



March 24, 2016

Governor Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal,

On behalf of the members of the Association of Flight Attendants – CWA (AFA) representing more than 50,000 Flight Attendants at 18 airlines, I am writing to urge you to veto HB 757 that was passed last week by the Georgia State Assembly. The AFA’s Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held in Atlanta on May 20 – 25. I am writing to inform you that the AFA Executive Board has directed me to find another location should this bill become law.

While proponents argue that the intent of the bill is to expand religious rights, the reality is that it paves the way for wide-ranging discrimination. Under HB 757, businesses, groups and organizations could legally discriminate if that discrimination is linked to a “sincerely held” religious belief.

Among the nation’s leading advocates for equality, AFA has a long and proud history of overcoming discrimination. We have worked to ensure that women receive equal pay, to improve working conditions, and even had to fight for Flight Attendants’ rights to marry and have children. We were leaders in calling for inclusion and benefits for all of our members regardless of gender, gender identity, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Allowing HB 757 to become law would be an historic and economic step backwards – one that could lead to a hostile environment for our members who live, work and transit Georgia. And we are concerned about the impact of such discriminatory practices on air traffic to Georgia cities where our members work. These potential repercussions of this bill are simply unacceptable to us.

Governor Deal, you have stated “I don’t think that we have to have anything that allows discrimination in our state in order to protect people of faith.” I urge you to hold firm to this statement. It is my hope that you veto HB 757 and send a definitive message that Georgia is not, and will not, become a state that provides a legitimized pathway for hatred and discrimination.

Sincerely,

Sara Nelson
International President