



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Resolution Urging NC Legislature to Rescind HB 2 on Behalf of All Its Residents

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2016, the Charlotte City Council approved a local ordinance adding marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to its categories protected from discrimination in city contracting and public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2016, in response to the Charlotte ordinance, the North Carolina General Assembly in special session ratified, and Governor Pat McCrory signed, House Bill 2 (Session Law 2016-3), which has once again eroded local decision making and also eroded the rights of specific residents who may be victims of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 has the effect of not only repealing the Charlotte ordinance, it prevents all North Carolina local governments from taking action to ensure that residents are not discriminated against due to sexual identity in terms of public employment, use of public facilities and public contracting; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 creates a statewide definition of discrimination in employment and public accommodations that specifically excludes sexual identity as a protected class and provides specific statewide requirements for public bathrooms and changing facilities, including schools, that we deem to be discriminatory; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 erodes longstanding state non-discrimination laws by eliminating the right of any person to bring a civil action in a North Carolina court for a claim of discrimination in employment or public accommodations on account of race, religion, color, national origin, age, or biological sex (as well as handicap for employment only); and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 has subjected the state to nationwide negative publicity and has already had tragic economic impact on jobs and tourism revenue, including the loss of at least 1,300 new jobs and millions of dollars in business investments; a decision by Google Ventures not to back any North Carolina companies; the loss of several conventions representing at least 20,000 hotel nights; cancellations of major sellout concerts; and the loss of several film industry projects; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly expended an estimated \$42,000 to hold an urgent special session to enact House Bill 2, when funds are greatly needed to address serious issues, such as the 18% poverty rate (including 25% of children and 27% of African Americans), expansion of the Medicaid program and access to high-quality health care for all, adequate funding for public education, including historically black colleges and universities, environmental protection and climate change, and enhanced job opportunities and fair and living wages for all workers; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 2 further sets a negative precedent by restricting local governments' ability to determine minimum wages paid by private contractors, hours of labor, benefits, well-being of employed minors and other employment issues; and

WHEREAS, we believe that House Bill 2 is not based on factual criminal data and lacks an authentic understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is a diverse community dedicated to the principles of equality, nondiscrimination, and full inclusion and engagement by any resident in the civil rights, benefits, and privileges of all residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Chatham County Board of Commissioners urges the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal House Bill 2 at the earliest opportunity; and
- The Chatham County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its support for protecting and advancing the constitutional rights and equitable treatment of all residents and its opposition to discrimination, prejudice, homophobia, and transphobia; and
- The Chatham County Board of Commissioners applauds the members of the Charlotte City Council for their leadership in standing for dignity and equality in North Carolina's largest city; and
- The Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports the efforts of local governments involved in exploring possible court remedies that would allow localities in North Carolina to adopt appropriate local ordinances to advance the cause of equal protection and nondiscrimination.

Adopted the 18th day of April 2016.

James Crawford, Chairman
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners