

Dear council member _____,

As a member of the LGBTQ community here in Greenville County, I've been closely watching how the Greenville County Council has moved as they addressed the sunseting of the anti-gay resolution, which passed in 1996. I specifically wanted to see how you responded and what you would do to respond to our calls to drop it once and for all.

I am disappointed to see that you have chosen so far not to sign this inclusive letter. Eight of your colleagues so far have chosen to stand on the side of inclusion and fairness, while you and three others have not. You are not only in the minority among your fellow leaders, you are also choosing to co-sign hatred and bias. The idea that LGBTQ people like me are lesser than heteronormative people has spurred awful crimes against my community across the country, not just in the past but even at present.

Council member _____, we do not have to end on a sour note. As your constituent, I must remind you that you represent everyone who lives in your district, including those of us who are part of the LGBTQ community. I am aware that council member Ennis Fant Sr. has introduced an anti-bias ordinance that would include protections for our LGBTQ community. Specifically, I am asking that protections for our transgender family members be amended into the resolution, as they are the most vulnerable members of our community to violence. Everyone in Greenville County deserves to live in a safe place, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, and religious beliefs. Voting to pass this ordinance is a huge step forward in ensuring all are treated fairly, and that bias-based crimes in Greenville County are properly prosecuted.

We all matter, and I urge you to vote in favor of the ordinance. Our power lies in voices and also in votes. You speak your voice by signing or not, and we shall respond in kind.

Respectfully,
