African Americans
Vote NO on the Charter Amendment!
Say "NO" to Discrimination In Ypsilanti

The American Friends Service Committee of Michigan 1414 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 761-8283

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On November 5th, 2002 an amendment to the Ypsilanti city charter will appear before Ypsilanti voters. This amendment seeks to prevent the City of Ypsilanti from protecting the rights of its lesbian gay and bisexual (LGB) citizens. If it passes, all kinds of discrimination against LGB people will become legal in Ypsilanti, and the city will be effectively prevented from enacting any future protections, WHILE STRIPPING AWAY THE ORDINANCE WE ALREADY PASSED IN 1998!

The amendment states that:

"Shall the City Charter be amended to prohibit the City from enacting, adopting, enforcing or administering any ordinance, regulation, rule or policy which grants special minority or protected status, quota preference or other preferential treatment based upon homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, conduct, or relationship?"

Why should African Americans be concerned about this Charter Amendment

As African Americans we know first hand the pain, humiliation, and destructiveness of all types of DISCRIMINATION. We cannot stand by and let anyone in our community be discriminated against.

By voting "NO" on on this charter amendment, Ypsilanti's African American community has an opportunity to not simply talk about justice and civil rights, but to act…to defend the right to live with dignity, free of fear, abuse and violence for all the city's citizens.

WHY VOTE NO?

A "NO" vote on THIS AMENDMENT will preserve the city's ability to protect its lesbian, gay, and bisexual citizens. All of YPSILANTI benefits when any of its citizens enjoy freedom and dignity. There is no hierarchy of oppressions.

What if I disagree with homosexuality on moral or religious grounds?

There are may different theologies about homosexuality. Whatever one's religious beliefs, however, we are committed to the position that no single group of people should be targeted for discrimination. Our laws should protect gay men, lesbians and bisexual people from organized discrimination such as this charter amendment.

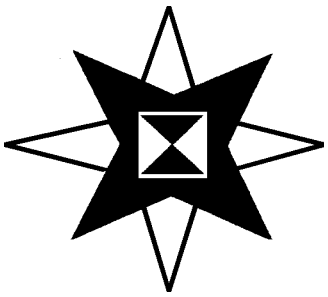
ITS ABOUT FAIRNESS AND EQUAL RIGHTS. SAY NO TO DISCRIMINATION!

The AFSC is an independent Quaker organization that celebrates religious, cultural and racial diversity. It has worked for peace and social justice using nonviolent methods for more than 75 years.

"As far back as the advent of the Reagan administration, the Congressional Black Caucus was the group most supportive of gay civil rights. It still is. The caucus unanimously vows not to discriminate based on the sexual orientation of congressional employees. In the House, where all but one of its 39 members serve, the Caucus is so far out in front that ''nobody's in second place,''
Barney Frank (D-Mass.)

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"African Americans have suffered for too long because of prejudice and bigotry to be parroting the rhetoric of the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups who bash people because of their sexual orientation.....In a democracy, every minority has a right to be free from discrimination, and denying basic rights to any group just doesn't square with justice. If I want to build an effective coalition for social justice, I can't allow those who would persecute gay and lesbian people to go unchallenged."
Coretta Scott King, 1998
Letter to Ypsilanti City Council

AN INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE-
-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.