

Robert S. Basker
3245 Virginia
Miami, Fl. 33133
September 7, 1973

Dear Arthur:

The enclosed clipping from the Miami Herald, September 4th, regarding the Florida Commission on Human Relations, gives us an opportunity to get a hearing on proposed legislation to broaden the scope and strengthen the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation. I phoned Tallahassee, then Tampa, and spoke to one of the commissioners,*telling him about the "Human Rights Regulation" which passed the first reading in Washington while we had our meeting there. He hadn't heard about it, and was pleased with my offer to send him a copy of that legislation. I mentioned the various categories covered, with special emphasis on "sexual orientation." He said he thought that was fine, but he doubted that the Florida Legislature would accept such inclusion in this state's legislation.

I've written to Bill Bricker and Cade Ware of the Washington G.A.A., requesting they forward to me copies of their testimony in support of the "sexual orientation" clause of the Washington ordinance.

It seems to me this might be an opportunity for input by the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. Would welcome any ideas, etc., you may have to offer.

We had a meeting Tuesday evening of the Greater Miami ACLU, at which this matter was discussed. As chairman of the Legislative Committee, I was instructed to convene an ad hoc committee, including three lawyers, who will draw up a position paper for the Miami ACLU. On Saturday, ~~Aug~~ Sept. 8th, we are having a Florida state board meeting in Orlando. This will be my first quarterly state meeting. I shall bring this matter up Saturday, so that the state ACLU can act accordingly. Since I'm directly involved, naturally the "sexual orientation" aspect will be included in our position.

It was suggested I contact the national office of the ACLU, via Allen Reitman, Assistant Director. When I spoke to him, he seemed sort of--almost indifferent. But he agreed to mail me some material.

Wednesday night, spoke to the exec comm of the Miami G.A.A. They agreed to my suggestion of contacting whatever gay groups we could find around the state, including M.C.C., urging they make a well-considered, friendly appearances, offering testimony at each location at which hearings are to be held. thus helping the commissioners to become more comfortable and adjusted to the concept of an all-inclusive equal rights bill.

* Bob Gilder (one of 18 commissioners) As ever,
Exec Dir Community Action Agency, Tampa

