

Dear [REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME],

I am writing to you today about an issue affecting my community: the need for safe, affirming housing for LGBTQ+ youth.

Opening (choose one or write your own)

1) The Gospel compels me to advocate for the least of these, and I firmly believe that it is my call as a Christian to champion the housing needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Every person deserves safe and stable housing out of which can blossom a fulfilled life.

2) Jesus commands his followers to provide shelter for the stranger and I am heartbroken that our society continues to neglect the housing needs of the most vulnerable around us. Every person in our communities is entitled to a safe place to rest their head.

3) I believe that safe and stable housing is a human right that should be afforded to every member of our community. As a Christian who takes seriously my call to speak up for the voiceless in our community who are denied safe and stable housing.

Name the issue (choose one or write your own)

1) I was dismayed to learn that 360 Youth Services in Naperville, IL, (www.360youthservices.org) which is local housing program that specifically attends to the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults, was denied their typical HHS grant for 2020 and therefore is struggling to make up nearly \$200,000 in desperately needed funding.

2) I was angered to find out that HHS has declined to renew a grant for 360 Youth Services in Naperville, IL (www.360youthservices.org) for 2020 that provided funding for transitional housing for LGBTQ+ youth.

3) A local organization that intentionally provides housing services to LGBTQ+ youth and young adults (www.360youthservices.org) was denied renewed funding for their program in 2020 by HHS and it horrifies me to think that our community will now struggle to provide safe and stable housing to this very at-risk population.

Call to action (choose one or write your own)

1) I know that there are many issues that the LGBT Equality Caucus is advocating for, so is my prayer that you will continue to speak energetically on this issue to ensure safe and stable housing for LGBTQ+ youth.

2) Please know that I am holding you and your colleagues in prayer as you continue to speak up for the voiceless and work toward a more just world. Also, please courageously dedicate yourselves to this issue of housing for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults.

3) I trust that you will find opportunities to support organizations like 360 Youth Services as they are an essential piece of support that our society must be able to offer this vulnerable population.

Closing:

LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately likely to become or remain homeless due to overt discrimination when seeking alternative housing. Some studies have found that LGBTQ+ young adults had a 120 percent higher risk of reporting homelessness compared to youth who identified as heterosexual and cisgender. Safe and affirming housing is a human right, especially for our children, and especially for those marginalized for their gender expression and orientation.

Best Regards,
[YOUR NAME]