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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On March 23, 2016, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified and North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed House Bill 2, the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act"; and

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WHEREAS, On April 5, 2016, the Mississippi Legislature ratified and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed House Bill 1523, the "Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act"; and

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WHEREAS, The "Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act" and the "Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act" purport to establish new statewide standards for what constitutes discriminatory practice in employment and public accommodations by establishing new statewide requirements for bathrooms and changing facilities in all public agencies, including schools; and

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WHEREAS, The omission of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and other categories from the statewide list of categories protected from discrimination means that not only do protections on these bases appear to be unavailable under state law, but further, that local governments appear to be preempted from offering these

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1 protections; and

2 WHEREAS, The legislation also appears to eliminate the
3 right of any person to bring a civil action in a North Carolina
4 court for a claim of discrimination in employment or public
5 accommodations on account of race, religion, color, national
6 origin, age, or biological sex, as well as handicap for
7 employment only; and

8 WHEREAS, By enacting these laws, North Carolina and
9 Mississippi political leaders have taken extreme measures to
10 attempt to diminish the legislative authority of local
11 governments and to use the laws of their states to codify
12 discrimination and division, rather than to advance the rights
13 and dignity of American citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, These laws demonstrates a lack of knowledge and
15 understanding of the experiences of transgender people, a lack
16 of respect for the dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
17 transgender people, and a discriminatory intent and a desire to
18 use such intent for political gain on the part of the North
19 Carolina and Mississippi political leaders; and

20 WHEREAS, These laws are also inconsistent with the Equal
21 Protection Clause of the United States Constitution and Title
22 IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we affirm our support
3 for protecting and advancing the constitutional rights and
4 equitable treatment of all and our opposition to
5 discrimination, prejudice, homophobia, and transphobia; and be
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the North Carolina General
8 Assembly to repeal the "Public Facilities Privacy & Security
9 Act" and for the Mississippi Legislature to repeal the
10 "Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government
11 Discrimination Act" at the earliest opportunity; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That we encourage all businesses providing
14 public accommodations in North Carolina and Mississippi to
15 demonstrate their support for the dignity of all people by
16 openly welcoming LGBT people to their places of business and by
17 providing gender non-specific bathroom facilities for their
18 customers and employees wherever practicable; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That we urge Governor Bruce Rauner to prohibit
20 all non-essential State travel to North Carolina and
21 Mississippi until those states take the proper measures to
22 repeal these laws; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory, North
3 Carolina Speaker of the House Tim Moore, North Carolina Senate
4 President Pro Tempore Phil Berger, Mississippi Governor Phil
5 Bryant, Mississippi Speaker of the House Philip Gunn,
6 Mississippi Senate President Tate Reeves, and Governor Bruce
7 Rauner.