



April 14, 2016

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

Dear Governor McCrory,

The Southeastern Conference for Public Administration (SECoPA) writes this letter to strongly oppose North Carolina's HB2, the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act. SECoPA is a professional association of public administration practitioners and academics who promote the study and practice of public administration. We are a diverse group representing individuals from 10 southeastern states (including North Carolina) seeking to enhance the public service field.

The recent legislation passed in North Carolina undermines the code of ethics of our parent organization, the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA). ASPA's Code of Ethics clearly states our commitment to fairness and equality. Specifically, ASPA's Code requires its members to "treat all persons with fairness, justice, and equality and respect individual differences, rights, and freedoms." Further, the ASPA code requires its members to put this code into practice by promoting "constitutional principles of equality, fairness, representativeness, responsiveness and due process in protecting citizens' rights and promoting the public good" and to "develop proposals for sound laws and policies and for improving or eliminating laws and policies that are unethical, counterproductive, or obsolete." SECoPA believes that HB2 is a discriminatory law and therefore violates the ethical obligations that we have to all persons.

SECoPA seeks to create an inclusive and welcoming environment among our membership and at our annual conferences (several of which have been held in North Carolina). As such, we oppose any measure in any state that would encourage or allow discrimination. Our upcoming 2016 conference is scheduled in Raleigh. HB2 has negatively impacted our conference preparations as some conference attendees have stated their intent to boycott our conference and the state of North Carolina.

In light of the harmful effects of HB2, SECoPA respectfully asks that you work with the North Carolina General Assembly to repeal the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Barth

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SECoPA Board President

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