur d'Alene with a population of 45K can also find common ground. Courage, strength, and conviction is what guides great leaders. I have a lot of faith in the leaders of Coeur d'Alene and I look forward to the council meeting.