

The North Carolina Psychological Association (NCPA), the primary professional association for psychologists in NC, advocates for psychology as a science, a profession, and a means of promoting human welfare. Our association of almost 1000 members represents diverse opinions about various social issues, but we speak up collectively as an organized voice for psychologists when there are legislative actions or other circumstances that we believe impact the well-being and mental health of North Carolina citizens.

### **DISCRIMINATION HARMS PEOPLE**

**Serious mental health consequences are associated with discrimination** - Exposure to discrimination, unequal treatment and intensified fear are correlated with increased psychological suffering, including depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, suicide attempts, substance use disorders, eating disorders, and physical health problems.

**Targeting of a specific group can breed fearful, hostile environments** - There are dangerous implications any time a group is targeted, increasing alarm and panic within the general community. Mild forms of prejudicial behavior make it easier to transition to more forceful, aggressive displays of prejudice.

**Institutional heterosexism and heteronormative assumptions are hurtful** - Discriminating against LGBT people ultimately threatens all community members' well-being and serves no one. Using differences to exclude, demean, or deny full humanity to others is problematic and damaging.

### **HB2 DISCRIMINATES**

**HB2 allows discrimination against LGBT people** - The laws in place prior to HB2 posed no risk to the health and welfare of our communities. HB2 invalidates local LGBT protections and is harmful from a behavioral health aspect to citizens.

**Unfounded fears and misinformation are at the root of HB2** - The foundation of this new law are based on prejudice, propaganda and suspicions rather than fact, scientific research and truth.

**Far-reaching negative effects on LGBT citizens and their friends & families will occur** - When discrimination is condoned and there is unfair treatment towards a large group of citizens, there is negative impact on occupational, economic, academic, psychosocial, and emotional functioning.

### **REPEALING HB2 IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO**

**Protecting the well-being of North Carolina and North Carolinians helps us all** – By repealing HB2, we will be reclaiming our values of equality, supporting social justice and upholding civil rights. Our LGBT citizens deserve the same protection against discrimination that is held by other North Carolina citizens in order to continue productive work-related, academic, and community accomplishments.

**Embracing diversity makes us stronger** – Diversity is a fact of life and is the foundation of our survival. Incorporating a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives allows for more creative, original & innovative solving of problems that face us individually and collectively.

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