

McCrory and allies waging a "war on facts" to defend HB2; False claims abound as governor and allies attempt to defend the indefensible

RALEIGH -- In their attempt to ward off overwhelming criticism over HB2, Gov. McCrory and his allies have repeatedly resorted to pushing false claims and willful ignorance about their misguided and bigoted law.

First, the McCrory campaign sent out a wildly misleading "fact check" about HB2 -- which earned the worst possible rating

from WRAL's own fact-checkers. Then, the governor tried to claim that HB2 doesn't take away "any rights that have currently existed in any city in North Carolina." PolitiFact ruled the claim "False."

HB2 supporters have also tried to claim that local nondiscrimination laws such as the Charlotte ordinance make it easier for male sexual predators to

commit crimes in bathrooms and locker rooms. However, when Equality NC's Chris Sgro pointed out that "There have not been any public safety issues" in cities that allow transgender people to use the bathrooms they're more comfortable in, PolitiFact supported Sgro's claim.

Meanwhile, the right-wing NC Values Coalition sent out a list of "over 300 businesses" which supposedly support the law. When questioned by the Greensboro News & Record, the group admitted their list of "businesses" was actually 300 private individuals. Of the remaining handful of businesses, the largest -- Hanesbrand -- immediately asked to be taken off the list because they do NOT in fact support HB2. And another business on the list was actually found to be located in SOUTH Carolina!

And just this week, after PayPal announced that it was canceling a planned 400-job expansion in North Carolina because of HB2, Lieutenant Governor Dan Forest tried to claim that PayPal's gender-specific bathrooms would have been "illegal" under the Charlotte ordinance. Forest's claim that the Charlotte ordinance would have somehow forced private businesses to eliminate gender-specific bathrooms altogether is patently false.

"It's awfully telling that Gov. McCrory and his allies are unable to defend HB2 without resorting to false claims and bogus scare tactics," said Gerrick Brenner, executive director of Progress NC Action. "HB2 is costing North Carolina jobs, but Gov. McCrory continues to wage a 'war on facts' in order to defend the indefensible. Maybe the governor didn't understand what he was signing when he rushed to enact this misguided law, but now the facts are clear: HB2 is bad for business."

Arts North Carolina Board Opposes HB-2

On March 30, the Arts North Carolina Board met and discussed our organization's response to HB2. It was determined that our core mission and vision statements unanimously adopted in 2014 clearly state our position of commitment to inclusion, diversity, and access:

ARTS North Carolina calls for equity and access to the arts for all North Carolinians, unifies and connects North Carolina's arts communities, and fosters arts leadership. We speak for the arts wherever there is need. Arts North Carolina unites people and communities to strengthen and celebrate a creative North Carolina. We strive to create a vibrant North Carolina where the arts are embraced by all as indispensable.

Or simply put: all the arts, for all the people, in every place.

The outpouring of protest will possibly result in a reconsideration of HB2 when session convenes on April 25. Arts North Carolina seeks to gather as many facts as the industry can give us that illustrate economic, education, or civic impact of HB2. A special shout out to North Carolina Theatre Conference, John C. Campbell Folk School, Full Frame Documentary, Lee Street Theatre, and American Dance Festival for your work in gathering audience and donor responses.

Please send any specific information you might have to advocacy@artsnc.org.

With gratitude for your service to the arts,
Karen Wells
Executive Director

Mayor Roberts' Radical Bathroom Sharing Ordinance Costs Charlotte PayPal

Joint statement from House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate Leader Phil Berger:

"When Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts teamed up with a convicted child sexual predator to pass a radical bathroom policy allowing men to use girls' locker rooms and bathrooms, the Governor warned her the legislature would take immediate action to protect North Carolina families. If Jennifer Roberts, Roy Cooper and the far-left Political Correctness Mob she's unleashed really care about the economic future of her city, they'll stop the misinformation campaign immediately and start telling the truth about this commonsense bathroom safety law before more damage is done to the city she was elected to lead and the state Cooper was elected to protect."

Background:

As soon as she was elected last November, Charlotte Mayor Jennifer Roberts (pictured here at an event with the convicted child sexual predator) teamed up with a group of far-left activists lead by a convicted child sex predator to push as her top priority one of the most radical far-left social agendas in America. The crown jewel of their far-left agenda was an absurd, politically correct, overreach that requires every business serving the public including YMCAs, restaurants and public arenas to allow grown men to use the women's and girl's bathrooms, locker rooms and changing rooms.

