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LD 1002

I wish to urge that you do not support transphobia bills this session, such as LDS 233, 380, 868, 1002, 1,134, 1,337, 1432, and 1,704. I have a nephew who is trans, and he is a compassionate and hard-working person who hurts no one. But this law would clearly hurt him. You've heard that trans children are more likely to commit suicide, and this is because they feel rejected by society. We have to think long and hard about whether we care enough about trans people to avoid doing something that would intentionally harm them.

There are many perspectives on this, and I respect your right to whatever you believe. But would you be willing to consider the perspective of a spiritually-minded psychologist on the issue of transsexuality? Human beings have always tended to view people who are different from us with suspicion, and this can easily turn into hate. I think this is an innate emotional response, not a reasoned one. We come up with reasons to justify what we have decided emotionally, but this is ultimately an emotional response.

When we were living in tribes in the wilderness, this may have helped us avoid surprise attacks, thereby helping us to survive. But in our crowded civilization today, this leads to divisiveness. It results in harm to minorities and spiritual harm to people who get stuck feeling fear and animosity.

Religion gives us an antidote to some of our outdated, innate attitudes. When in doubt, love your neighbor as yourself, even if they don't think or act the same as you. Thank you for considering this, and thank you for your work in Augusta.

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