



Calls for Legislators to Stop Discriminatory Anti-LGBT Adoption Bill (SB 375) in Georgia (Atlanta, GA)

February 27, 2018- The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (AGLCC) calls on Georgia legislators to put an end to SB 375, an anti-LGBT "License to Discriminate" bill that would allow taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny same-sex couples. SB 375 (a.k.a. "Keep Faith in Adoption and Foster Care Act") also would allow publicly funded agencies to refuse services to youth who identify as LGBT. There are currently approximately 13,000 youth in Georgia's child welfare system.

The Bill is morally offensive and detrimental to the businesses and people of Georgia. Laws allowing religious exemptions to discriminate are a desperate and callous backlash against the success of marriage equality and other advances for the LGBT community.

The AGLCC advocates for the development of economic opportunities of our LGBT and allied business members, non-profit organizations, and our corporate partners and their employees. Georgia's SB 375 is a direct threat to our economic growth and could impact our ability to attract companies that would provide new and high paying jobs to our state.

The AGLCC applauds our corporate allies and other organizations here in the state of Georgia who have already taken a stand against this bill.

"First Data is based in Atlanta and we are proud to call Georgia home. However, we are strongly opposed to SB 375, the proposed legislation in Georgia that we believe perpetuates discrimination against the LGBT community," said Cindy Armine-Klein, First Data's Chief Control Officer. "First Data is committed to fostering an inclusive workplace that promotes fairness and diversity, and the proposed legislation violates our core belief that all Americans deserve to be treated equally and respectfully."

The Metro Chamber and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce also oppose SB 375. The chambers have said: "Legislation that sanctions discrimination takes us further away from our goal of attracting investment that would improve the lives of Georgia families." The legislation is under consideration while Amazon decides whether to build their new HQ2 - which could bring up to 50,000 new high-paying jobs - in Atlanta.

We do not wish to see our economic or social futures compromised by short sighted discriminatory legislation that could cause tremendous backlash. This bill will surely be a stumbling block in Atlanta's recent attempts to attract Amazon and others.

The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to stopping legalized discrimination from becoming the status quo and decimating Georgia's economic future. The AGLCC stands with Georgia Equality, The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, The Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD and government officials who are fighting to protect all Georgians.

We call on Georgia's lawmakers to keep Georgia open for business and refusing to hear discriminatory legislation in future sessions.

Signed, *Board of Directors of the AGLCC*

AGLCC is a 501(c)(6) non-profit chamber of commerce dedicated to the advancement of economic opportunities for LGBT and allied members, business owners, corporate partners and their employees in the metro-Atlanta region