Governor McCrory repeatedly warned Mayor Roberts that the legislature would repeal any effort to force private businesses to let men into women's locker rooms and bathrooms. Instead of listening to Governor McCrory's advice to allow businesses the choice of keeping bathrooms designated for either men or women Mayor Roberts doubled down. She's teamed up with Attorney General Roy Cooper, the Human Rights Campaign and the rest of the national Political Correctness Mob to trash the reputation of her own city and wage war on her own state. With the help of the Liberal Media, they have covered up the truth about the bathroom ordinance supporters. They have lied about and misrepresented what the bill does.

Unless Mayor Roberts and Attorney General Cooper call off their far-left financial supporters and political allies they will likely cause Charlotte more damage including potentially losing the NBA All-Star game.

The Bathroom Safety Bill does five key things:

1. First and foremost, it makes sure that elementary, middle and high school children will not have to share bathrooms and locker rooms that are for use by more than one person at a time with the opposite sex. The bill still allows schools to accommodate individual students' needs with single occupancy multi-sex bathrooms and locker rooms.

2. The bill applies the same common-sense rule to public buildings throughout North Carolina.

3. The bill prohibits local governments from mandating businesses adopt any specific bathroom and locker room policy. Importantly, this makes businesses free to make their own decisions regarding how to set up bathroom and locker rooms. Businesses may choose to offer gender-neutral bathrooms and changing rooms if that is what their customers demand. Conversely, if a church wants to keep their bathrooms separated by gender they may do so. Likewise, this bill does nothing to any business's existing or future choice to implement more expansive workplace or accommodation policies. The bill stops local governments from dictating to business and preserves for every business the flexibility to craft its own solution to these challenges.

4. The bill, for the first time, implements a statewide policy anti-discrimination in public accommodations that goes beyond what federal law requires:

a) It is the public policy of this State to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all individuals within the State to enjoy fully and equally the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of places of public accommodation free of discrimination because of race, religion, color, national origin, or biological sex, provided that designating multiple or single occupancy bathrooms or changing facilities according to biological sex, as defined in G.S. 143-760(a)(1), (3), and (5), shall not be deemed to constitute discrimination.

5. Finally, the bill provides a single consistent statewide process and set of regulations related to anti-discrimination complaints, wage and work standards that reaffirms longstanding state policy making the State Human Relations Commission the venue responsible for handling these complaints:

(a) It is the public policy of this State to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to seek, obtain and hold employment without discrimination or abridgement on account of race, religion, color, national origin, age, biological sex or handicap by employers which regularly employ 15 or more employees.

(b) It is recognized that the practice of denying employment opportunity and discriminating in the terms of employment foments domestic strife and unrest, deprives the State of the fullest utilization of its capacities for advancement and development, and substantially and adversely affects the interests of employees, employers, and the public in general.

(c) The General Assembly declares that the regulation of discriminatory practices in employment is properly an issue of general, statewide concern, such that this Article and other applicable provisions of the General Statutes supersede and preempt any ordinance, regulation, resolution, or policy adopted or imposed by a unit of local government or other political subdivision of the State that regulates or imposes any requirement upon an employer pertaining to the regulation of discriminatory practices in employment, except such regulations applicable to personnel employed by that body that are not otherwise in conflict with State law.

* 143-422.3. Investigations; conciliations.

The Human Relations Commission in the Department of Administration shall have the authority to receive charges of discrimination from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission pursuant to an agreement under Section 709(b) of Public Law 88-352, as amended by Public Law 92-261, and investigate and conciliate charges of discrimination. Throughout this process, the agency shall use its good offices to effect an amicable resolution of the charges of discrimination. This Article does not create, and shall not be construed to create or support, a statutory or common law private right of action, and no person may bring any civil action based upon the public policy expressed herein.

Statement from Triangle Rabbis Against HB-2

We, the undersigned Rabbis of the Triangle, express our deep dismay in the recent passage of the law known as H.B. 2. As leaders of a faith community which has repeatedly suffered from state-sponsored discrimination and citizen-based prejudice, we will not stand idly by as our North Carolina legislature weakens the legal protections of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender brothers and sisters. The Torah teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God and imbued with infinite value. In that spirit, we declare that our state should, under no circumstance, desecrate the holiness and dignity of any citizen. We, therefore, demand that H.B. 2 be repealed. Furthermore, we urge North Carolina residents to contact their local elected officials and express their concerns. Our prayers are with the thousands of North Carolinians whose humanity is under attack. We stand with them, and against those who would strip them of their legal guarantees under the law.

Organizers: Rabbi Eric Solomon Beth Meyer Synagogue
Rabbi Larry Bach Judea Reform Congregation

Rabbi Leah Citrin, Temple Beth Or
Rabbi Susan Cowchuck, MD
Rabbi Lucy Dinner, Temple Beth Or
Rabbi Ariel Edery, Beth Shalom
Rabbi Jen Feldman, Kehillah Synagogue
Rabbi Frank A. Fischer

Rabbi Elana Friedman, Freeman Center for Jewish Life at Duke University
Rabbi John Friedman, Rabbi Emeritus, Judea Reform Congregation
Rabbi Daniel Greyber, Beth El Synagogue
Rabbi Raachel Jurovics, Yavneh: A Jewish Renewal Community
Rabbi Steven Kirschner
(Prof.) Rabbi Laura Lieber, Duke University
Rabbi Ariel Naveh, University of North Carolina Hillel
Rabbi Steven Sager, Director of Sichah
Rabbi Jennifer Solomon, Beth Meyer Synagogue

HB2

Durham Chamber of Commerce Takes a Position on HB2

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce and its Board of Directors releases the following statement today on House Bill 2:

"The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce stands with the many companies, communities and individuals in opposing HB2 and all legislation which discriminates against men, women, governments and private companies living in, traveling to and doing business in North Carolina. Durham, is an inclusive community which is home to many diverse people, festivals and research centers. Consistent with our mission to promote economic development and support quality of life in Durham, we condemn measures that negatively impact businesses, or curtail the civil rights and liberties of our neighbors and guests".

Geoff Durham - President and CEO, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce is the leading economic development organization in Durham. Innovation, economic development and business empowerment are the heart of this thriving pro-active business leadership organization.

STATEMENT FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY LEADERS REGARDING HB2

The following statement by Duke's president, provost and chancellor for health affairs was released April 18.

Duke University is committed to fostering an open, welcoming, inclusive community that respects each individual. We remain steadfast in our policies of nondiscrimination and inclusion for all of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, patients, fans and visitors.

We deplore in the strongest possible terms the new state law, HB2, that prevents municipalities from establishing laws that protect members of the LGBTQ+ community and others from discrimination and eliminates some economic advancement opportunities for underrepresented communities.

As a result of this law, North Carolina has already suffered damage to its national and international reputation as a leader in the fair treatment of its citizens. The economic and material impact is being felt across the state in many ways, including at universities. Scholars from states and municipalities that have imposed bans on government travel to North Carolina have been unable to travel to Duke to continue vital ongoing research partnerships or attend academic conferences. Prospective students, faculty and staff, as well as Duke alumni planning visits to campus, have voiced concerns about whether they will find a hospitable environment in North Carolina. These developments have the potential to limit the value that Duke and other colleges and universities contribute to the state, namely producing trained graduates and expanding the frontiers of knowledge.

We extend our concern and support to those who have been most directly affected -- the members of Duke's LGBTQ+ community. We encourage anyone needing assistance to turn to the many support services that Duke offers.

In spirit and in letter, this new law runs counter to the ideals of Duke University -- and, we believe, to those of our great state. We urge a full repeal of HB2.

Richard Brodhead
President

Sally Kornbluth
Provost

A. Eugene Washington
Chancellor for Health Affairs
President and CEO, Duke University Health System

Deborah Ross Statement on PayPal's HB2 Decision

RALEIGH - Deborah Ross, Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, released the following statement after PayPal canceled plans to build a global operations center in Charlotte

"Senator Burr claims this law 'does not discriminate' and 'doesn't involve federal issues,' but the facts show that this discrimination bill is costing North Carolina real jobs and economic growth. Senator Burr is out of touch, and North Carolina needs a U.S. Senator who understands the law's impact and cares about all the people of our state."

PayPal's cancellation of the \$3.6 million project will cost North Carolina 400 jobs and more than \$20 million a year. Additionally, the law has hurt the state's \$5 billion High Point Furniture Market, and has caused Braeburn Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to reevaluate a \$20 million economic development project in Durham County. More than 120 business leader

s and CEOs have condemned the law, saying it "sanctioned discrimination across North Carolina" and that it is "bad for our employees and bad for business."

WANTED DBE, WBE & MBE BIDS for the following jobs:

	City of Raleigh PW2015-20 Spruce Tree Way Signal Installation Wake Co. Bid Date: April 26th
DB00253	Division Two Letting Beaufort Co. Bid Date: April 27th
DE00131	Division Five Letting Wake Co. Bid Date: April 27th
	City of Raleigh Park Paving - Jaycee Park Project Wake Co. Bid Date: April 28th
DD00174	Division Four Letting Johnston Co. Bid Date: May 10th

These projects may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, traffic control, pavement marking, utilities, erosion control, seeding, signals and structures.
Please contact S. T. Wooten Corporation at 252-291-5165, Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.