



## WLP Statement Re: Pennsylvania's New LGBTQ+ Nondiscrimination Regulations

December 8, 2022

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PENNSYLVANIA: The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved regulations today formalizing nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians by amending the definition of "sex" as applied to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

WLP applauds [Governor Wolf for championing gender equality](#) and taking action to protect LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians in light of the legislative leadership's refusal to advance statewide nondiscrimination protections amid a stark, dangerous rise in anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and violence.

"It is not controversial in any way to affirm that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is a form of sex discrimination, which has long been prohibited by law," says WLP executive co-director Susan J. Frietsche. "It is 2022. The only controversy here is that 11 Pennsylvania lawmakers formally opposed this effort to protect Pennsylvanians and many more have directly sponsored legislation that targets and harms transgender youth."

The Pennsylvania Human Rights Act bans discrimination in hiring, firing, housing, and schooling on the basis of sex. The new regulation rightfully codifies the definition of sex based on *Bostock v. Clayton County*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that found existing federal law protected an employee from being fired for being gay or transgender.

Though this regulatory change is a step in the right direction, we call on the Pennsylvania Legislature to ring in the new legislative session by passing the Pennsylvania Fairness Act.

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***Women's Law Project is a public interest law center in Pennsylvania devoted to advancing and defending the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania and beyond.***