

FROM THE DESK OF GIA T. ORR, MS, M.ED

Madam President, Commissioners and Fellow Citizens,

I present here today with extreme appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to serve for the Commission on Human Rights and to vividly illustrate the phrase “- of the People, by the People, for the People-“Your consideration of me for appointment exemplifies this foundational phrase coupled with the opportunities to serve that I have been fortunate to blend together and call my career.

My educational career is rooted in many states, but of note and with considerable pride I hold a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from TSU in Nashville, TN and two master's degrees from National Louis University- one in Human Services and the other in Educational Leadership. My career, which began with an internship in the Tennessee State Legislature, has spanned areas that have ties to common humanity- social services and criminal justice (2), education (15+) and civil employment with the State of Illinois.

As we know the platform of Human Rights is one that has a long history among the hallowed halls/stages of many governmental buildings. Just as this topic has been through the journey of being debated by most, excluded for some, overlooked for others and protected now those are the advocates whose footsteps I strive to follow in. I look forward to being on the Commission boldly and effectively serving my fellow citizens.

I am elated to unite with the current Commissioners as a woman of integrity and spirit, earnestly advocating for people's basic and extended human rights. The very virtue of this work is to ensure these rights are being upheld by way of our laws and mandates, but most importantly by way of the merit of our daily existence.