

## **Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, Durham County has a longstanding reputation for being a welcoming community which promotes a culture of diversity, and inclusiveness for all residents and values a philosophy of equality for all persons; and

**WHEREAS**, in a swift reaction to the City of Charlotte's policy, the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor respectively approved and signed into law one of the nation's most sweeping and controversial laws reversing nondiscrimination standards, the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act; and

**WHEREAS**, enacting laws that send a message of intolerance poses a financial threat to our state's economy and hampers efforts to attract new and retain existing businesses as well as sporting and entertainment events and major conferences, the loss of which negatively impacts the prosperity of our citizens seeking to earn a living for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, this law appears to have an adverse impact on efforts to support a livable wage for workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Durham County vigorously condemns this law as it is inconsistent with the Equal Protection Clause in the U. S. Constitution as well as Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and

**WHEREAS**, currently, federal agencies including Education, Transportation, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services departments have announced that they are reviewing the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act and whether its passage may represent a possible loss of funding to North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation appears to eliminate the right of citizens to bring a civil action in a North Carolina court for claims 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).

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** we, the members of the Durham County Board of Commissioners urge immediate repeal of the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act which discriminates against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens and greatly diminishes local governments' authority to govern in the best interest of their local citizens. We join other local governments in expressing our vigorous opposition to this law.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Durham County opposes discrimination of any form and will work to ensure that all persons are treated with dignity and respect without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, race, religious affiliation, age, familial status, marital status and all protected categories.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Pat McCrory, Speaker Tim Moore, President Pro Tem Phil Berger, and the members of the Durham County delegation to the General Assembly.

This the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2016

Michael D. Page, Chairman

Brenda A. Howerton

Fred Foster, Jr.

Wendy Jacobs

Ellen W. Reckhow