



ASSINIBOIA

APOSTOLIC CHURCH

"Connecting People to God and Each Other"

November 24, 2020

To the Honorable, Arif Virani, Mike Kelloway, James Maloney, Sameer Zuberi, Ramesh Sangha, and Iqra Khalid,

We would like to thank you for your service to your communities and our great country. Your job is a challenging one and we pray God gives you wisdom to serve wisely.

We want to express my concerns with the current writing of Bill C-6. While we wholeheartedly agree that coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity need to be banned, we want to ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As parents who love and want the best for our 3 young children, we would like to be able to have the freedom to talk to our kids about sexuality, gender, sex and relationships. Children do not have the capacity to see the long term impacts that some decisions will have on them and as parents, we are here to nurture and guide them through the challenges of adolescence.

As pastors in our community, we want people to be able to come to us and have open and honest conversations about sexuality and sexual behavior without fear of reprisal. We ask that the legislation be written and worded in such a way as to not criminalize professional and religious counseling that has been voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians. To not allow counselling for those who are struggling in the LGBTQ2 community, is showing prejudice against their right to choose and could lead to self harm and mental health issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration. we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

David & Vanessa Mehrer

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