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An Unprecedented Attack on LGBT Rights

The 2016 Virginia General Assembly session is just barely underway, and already it's clear that this is going to be the most anti-LGBT session in Virginia's legislative history. Proposed legislation already filed would codify irrational fear and prejudice born out of ignorance. We must shine the light on this darkness and preserve the progress we have made. Virginia is and deserves better. **We strongly oppose:**

HB77 – Sponsor: Del. Robert Marshall (R-Manassas) – This bill seeks to ensure new federal court rulings and agency interpretations that extend protection against sex discrimination to include protection against discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation cannot be applied to Virginians under Virginia state law.

HB385 – Sponsor: Del. Robert Marshall (R-Manassas) – Would prohibit any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, including localities and school boards, from enacting ordinances, ~~or~~ regulations, policies or practices that prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination.

HB397 – Del. Dave LaRock (R-Hamilton) – Like Delegate Marshall's bill, this bill seeks to limit the definition of sex discrimination under state and local human rights laws and policies to prohibit enactment of anti-discrimination policies protecting transgender people from discrimination. It is an effort to overturn the Fairfax County School Board's adoption of trans-inclusive policies governing students and teachers and prohibit other school divisions and local governments from following suit.

HB431 – Del. Dave LaRock (R-Hamilton) – Would prohibit transgender persons from changing the gender listed on their birth certificates – even if they undergo gender reassignment surgery.

HB663 & HB 781 – Del. Mark Cole (R-Fredericksburg) – Would impose a \$50 civil penalty on transgender people (including transgender youth) who use public bathrooms (in schools and other public buildings) that correspond to their gender identity.

HB773 – Del. Todd Gilbert (R-Woodstock) – Would offer individuals, businesses and government entities who don't believe in same sex marriage and or the existence of transgender people a license to discriminate against LGBT Virginians.

SB40 – Sen. Charles Carrico (R-Galax) – Would allow local clerks and deputy clerks to cite their religious beliefs as justification for violating their oath of office to uphold the US and Virginia Constitutions and refusing to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples.

SB41 – Sen. Charles Carrico (R-Galax) – This bill is a thinly-veiled effort to legitimize discrimination against same sex couples by private businesses providing wedding-related services.

Discrimination is not the Virginia way.