



LGBTQ+ Law Text Analysis

By Mack Campbell

Political and Social Background

- After substantial gains in rights for LGBTQ+ people there has been an uptick in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and an increase in violence targeting these individuals.
 - The recent “Don’t Say Gay” bill in Florida and the shooting at the gay bar in Colorado Springs exemplify this.
- The DHS recently warned that Jewish, LGBTQ+, and immigrant people are likely to be targets of violence from extremist domestic terrorists.

Research Questions

- What is the connection between the language that state legislator's use in legislation and the state's rank of equality for its queer population?
- How does language use differ based on the stance of the legislation?

State Ranking: Equaldex

- “Measures the current status of LGBT rights, laws, and freedoms as well as public attitudes towards LGBT people.”

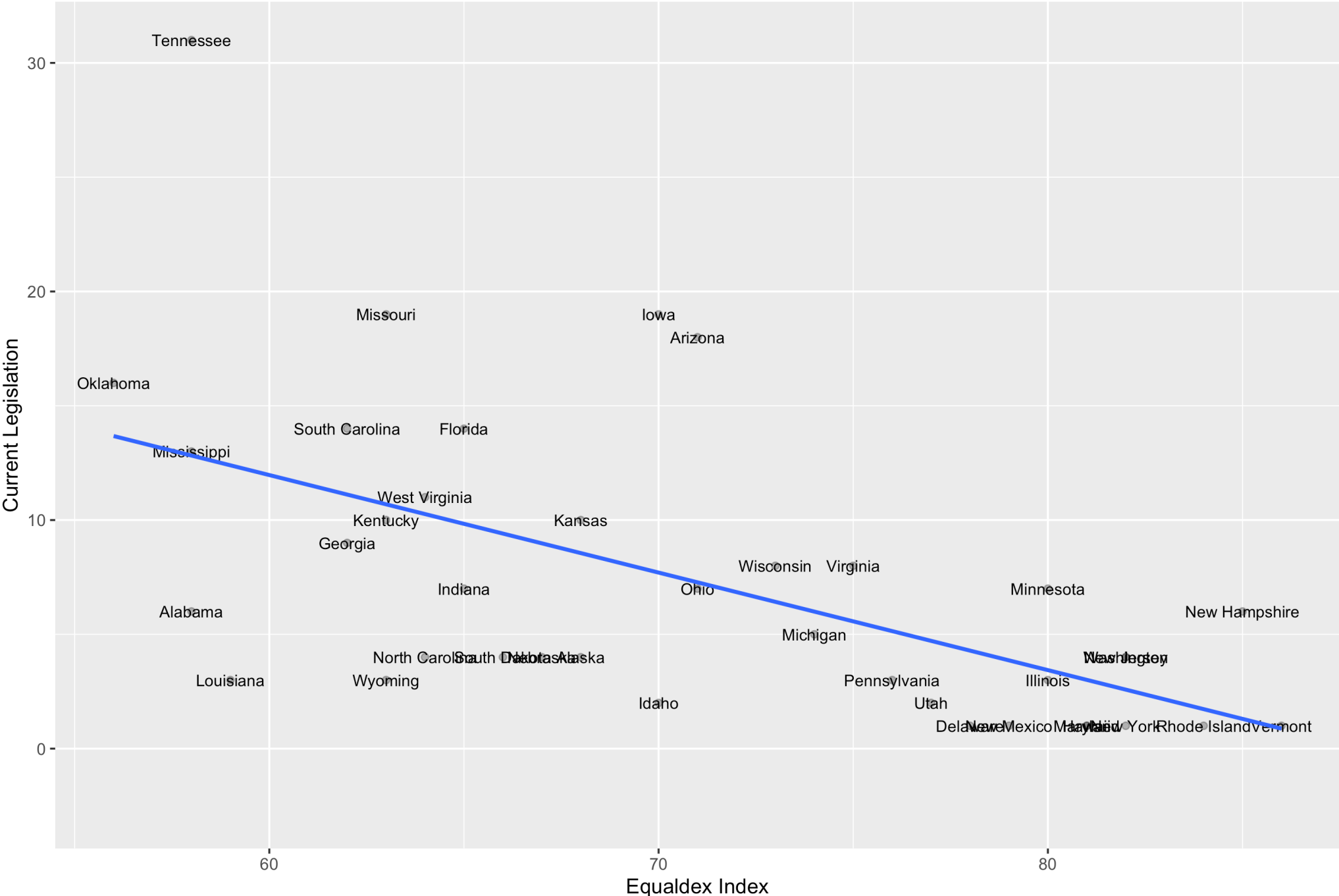
STATE AND TERRITORY	EQUALITY INDEX	LEGAL INDEX	PUBLIC OPINION INDEX
1. <u>Vermont</u>	86 / 100	98 / 100	74 / 100
2. <u>Massachusetts</u>	86	98	74
3. <u>Connecticut</u>	85	98	71
4. <u>New Hampshire</u>	85	98	71
5. <u>Rhode Island</u>	84	98	70
6. <u>Washington, D.C.</u>	83	98	68
7. <u>New York</u>	82	98	67
8. <u>California</u>	82	98	66
9. <u>New Jersey</u>	82	98	66
10. <u>Washington</u>	82	98	66
11. <u>Maine</u>	82	98	65
12. <u>Maryland</u>	81	98	64

