

Governor Pat McCrory

20301 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

May 15, 2016

Dear Governor McCrory,

We are members or friends of the Community Church of Chapel Hill. Our Standing on the Side of Love ministry team is part of a wider movement of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith, working for justice and raising our voices with a message of love, when we see fear and prejudice driving public opinions and policies.

We are very much opposed to HB2 in its entirety and hope you will stop defending it. We are aware that the part of the bill legislating which restrooms transgender people must use was never intended to be enforced. Surely you knew from the very start that the bill is a violation of Federal laws against discrimination, and that its passage would lead to a lawsuit which our state can ill afford. Clearly this unenforceable bill in no way protects anyone! And it has already brought disgrace to our state, along with a loss of needed jobs and income. We would like to believe that this was an unanticipated outcome, from your point of view.

There is little that we can do to overturn HB 2 in this short legislative session, and perhaps nothing you can do at this late time, even if you wanted to. Yet our faith tradition teaches us that all persons are capable of growth in compassion and wisdom; all persons have a piece of truth to contribute to the wider view of the rest of the community. We note that many of your statements about the risk of allowing people to use the facilities that are consistent with their gender identity are factually incorrect, and that you seem unaware of the significant dangers to transgender youth when they are forced to conform to the expectations attached to the gender assigned to them at birth. So it is entirely possible that you have been not been making your decisions on the basis of misinformation or lack of information.

With this in mind, we wish to offer you resource for a better understanding of the transgender issue. I am Jazz, is an autobiography/picture book, written by a girl-child in a biologically male body. We chose it because you seem determined to resist all the scientific data and evidence showing the real harms that HB 2 is causing. We believe that this story of a child might reach the part of your mind and heart that remembers your own childhood, and that cares for the children you love. We hope you will find this storybook helpful

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Klinger Jenny Warnasch Ruth Gibson

For the *Standing on the Side of Love* ministry of Community Church of Chapel Hill, Unitarian Universalist.