

LGBT EQUALITY

The ACLU of Utah's goal is to ensure equal treatment and basic respect for all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. All Utahns deserve even-handed treatment by government, protection from discrimination in jobs, schools, housing and public accommodations, and equal rights with regards to raising their families – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

HB 128, "Antidiscrimination Study Related to Employment and Housing"

Utah law currently provides no protection for LGBT people who are terminated from their employment or evicted from their homes due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. While Salt Lake City notable passed a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, no comparable protections exist at the state level. This bill seeks to have the legislature study the issue of discrimination in the workplace and with regard to housing in Utah during its interim period.

HB 300, "Adoption Revisions"

Currently, Utah law bars cohabiting adults – gay or straight – to adopt a child (even if this is the express wish of the child's biological parent or parents). This bill would seek to allow second parent adoption. Second parent adoption exists where one parent already has legal rights of the child and a second parent petitions for joint rights. The initial parent does not give up parental rights.



THE ACLU OF UTAH'S POSITION:

All people deserve equal protection and rights under the law, including the rights to work and live free from discrimination and to raise a family.

TALKING POINTS ON LGBT EQUALITY

For HB 128, "Antidiscrimination Study Related to Employment and Housing"

- Sexual orientation and gender identity are characteristics that should not be considered when assessing an individual for housing, employment or other public accommodations.
- The state of Utah should spend time studying the extent to which Utahns are discriminated against on the basis of these characteristics.

For HB 300, "Adoption Revisions"

- All children in Utah deserve the protection of legal parent-child relationships.
- Who can adopt should be based on parenting ability and not on personal characteristics such as marital status, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- This bill expands the number of prospective adoptive parents increasing the number of children who will benefit from adoption.