State Ranking: MAP*

- MAP “tracks over 50 different LGBTQ-related laws and policies. A state’s policy tally scores the laws and policies within each state that shape LGBTQ people’s lives, experiences, and equality.”

	STATE		RELATIONSHIP AND PARENTAL RECOGNITION	NON- DISCRIMINATION	RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION LAWS	LGBT YOUTH	HEALTHCARE	CRIMINAL JUSTICE	IDENTITY DOCUMENTS	SEXUAL ORIENTATION POLICY TALLY	GENDER IDENTITY POLICY TALLY	OVERALL TALLY
1	Alabama	SO	1/6	0/4.5	-2.5/-3.5	-1/5	0.5/2	0/3	--	-2.00	-6.50	-8.50
		GI	0/1	0/4.5	-2.5/-2.5	-3/5	-1/4.5	0/3	0/4			
2	Alaska	SO	3/6	3.5/4.5	0/-3.5	2/5	0.5/2	0.75/3	--	9.75	9.50	19.25
		GI	1/1	3.5/4.5	0/-2.5	2/5	1.5/4.5	-0.25/3	1.75/4			
3	American Samoa	SO	1/6	0/4.5	0/-3.5	0/5	0/2	0/3	--	1.00	-1.00	0.00
		GI	0/1	0/4.5	0/-2.5	0/5	0/4.5	0/3	-1/4			
4	Arizona	SO	2.5/6	1.75/4.5	-1.5/-3.5	0/5	1/2	2/3	--	5.75	-3.50	2.25
		GI	0/1	1.75/4.5	-1.5/-2.5	-1/5	-2/4.5	0/3	-0.75/4			
5	Arkansas	SO	2/6	-1/4.5	-1.5/-3.5	0/5	1/2	-1/3	--	-0.50	-5.00	-5.50
		GI	0/1	-1/4.5	-1.5/-2.5	-1/5	-2/4.5	-1/3	1.5/4			
6	California	SO	5.75/6	4.5/4.5	0/-3.5	5/5	2/2	2.75/3	--	20.00	21.75	41.75
		GI	1/1	4.5/4.5	0/-2.5	5/5	4.5/4.5	2.75/3	4/4			

State Equaldex Index and Current Legislation





State Legislation: Freedom For All Americans

- Legislation tracker for pro- and anti-LGBT bills
- Provides high-level view of bills per state
- Widgets are powered by BillTrack50



State Legislation: BillTrack50

- Tracks bill information across all US states, on all topics
- Links directly to PDF text

What's in the Data?

