

June 11, 2006

Jake Krohn  
517 Summerlea Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Hon. Vince Biancucci  
3489 Brodhead Rd.  
Monaca, PA 15061

Representative Biancucci:

This letter is in response to your vote on House Bill 2381, which attempts to amend the constitution of Pennsylvania to define a valid marriage as one only “between one man and one woman.” While I am not one of your constituents, I feel that as a registered Democrat and a citizen of the state, I have a right to express my disappointment in your stance. Your affirmative vote on this matter simply carries on the long American tradition of discrimination, and is a mark on your record.

My wife and I recently had the pleasure of listening to an episode of the public radio program “This American Life.” The first story in the show was the recollections of a white man who grew up in the Jim Crow south. His mother, who was divorced, was dating a black man. The stories he told of the discrimination they faced, and the eventual legal action that tore him away from his family are heartbreaking. To think that parts of this country, only 40 years ago, would still discriminate against such a trivial matter as a mixed-race relationship is simply unbelievable.

And yet we face the very same fundamental issue today. I encourage you to listen to the episode (address below) and reflect upon it in the light of your vote. What does introducing such discrimination into the state’s constitution accomplish? Why did you vote this way? Are you legislating for a prudent future, or simply for votes during the next election? Unfortunately, I think I know the answer.

My wife and I moved to Pittsburgh from Minneapolis almost three years ago, fresh out of college, to further our education and professional lives. We found the city to our liking – so much, in fact, that we bought a house and plan to live here indefinitely. It troubles us, then, to see our state government willingly enter into such discriminatory action.

I know that this is only the first step in a lengthy process; I hope that the measure will be soundly defeated in a future session or, at the very least, by the citizens of Pennsylvania. It is my hope that you will be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Jake Krohn

**2006 Archives:** <http://thislife.org/pages/archives/archive06.html> (5/19; Title: *Parental Guidance Suggested*)  
**Episode audio:** <http://audio.wbez.org/tal/313.m3u>