

The main problem with this ordinance :

Proponents and Human Rights Commission members have failed to show actual need for this law. There have been no reports or complaints. When this statement is made, the response has been that there is no one to listen to such complaints. Not exactly true. Because of our 1997 chapter 94 Fair housing law, the mayor has been ready to receive any complaints. There have been none. The Versailles – Midway – Woodford County Commission on Human Rights was established in 1995 “to safeguard all individuals within the cities and county from discrimination because of race, color, sex, age, physical condition, religion, or national origin.” Even though sexual orientation, gender identity, and familial status is not mentioned in their purpose or definitions, one can reasonably assume that these commission members would lend a sympathetic ear to discussion of most any kind of mistreatment. But the last time I asked, they could not report a single incident. Not any misconduct of the type that usually warrants a 21 page complicated document such as this law has ever been reported.

I and many others are not surprised at this for in this tiny hamlet of 1,657 (pop. 2013) we see much more of the goodness of our citizens. It is not unusual to hear of residents going out of their way to help neighbors and strangers alike. There is no prejudice or discrimination here. Go back as far as my 1st grade class of 1958 and you will find that our school was already integrated well before federal law mandated this.

The issue of sexual orientation and gender identity seems to be of much importance in recent days and a big rush to get something passed is of extreme importance to some. Once again, we do not have a discrimination problem here in Midway in regards to this. My 39 year old son, who is gay, was born here and lived most of his life here. He is a past member of this city council. He and I agree that there is no reason for this ordinance at this time. We have thoroughly studied its complicated 21 pages and found very little that can be applied.

Midway has held itself to a higher standard for all these years. Our citizens should not be treated with suspicion and distrust. They should not be forced to step aside for someone else's agenda. Midway deserves better than this from us.

Who do we think we are to impose such a law? Wouldn't it be better to proclaim to the world that Midway has always been and will continue to be a 'Golden Rule Community' and spend some quality time defining what that really means?

Libby Warfield