- 39 different states
 - Only 15 of these also have pro-LGBTQ+ legislation
- 285 bills
 - 261 anti-LGBTQ+ legislation
 - 24 pro-LGBTQ+ legislation
- 217 bill texts are included in current analysis
 - Total bill texts is 417
- Word tokens: 230,701

Unigram Raw Frequency

Pro Legislation

Bill1gram <chr>	Token_Count <int>
person	673
gender	622
status	575
sex	543
commission	507
identity	501
sexual	497
national	491
employment	482
origin	480

Anti Legislation*

Bill1gram <chr>	Token_Count <int>
school	4648
district	2709
sex	2094
education	1654
public	1367
board	1247
department	1246
act	1197
gender	881
person	866

* Anti legislation has more texts than pro legislation

Unigram Mean Frequency

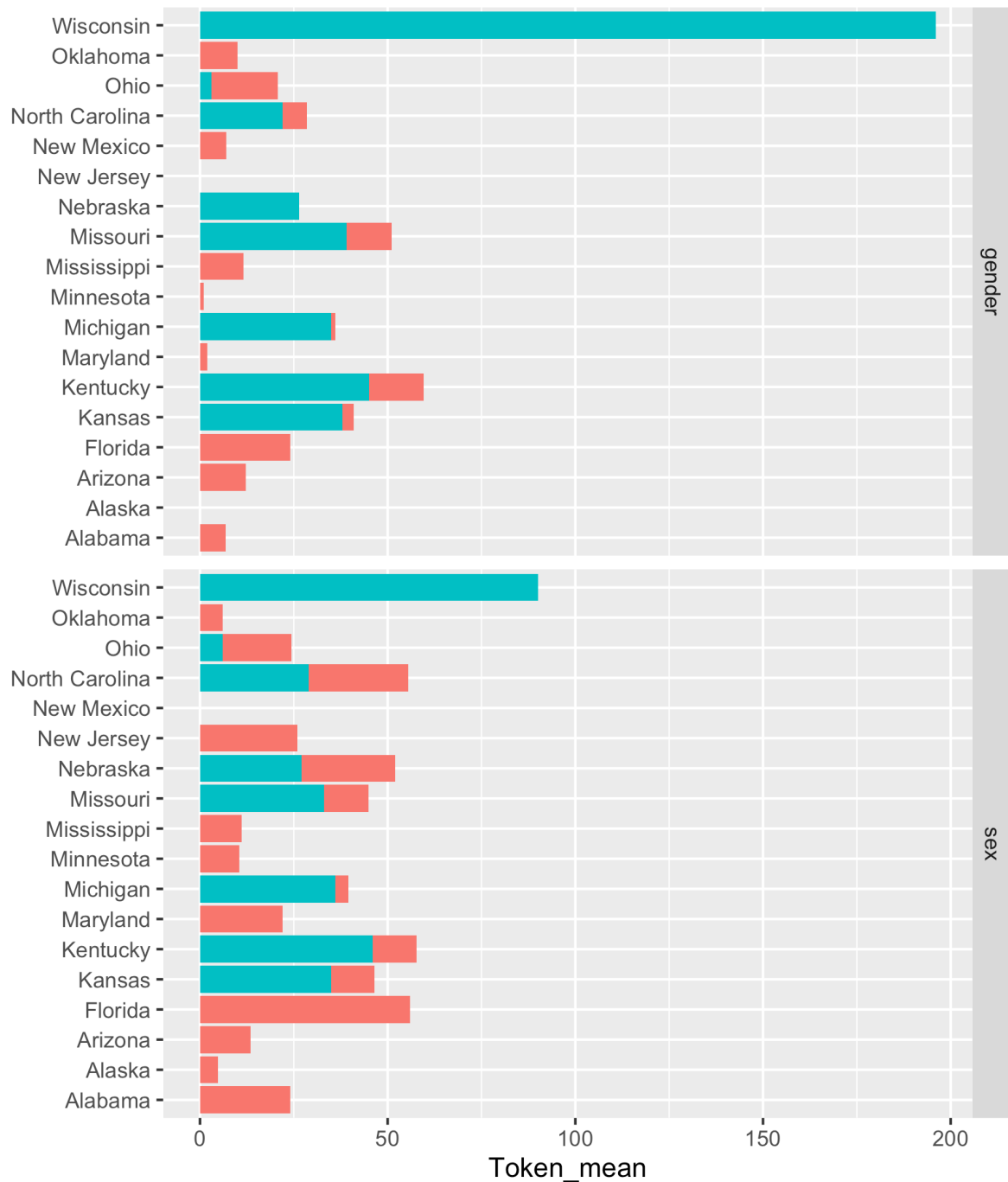
Pro Legislation

Bill1gram <chr>	Token_mean <dbl>
division	60.000000
person	39.588235
gender	36.588235
status	33.823529
jacketed	33.000000
unofficial	33.000000
sex	31.941176
commission	29.823529
identity	29.470588
sexual	29.235294

Anti Legislation

Bill1gram <chr>	Token_mean <dbl>
intermediate	175.500000
allowance	125.000000
benchmark	74.000000
covenant	68.000000
allocated	62.000000
academy	50.666667
sub	48.166667
equated	44.000000
target	42.000000
levied	41.000000

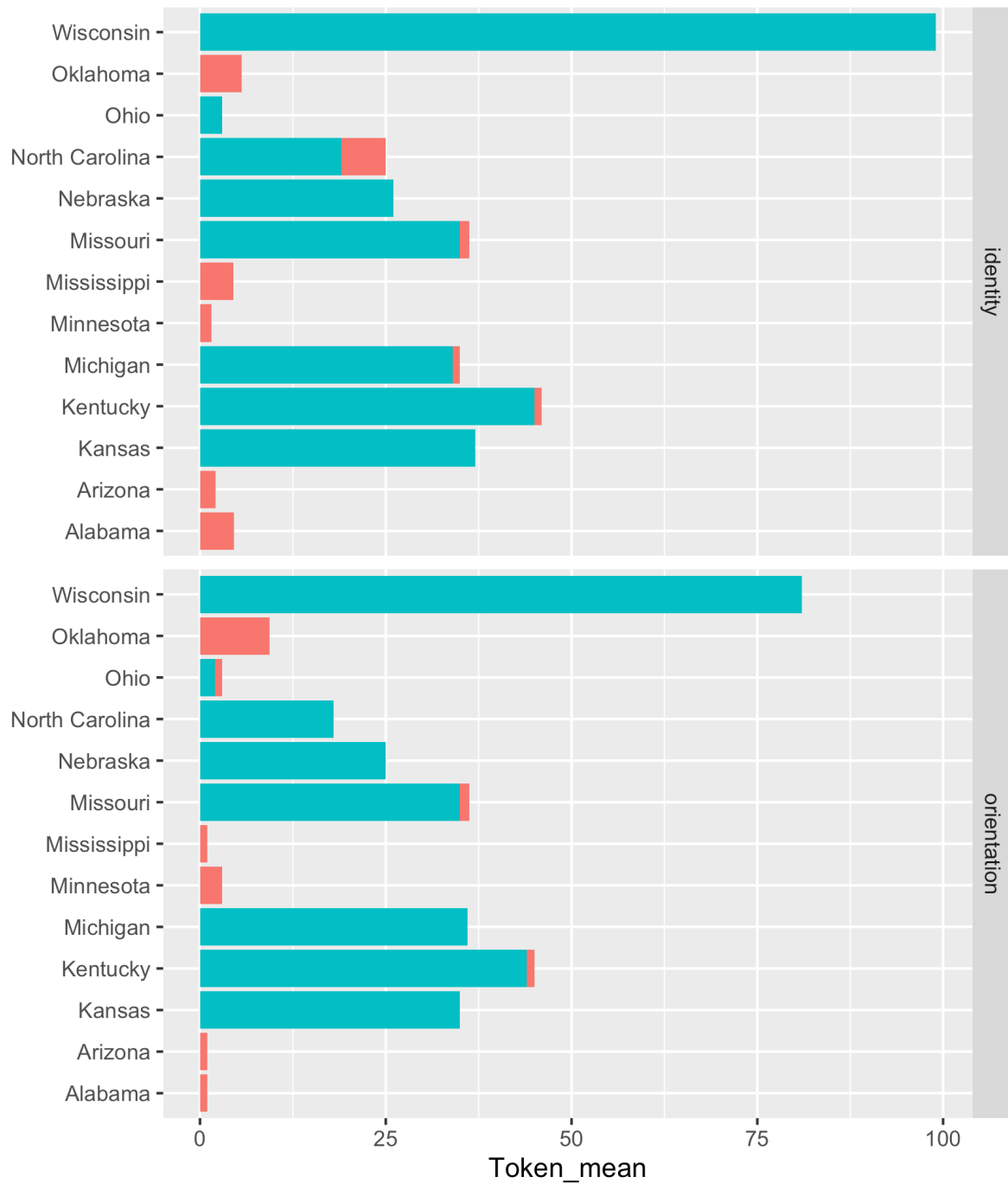
Token Frequency: 'gender' vs 'sex'



