



**NORTH CAROLINA COUNSELING ASSOCIATION**  
*A Branch of the American Counseling Association*

Governor Pat McCrory, Senators, and Legislators,

The North Carolina Counseling Association (NCCA) is the state branch of the American Counseling Association (ACA). We are comprised of counselors, therapists, school counselors, counselor educators, supervisors, career counselors, college counselors, and students. We are bound by the ACA Code of Ethics. We use this Code of Ethics to guide our practice, and work with students and clients to ensure they get the best care possible.

Part of being in the mental health field as a counselor is to advocate for our clients. According to our Code of Ethics, “The primary responsibility of counselors is to respect the dignity and promote the welfare of clients (A.1.a), when appropriate, counselors advocate at individual, group, institutional, and societal levels to address potential barriers and obstacles that inhibit access and/or the growth and development of clients (A.7.a).” The purpose of this letter is to advocate for transgender people.

NCCA stands against House Bill 2 (HB2) specifically the following:

**Part 1:** Single sex and multiple-occupancy bathroom and changing facilities-all school and government agency restrooms and locker rooms that are designed for use multiple occupancy must be designated as a single-sex facilities, these multiple occupancy spaces may only be use by individuals based on the sex listed on their birth certificate

**Part 3:** Protections of rights in employment and public accommodations-local governments are prohibited from passing laws that expand nondiscrimination protections to other classes not included in the state’s nondiscrimination policy, designating bathroom use based on sex at birth is not discrimination.

NCCA does not support discrimination in any form. Discrimination occurs when a distinction is made in favor or against a person, or group of people. Discrimination in law can be law or practice that denies a group of people rights or grants privileges to a certain class of people. According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, there are approximately 1.4 million transgender people in the United States. HB2 discriminates against some of those 1.4 million people who live in North Carolina and places them in danger. This law perpetuates fear and lack of understanding regarding this community. Facts regarding transgender-inclusive bathrooms provided by the National Center for Transgender Equality show that:

- Hundreds of cities, school districts, and 18 states already protect transgender people's right to use restrooms, and none have seen a rise in incidents of people being attacked by a transgender person.

- Law enforcement officials and sexual assault advocates in states and cities that already have trans-inclusive policies in place have repeatedly said that the claim that these policies cause safety problems is absurd and completely false.
- Everyone—including transgender people—should be treated equally under the law. Like all nondiscrimination protections, trans-inclusive policies don't require anyone to change their religious beliefs. They simply ensure that transgender people can live, work, study and participate in public life according to their identities.

A recent CNN poll reported 57% of Americans oppose bills like HB2. Sixty-eight companies signed the Human Rights Campaign brief in support of blocking HB2, including Apple, Dupont, eBay, Ikea North American Services, PayPal, Williams-Sonoma, United Airlines, Inc., and General Electric Company. The NBA All-Star game was moved from North Carolina because of HB2. Several artists, including Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen, and Ringo Starr, canceled concerts because of HB2.

We stand with the others who have expressed their opposition to our state government discriminating against the transgender population. As counselors, we believe people have a right to live, support their families and be prosperous, without fear of harassment, loss of job, or death. Citizens of North Carolina need to be supported by their government, the elected officials they voted into office. They need their officials to put laws in place that support the right to live, support their families, and be prosperous, not destroy it.

NCCA asks for the repeal of HB2. It continues to affect our state's economy, gives freedom to discriminate against its citizens, and make North Carolina synonymous with discrimination and hate.

Thank you,

Angela Brooks-Livingston  
2016-2017 NCCA President  
2016- 2017 NCCA Governing Council Board

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