

August 6, 2025

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## **Re: Your customer service is leaving a bad taste in our mouths**

Dear Mr. Sargent,

Thank you for considering the following. It has come to our attention that your Kroger Company has been deeply entrenched in the culture war promoting radical LGBT policies and political causes. As a result, the group "One Million Moms"<sup>1</sup> and even local churches are now boycotting your grocery store chain.

Instead of staying socially neutral on controversial political causes to satisfy the majority of your customer base, your company has left the marketplace of ideas and is aligned and closely associated with a shameful and diabolical LGBT policy promoting the following extremist positions:

- ✓ Gender surgery involving sterilization and mutilation of minor children's sex organs
- ✓ Distribution of pornography to minor children in public schools and libraries
- ✓ Censorship of speech that does not conform with the LGBT political agenda <sup>2,3</sup>
- ✓ Removal of child-pedophilia laws
- ✓ Discrimination of female athletes in sports
- ✓ And the list goes on.....

As you may not be aware, these radical 'woke' positions are divisive and contrary to orthodox Biblical teaching and in many cases, contrary to federal law.

While the U.S. Department of Education celebrated "Title IX Month" this past June to celebrate girls' sports, and while the Ohio Legislature is considering the passage of HB 262 which would establish "Natural Family Month," between Mother's Day and Father's Day, your Kroger's Company participated in "Pride Month" celebrations and promoted LGBT inclusion through various campaigns and initiatives. This is even after many large corporations are discontinuing this practice. <sup>4</sup>

A cultural shift is taking place in our country and your company, which is headquartered in Ohio, is 'late to the dinner table.' As the saying goes: 'When you go woke, you go broke.'

Interestingly, after a nine-year boycott of the Target Corporation over the company's decision to allow men into the bathrooms and changing areas used by women and girls, Target lost over \$2 billion in stock value in the days following the boycott. Other corporations took note about the misguided Target policy. Consequently, Target added single occupancy restrooms in response to the boycott, Target scaled back LGBT Pride month products in May 2024, and Target recently announced it will no longer participate in the Human Rights Campaign's LGBT index." <sup>5</sup>

In closing, we are aware of your grocery chain's humble, hometown beginnings. A 13-year-old boy, forced to quit school and to take a job working to help his family. But when the boy heard he had to work Sundays, his mother objected. Respecting his mother's wishes, Barney quit and took another job where

he could control his days and hours. Cincinnati native Bernard “Barney” Kroger would credit his Bible-believing mother with instilling in him a deep sense of self-discipline, enabling him to manage and expand his company.<sup>6</sup>

**Mr. Sargent, out of respect to your company’s founder, please consider directing your company to not pick sides and to exit the culture war.** With the closure of 60 under-performing Kroger’s stores nationwide over the next 18 months, we believe your company would benefit by not ‘upsetting the applecart.’

As 80 lead clergy, we are looking after our congregants which happen to be your potential customer base. We are also hopeful Kroger’s as an employer can prosper; **However, with the current radical ‘woke’ policies in place, Kroger will not succeed.** The Bible says, “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.” (1 Thessalonians 4)

For what it’s worth, please stay out of politics and do not alienate your customer base, otherwise your customers may just walk out the door and never come back.

#### References:

1 “Kroger Remains Loud and Proud – Sign 1MM Petition Now!” <https://onemillionmoms.com/current-campaigns/kroger-remains-loud-and-proud-sign-1mm-petition-now/>

2 “Kroger sued for allegedly firing workers who refused to wear apron with rainbow symbol,” by Morgan Gstalter, The Hill, September 17, 2020, <https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/516932-kroger-sued-for-allegedly-firing-workers-who-refused-to-wear/>

3 “Court Rules Professor Can’t Be Forced to Endorse an Ideology Against His Beliefs: Dr. Nicholas Meriwether, a professor at Shawnee State University, was reprimanded over pronouns.” May 20, 2024 <https://adflegal.org/article/court-rules-professor-cant-be-forced-endorse-ideology-against-his-beliefs/>

4 “Target, Mastercard, Anheuser-Busch, PepsiCo, Comcast, Citi Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and other major corporations have all “slashed their Pride commitments this year,” “Pride Month 2025 was a big flop: Have we reached the end of the rainbow?” by Doug Mainwaring, LifeSite News July 1, 2025, <https://www.lifesitenews.com/analysis/pride-month-2025-was-a-big-flop-have-we-reached-the-end-of-the-rainbow/>

5 “AFA: Boycott of Target 'served its purpose,'” by Staff, February 4, 2025, <https://afn.net/business/2025/02/04/afa-boycott-of-target-served-its-purpose/>

6 “The Forgotten Christian Roots of Kroger, an American Supermarket Behemoth,” by Paul Batura October 17, 2022, <https://dailycitizen.focusonthefamily.com/the-forgotten-christian-roots-of-kroger-an-american-supermarket-behemoth/>