Unigram Data

gender vs sex

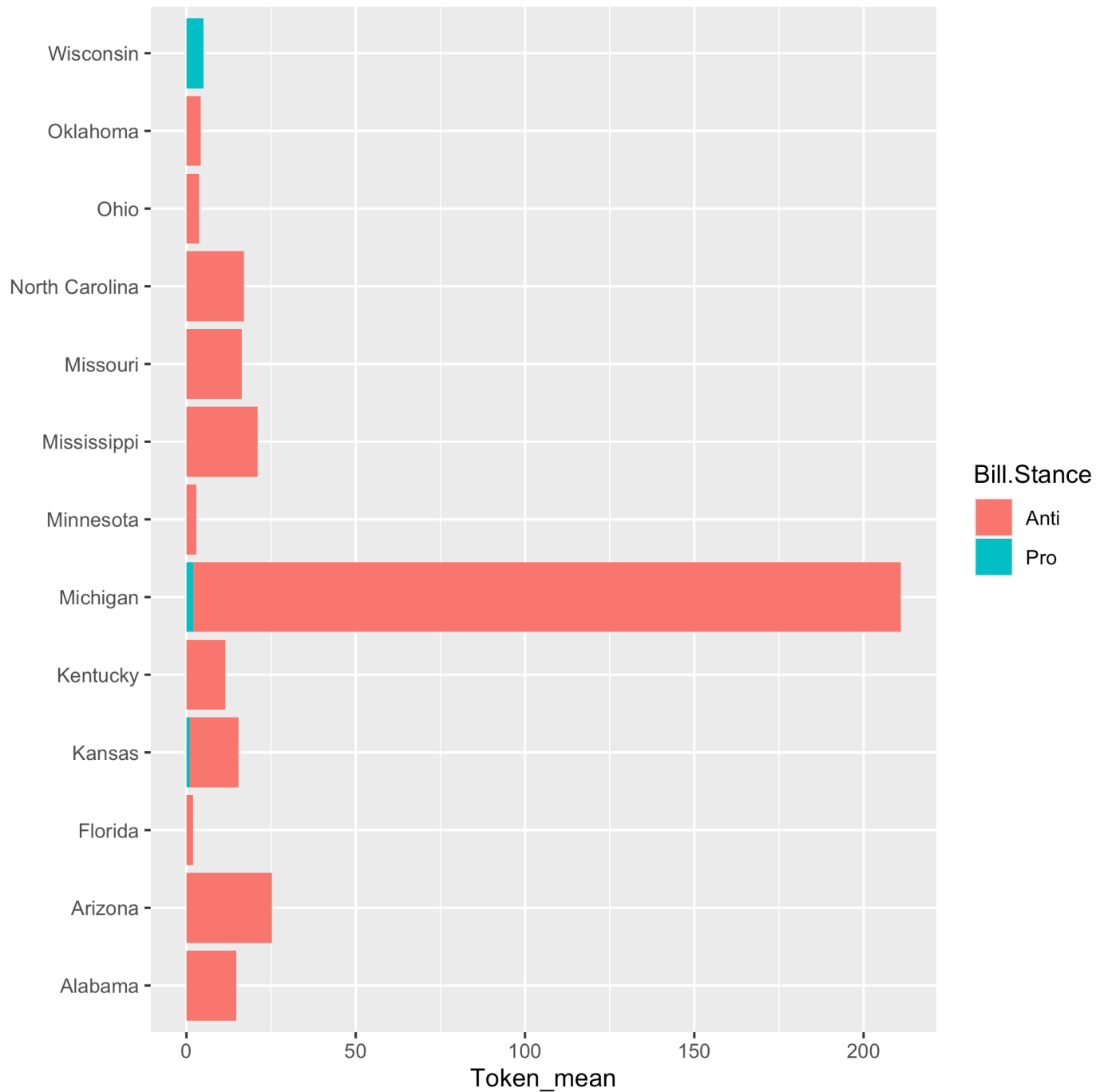
Token Frequency: 'orientation' and 'identity'



