



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Turner

State Representative, District 101

April 19, 2017

Mr. Adam Silver
Commissioner
National Basketball Association
645 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

DELIVERED VIA FACSIMILE: (212) 832-3861

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Today, the Texas House of Representatives Committee on State Affairs will hold a hearing on House Bill 2899, a far-reaching measure that would bar any local government from enforcing measures “that protect a class of persons from discrimination to the extent that the order, ordinance or other measure regulates access to multiple-occupancy restrooms, showers, or changing facilities.” The several Texas cities that have already adopted such anti-discrimination ordinances would see their efforts preempted by the state. I write today to make the National Basketball Association aware of this ill-advised, intolerant legislation so that you have the opportunity to weigh in.

Laudably, the NBA has taken a strong stance over the last several years in opposing similar discriminatory measures. In a recent statement to the *Dallas Morning News*, spokesman Mike Bass said, “We consider a wide range of factors when making decisions about host locations for league-wide events like the All-Star Game — foremost among them is ensuring the environment where those who participate and attend are treated fairly and equally.”

Under your leadership, the NBA has taken a strong stance against discrimination, and you are to be commended for that. In keeping with this stance, it seems natural you would also strongly oppose HB 2899. This measure is antithetical to the NBA’s stated goals of tolerance and inclusiveness and is inconsistent with your league’s policies. Additionally, any measure that upends non-discrimination protections is, by definition, inherently and unambiguously discriminatory.

To date, I have not seen any official statement or comment from your league on this important matter, which is why I write to you directly and request you clearly state your organization’s opposition to HB 2899.

Mr. Adam Silver, Commissioner

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Thank you again for your strong statements in the past condemning discriminatory laws similar to HB 2899. We both agree that discrimination against any group of people has no place in American society and efforts to discriminate must be categorically rejected. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Turner

State Representative

Chair, Texas House Democratic Caucus