



AB 1887 – Prevent California-Funded Travel To States With A License To Discriminate

Author: Assemblymember Evan Low, 28th District

Cosponsors: Equality California, National Center for Lesbian Rights

NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

In Brief

AB 1887 would prohibit state agencies and the Legislature from approving state funded or sponsored travel to a state that, after June 26, 2015, has enacted a law that voids or repeals existing state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or has enacted a law that authorizes or requires discrimination against same-sex couples or their families on these bases.

The Issues

In direct response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, there are bills pending in state legislatures across the country that are designed to allow discrimination against LGBT people in virtually all aspects of their lives. For example, the North Carolina legislature convened in a special session solely to prevent Charlotte's LGBT non-discrimination ordinance from taking effect. The sweeping piece of legislation passed as a result of that session targeted transgender people in particular, voided Charlotte's city ordinance, and would prevent any similar ordinance from being enacted in the future. The Governor of North Carolina signed the bill on March 23, 2016. A similar bill that would expressly permit discrimination against transgender people was signed into law in Mississippi on April 5, and yet another bill was recently vetoed in Virginia.

The Solution

This bill would prohibit state agencies and the Legislature from approving state funded or sponsored travel to a state that, after June 26, 2015, has enacted a law that voids or repeals existing state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or has enacted a law that authorizes or requires discrimination against same-sex couples or their families on these bases. Exempted from the law is travel that is necessary to enforce state law, that is required by existing contracts, or that is necessary to protect public health, welfare, or safety.

Background

As states like North Carolina and Mississippi seek to target and jeopardize the lives of their LGBT citizens, others have just as forcefully opposed these efforts. Businesses, cities, and other states are taking a firm stand against this dangerous scapegoating of and backlash against LGBT people and their families. AB 1887 would ensure that California is part of that nationwide effort.

California is a national leader when it comes to protecting the rights of its LGBT citizens and their families. The laws AB 1887 addresses are completely out of step with California's values and laws. As some state legislatures around the country choose to target and harm LGBT people and their families, it is imperative that California denounce those actions publicly and financially.

Support

Equality California (Cosponsor)
National Center for Lesbian Rights (Cosponsor)
American Civil Liberties Union of California
Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC)
Consumer Attorneys of California
Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

For More Information

Jo Michael, Legislative Manager
Equality California
619-204-4995
jo@eqca.org

Geoff Kors, Government Policy Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights
415-392-6257
GKors@NCLRights.org

Melissa Apuya, Legislative Aide
Office of Assemblymember Evan Low
916-319-2028
Melissa.Apuya@asm.ca.gov