Unigram Data

identity and orientation

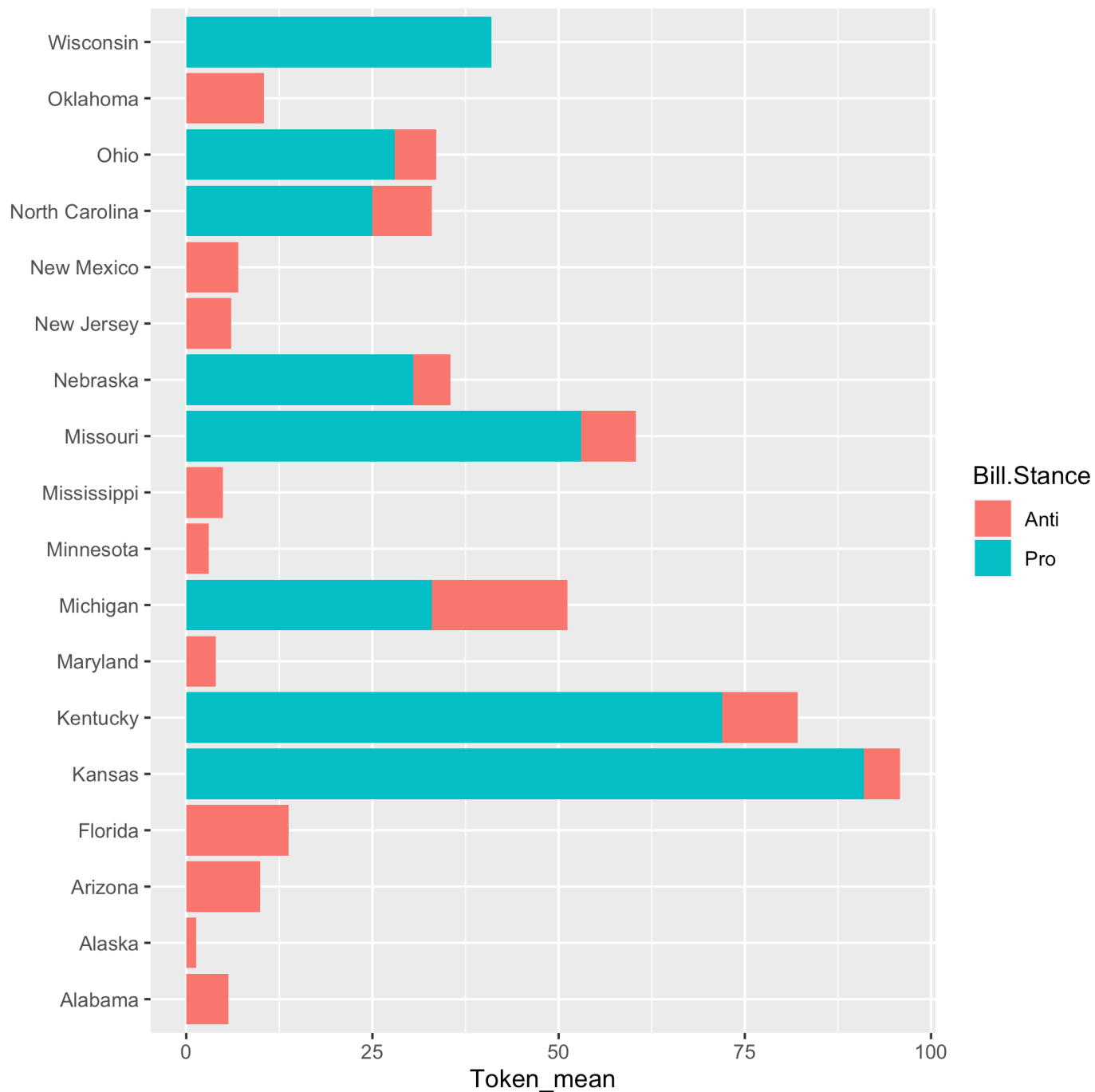
Token Frequency: 'child' and 'children'



