

March 16, 2005
Senate Bill 199

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3/16/05
SB 199

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am the Rev. Brenda McLellan, pastor of Church of the Nativity, Episcopal, in East Helena. I am writing this today because I believe there is a moderate Christian voice that is largely unheard in debates which become centered on "sexual orientation". You will hear yet again the strident voices of opponents of this bill. I stand as a Christian with a different view and ask that you hear my voice as a proponent of Senate Bill 199.

As a Christian, I believe that every human being is made in the image and likeness of God...a God of love, compassion and mercy, a God who calls for justice for ALL of God's people, a God of inclusion, not exclusion. As a Christian I am called to seek and serve Christ in ALL persons. I am called to respect the dignity of every human being and strive for justice and peace among all people...Jesus says "Love one another as I have loved you." That's pretty straightforward. There is NO excuse for discrimination, here in these words, or here in this place.

2500 years ago, the prophet Micah said, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God." Is it not time that we do this?

Please consider giving SB 199 a DO PASS.

If you have any questions of me I can be reached at 449-3698. Thank you.