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Congress of the United States
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April 3, 2016

Mark Emmert
President
The National Collegiate Athletic Association
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana
46206-6222

Dear Mr. Emmert,

Like the NCAA, I believe that sports are for everyone no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. All across the country, LGBTQ people participate in college athletics as players or as fans cheering them on. For many LGBTQ people, sports offer an important chance to find acceptance and community. I strongly supported your decision not to host any events in North Carolina while the discriminatory HB2 law remained on the books, and have been proud to stand beside you and the LGBTQ community in North Carolina in the struggle to guarantee civil rights for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

On March 30th, HB142, which has been described as a compromise that repeals HB2, was signed into law. But HB142 is neither a compromise nor a repeal; in fact, it is nothing more than another assault on LGBTQ rights. HB142 bars state institutions, including public schools and universities, from creating trans-inclusive bathroom policies. The law also puts in place a multi-year moratorium on local laws concerning employment practices and public accommodation. This moratorium not only prevents localities from passing LGBTQ non-discrimination laws, like the Charlotte ordinance that HB2 nullified, it also goes further than HB2 by prohibiting localities from passing any ordinances to protect workers and prevent discrimination in public accommodations.

I urge you to recognize this new law for what it is, an affront to LGBTQ rights, and to continue your fight against government-sanctioned discrimination. Just like HB2, HB142 stands in the way of the NCAA's mission of providing a "safe, healthy, and discrimination-free atmosphere." Discrimination has no place in any arena or stadium, and compromises have no place in civil rights. As you consider championship sites for 2018 through 2022, I hope you will continue to boycott any host cities or states that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sincerely



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress