

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers



One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 520 / Washington, DC 20036-1135
(202) 293-9161 Main / (202) 872-8857 Fax
www.aacrao.org

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Pat McCrory
Governor, North Carolina
The Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC, 27699-0301

Dear Governor McCrory,

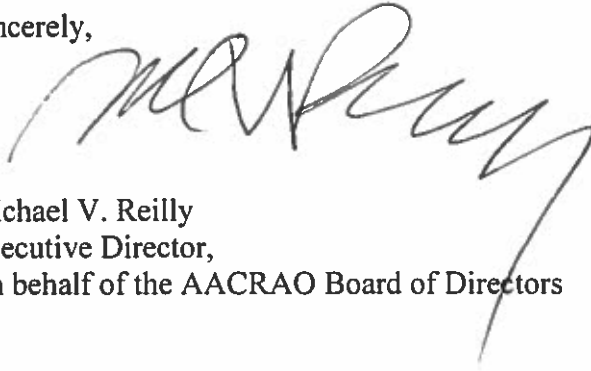
We write to you to express our strong concerns with the recent legislation signed into law, House Bill 2, which overturned protections for LGBT people in the state of North Carolina. It is of particular concern to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), which is scheduled to hold a national conference in Charlotte in July of 2017. Your legislation runs counter to the values of diversity and inclusion held by our association, and we are deeply disappointed with your decision to make it the law of North Carolina.

Our 105-year-old association represents college and university registrars, admissions officers, and enrollment professionals at 2,600 institutions in the United States and around the world. We place great importance on access and opportunity for all. We strive to break down barriers that prevent people from achieving their goals and leading fulfilled lives through the power of education. Your legislation will create barriers by marginalizing LGBT citizens and preventing communities from enacting protections they see as necessary to serve their citizens and affirm their values. This is not a direction states take when they are seeking to provide a thriving hub for education and economic development. The law will also diminish North Carolina's draw as a destination for students, tourists, and conferences for associations such as ours.

Instead of building enthusiasm among our members for the meeting in Charlotte next year, we are watching cities and states around the country ban travel to North Carolina in response to your discriminatory legislation. We are also aware of other associations that are changing their meeting plans. It has placed us in the difficult situation of evaluating whether to move our conference to another location, or to continue with our plans to meet in North Carolina knowing our attendance will be significantly impacted by travel restrictions and our members invoking their values by boycotting the conference.

Legislation that does not support access, diversity, inclusion and excludes targeted populations has no place in North Carolina. As an association that prides itself on being inclusive and welcoming to all, we strongly urge you and the leadership of North Carolina's legislature to reconsider this unwelcome legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael V. Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Michael V. Reilly
Executive Director,
On behalf of the AACRAO Board of Directors