Unigram Data

child/children

Token Frequency: 'person' and 'people'



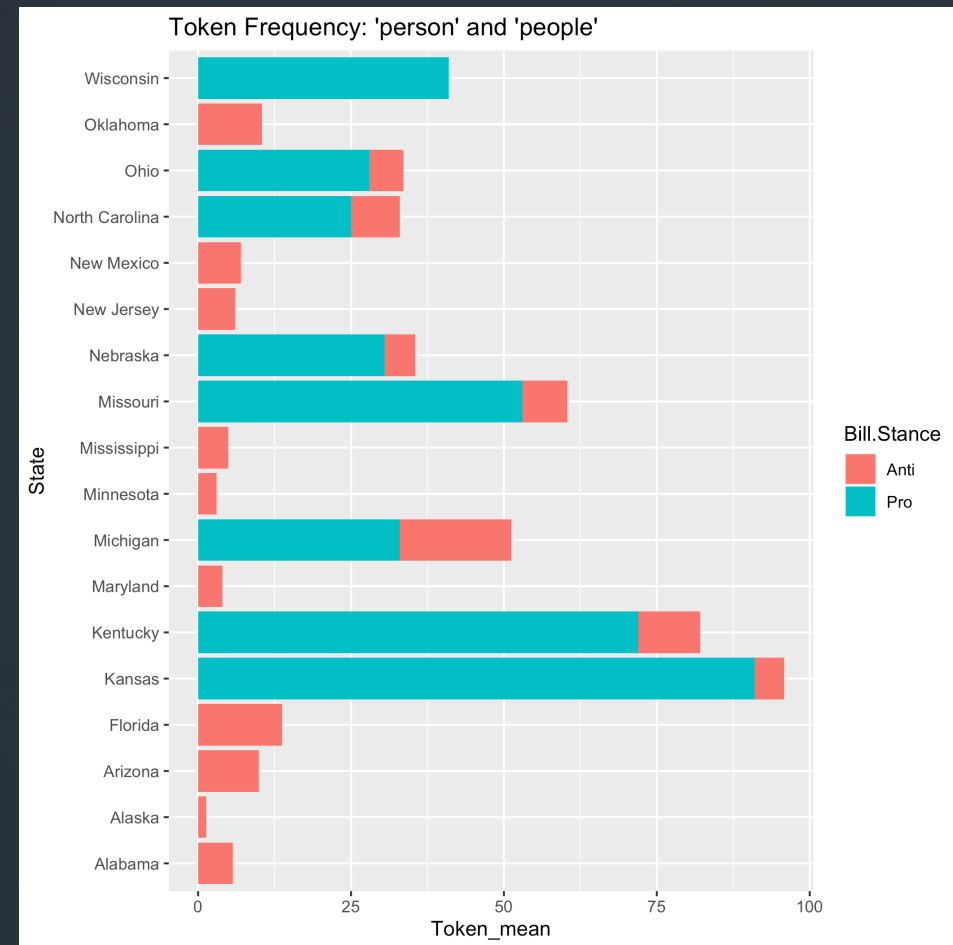
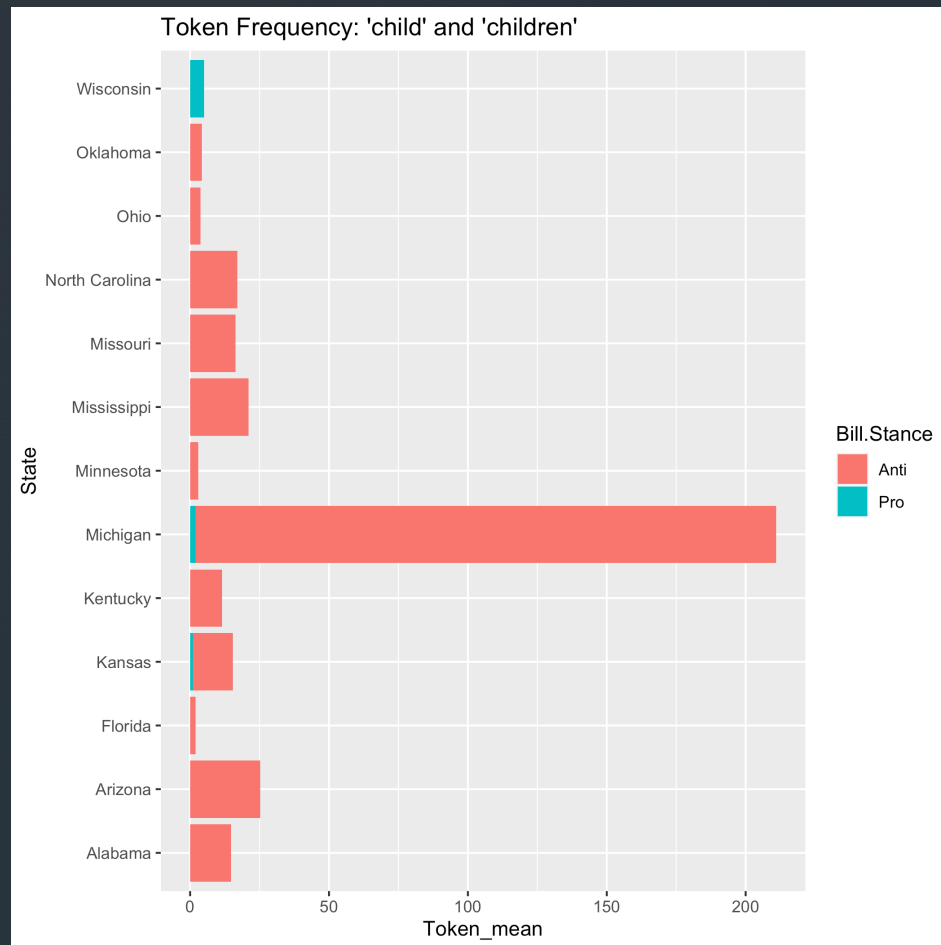
Unigram Data

person/people

Unigram Data

child/children

person/people



Next Steps

- Generate “stop words” from legalese
- Run statistical tests on text data and MAP/Equaldex scores
- Look at bigrams and trigrams
- Tidy the text up more
 - Removing stop words and nonsense words from bi- and trigrams



Future Research

- Convert into a corpus with metadata
- Run a classifier on the data to look at most influential features
- Look at other legislation from conservative/liberal division