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May 6, 2014

Dear Mayor Parker and Members of the Houston City Council:

I applaud the Houston City Council for considering the Equal Rights Ordinance and urge its passage. Houston is the fourth largest city -- and the most diverse -- in the nation. It is long past time to join other major U.S. cities in opposing discrimination.

My support for eliminating workplace discrimination is longstanding. In 2003, I introduced a bill in the Texas Legislature that would have prohibited workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity statewide. While the Legislature as a whole remains unwilling to support statewide protections, it is imperative for cities to prohibit discrimination. Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, and San Antonio have done so; Houston should join them.

Houston is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I am proud to represent a Houston district. Passing the Equal Rights Ordinance will make it an even more welcoming environment for all persons.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JESSICA FARRAR".

Jessica Farrar
State Representative, District 148