



HUMAN
RIGHTS
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Nebraska Neighbors, Nebraska Values: Faith, Farming and Family

In Nebraska, as in every other state in the U.S., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people are numerous, and they contribute meaningfully to their communities.



(Matt Miller/The World-Herald)

The Williams Institute estimates that over 2500 same-sex couples live in Nebraska, and nearly a quarter of those couples are raising children—and this data doesn't even include the countless other LGBTQ Nebraskans whose identities haven't been accounted for in the U.S. Census and other data collection.

She's a good farmer. Always has been. Has a good family, all good farmers. That has never changed."

— Stuart Krejci, FirstBank of Nebraska

Similar estimates suggest that at least 5,600 transgender people live in Nebraska.

LGBTQ Nebraskans are teachers, doctors, neighbors, friends, community leaders and family members, and they deserve to be treated with fairness and respect.

"Nebraskans believe in hard work, family and fairness. Those values are true whether you're an LGBT Nebraskan or not."

—Reverend Karla J. Cooper, Pastor Lincoln--
Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal
Church (AME)



The Legal Landscape for LGBT Nebraskans

LGBT Nebraskans have very little protection from discrimination at the state level, which means they are at risk of be fired, denied housing or other services simply for who they are.



"We need to create an environment, colleagues, that protects people and who they are, but also sends a message that Nebraska has modern human rights protections and we're open for business."

—Senator Adam Morfeld of Lincoln

There are no statewide laws protecting LGBT people from discrimination related to employment, housing, public accommodations or education, and Omaha is the only city in Nebraska rated by HRC's Municipal Equality Index that has nondiscrimination protections in employment and public accommodations.

For transgender people, who face a disproportionate threat of violence, Nebraska's protections against bias-motivated crimes offer little help. While Nebraska does have a hate crimes law that addresses crimes motivated by sexual orientation, it does not include crimes motivated by gender identity.

There are also several existing policies in Nebraska that make life more difficult for LGBT people. Transgender Nebraskans, for example, may not be able to receive important, medically necessary care under state Medicaid.

Additionally, transmission of HIV is criminalized in the state — and advocates know that these kinds of laws are outdated, ineffective, and often used to unfairly target LGBT people.

"Growing up in Nebraska, my family raised me to treat everyone with respect and dignity, no matter who they are. Equality isn't just a matter of law for me, it's a matter of my faith and the values I was raised to believe in." —Ruth McWilliams