**The following (80) cosigners are lead clergy from (12) counties located in: Richland (51), Crawford (7), Ashland (4), Wayne (4), Knox (3), Trumbull (3), Morrow (2), Stark (2), Huron (1), Licking (1), Lorain (1), & Preble (1)**

Dr. Ricky Branham, Willard Ripley Chapel	Pastor Dink Porter, Mansfield Open Bible Church
Pastor Denny Nezirick, Lexington Presbyterian	Pastor Russ Smith, Shiloh Wesley Evangelical
Pastor Robert O'Brian, Apostolic Faith Assembly	Pastor Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple
Pastor Walter Moss, Canton Foursquare	Pastor Steven Baldridge, Rome Community Church
Pastor Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare	Pastor John Temple, Loudonville Trinity Church
Pastor J.C. Church, Victory in Truth Ministries	Rabbi Bob Bauer, Crestline Beit El Elyon Congregation
Pastor Mark Wireman, Shiloh Pentecostal	Pastor Mark Dettmer, Pleasant Grove Community
Pastor Dan Barker, Cortland Trinity Baptist	Pastor George Lewis, Shelby Temple of GOD
Pastor John Bouquet, Savannah Bethel Chapel	Pastor Bob Weaver, Crestline Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Brian Lavelle, House of Grace Church	Evangelist Johnny Cox, Crestline Church of Christ
Pastor Bobby Edwards, Jesus is Alive Holiness	Pastor David Rentzel, Shelby Kingdom Life Church
Pastor Jeremy Huff, Church of Jesus Christ	Pastor Joe Maggelet, Ashland Christian Fellowship
Pastor Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist	Pastor Jack Williams, Ontario Walker Lake Baptist
Pastor Brian Phillips, New Beginnings Freewill	Pastor Christopher Spencer, Mansfield People's Baptist
Dr. Jeff Mills, Mifflin Little Flock Congregation	Pastor John Campos, Bowman St. Church of GOD
Pastor David Mahon, Galion Apostolic Assembly	Pastor Troy Thompson, Church on the North Coast
Pastor Nickolas Kelly, North Liberty Church	Pastor Louis Blevins, Latter Rain COGIC
Pastor Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Ctr.	Pastor Matthew Merendino, Clear Fork Alliance
Pastor Lucian Baker, Christ the King Church	Pastors Les & Grace Farley, Lexington Irresistible Church
Pastor Jason Price, Mansfield Victory Baptist	Pastors Joe & Amanda Nichols, ARK Empowerment Ctr.
Pastor Rob Ratcliff, North Woodbury Freewill	Pastor Joe Smith, Ontario Westside Baptist
Pastor Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist	Pastor Rick Lewis, Shelby Connect Church
Pastor Russell Stanford, All Believer's in Christ	Rabbi William Hallbrook, Ontario Sar Shalom Ctr.
Pastor Ken Ginter Jr., Ontario Abundant Life	Pastor Charles Burgess Jr., West Salem Church of GOD
Pastor Jerry O'Brien, Orville Faith Harvest	Pastor Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Bishop Sylvester Ginn, Ontario Hesus Agape	Pastor Robert Caw, Newark Church Triumphant
Pastor James Marshall, Ganges Community	Pastor Patrick Bailey, Danville North Bend Church
Pastor Patrick Bailey, Butler North Bend Church	Rabbi Michael Oyler, Canton Star in the East
Pastor Darren Barnett, Caeserea Baptist	Pastor Andrew Stensaas, Eaton First Baptist
Pastor Glen Phillips, Hillside Church of GOD	Pastor LaMont Lindsay, Book of Life Church
Pastor Matthew Pond, Hillstone Freewill Baptist	Pastor Eric Steward, Lucas Mt. Zion Lutheran
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont Community Church	Pastor Steve Burkhhalter, Ontario The Way Church
Pastor Hank Webb, Belmont 96 Church	Pastor Clyde Kerby, Ministries of Hope & Healing
Reverend El Akuchie, Godsfield House of Prayer	Pastor Duane Hennen, Restoration Bible Church
Pastor David Natale, Church at Warren	Pastor Steve Brenneman, Awakening Christian Ctr.
Pastor Joe Silvestri, Wooster Bible Church	Pastor Daniel Rebon, Father's Heart Healing Ctr.
Pastor Ben Gregg, Plymouth Church of GOD	Pastor Kevin Evans, Ganges Liberty Lifesong Ministries
Pastor Eric Byrom, Mansfield Grace Fellowship	Pastor Faron Cole, Eastern Road Church of GOD
Pastor Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center	Elder Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COGIC
Pastor Glenn Mowry, Faith Mission International	Pastor Floyd Allen, Philippian Community Church