



The United Methodist Church  
GREAT PLAINS AREA

9440 E Boston, Suite 160  
Wichita, Kansas 67207  
800.745.2350  
Fax: 316.686.0600  
[www.greatplainsumc.org](http://www.greatplainsumc.org)

SCOTT J. JONES  
*Resident Bishop*

February 17, 2014

Senator Susan Wagle  
President, Kansas State Senate  
[Susan.Wagle@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Susan.Wagle@senate.ks.gov)

Dear Senator Wagle,

I commend you for your published comments that House Bill 2453 will not pass the Senate in its current form. I write to suggest that the bill should be killed with no attempt to resurrect it by amendment or further consideration.

This was clearly an attempt to legitimize discrimination against gay and lesbian persons in the state of Kansas, many of whom are our brothers and sisters in the faith. While United Methodists disagree with each other about same-gender marriage, we gladly welcome gay and lesbian persons into our congregations and are committed to ministry with them. We believe they deserve equal protection under our laws. Our Social Principles state “All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence.” It is hard to imagine how this bill can have a compromise that still gives equal protection of the law to all persons in our state. We Kansans helped end slavery and segregation — we do not need to legalize discrimination.

One factor that appears to have been missing from the debate is that Kansas (along with the rest of the United States) is much more religiously diverse than in the past. Giving legal license to unspecified religious opinions in the provision of public services, whether by the government or by businesses, opens the door to an amazing array of possible actions. Those of us who lead Christian churches are aware of many different immoral actions for which people appeal to “religious convictions,” and we do not need to strengthen the legal case for such behavior.

I believe that House Bill 2453 represents values that are un-American, un-Kansan, and un-Christian. Please do whatever you can to make sure that no further action is taken in this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Jones



**Wichita**  
9440 E Boston, Suite 160 • Wichita, KS 67207  
800.745.2350 • Fax 316.686.0600

**Topeka**  
4201 SW 15th St. • P.O. Box 4187 • Topeka, KS 66604  
877.972.9111 • Fax 785.272.9135

**Lincoln**  
3333 Landmark Cir. • Lincoln, NE 68504  
402.464.5994 • Fax 402.464.6203

[www.GreatPlainsUMC.org](http://www.GreatPlainsUMC.org)