

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, my name is Amy Nelson and I am the Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI). In March of 2017, the FHCCI launched the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (Alliance) to bring businesses, student and religious groups, and other organizations together to combat and address hate. The Alliance is currently over 90 organizations strong (list attached).



The FHCCI and the Alliance support passage of SB 418 as originally drafted. By passing a fully inclusive bill this session like SB 418, and removing Indiana from one of the five states that does not have a bias crimes statute, we can send a strong message to businesses that Indiana is where they should call home.

The Alliance's activities have been about combating and addressing hate which "targets victims on the basis of the victim's real or perceived race, color, religion, national origin or ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender." Any anti-bias/hate crime law the Alliance supports must include all these groups. Attempts to amend or eliminate any of these groups from a hate crime law will result in Indiana once again being known as a state that discriminates and refuses to address hate crimes.

The Alliance is also very concerned about the misinformation being distributed by those against passage of a hate crime law. SB 418 will not limit speech or thought which are protected under the First Amendment and are not a crime. For a hate crime to be designated under SB 418:

- A criminal act must take place and must be able to be properly prosecuted.
- The perpetrator of the crime specifically targets an individual, or group of individuals, because of an actual or perceived bias motivator, such as race, religion, gender, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Hate crimes are meant to send a message of fear, hatred, and intolerance. They can and do tear apart the fabric of communities that experience them. Across Indiana we have been hearing of an increasing number of hate crimes occurring. The number of hate groups that call Indiana home have also increased in recent years. Let's send a message once and for all that we don't welcome these groups here, and we as a state will not tolerate hatred and bigotry in any form. Please pass a fully inclusive SB 418 as drafted.

About the Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate

The Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate (Alliance) formed in March 2017 and is a group of individuals, nonprofits, and businesses that exist to reduce the occurrence and combat the consequences of hate crimes and hate-based incidents. The Alliance is a project of the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana. More information on the Alliance is at:

<https://www.fhcci.org/ciaah/>

Central Indiana Alliance Against Hate

Alliance Members – As of 1/22/18

[accessABILITY, Center for Independent Living](#)
[Action Together: Hamilton County, Indiana](#)
[Adult & Child Health](#)
[All Souls Unitarian Church](#)
[Anti-Defamation League](#)
[Big Car Collaborative](#)
[Black Lives Matter of Columbus](#)
[Cancer Support Community Central Indiana](#)
[CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center](#)
[Central Indiana Realist Association](#)
[Children's Bureau, Inc.](#)
[Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention \(CHIP\)](#)
[Coburn Place Safe Haven](#)
[Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis](#)
[Desmond Tutu Center for Peace, Reconciliation and Global Justice](#)
[DJ Center for Youth, Inc.](#)
[Do Good Indy](#)
[Domestic Violence Network](#)
[DONT SLEEP](#)
[Drescher Solutions, LLC](#)
[Equity Institute on Race, Culture & Transformative Action \(IUPUI\)](#)
[Exodus Refugee Immigration Inc.](#)
[Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana](#)
[Families First](#)
[GenderNexus](#)
[Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County](#)
[Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053](#)
[Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee](#)
[Hindu Temple of Central Indiana](#)
[Immigrant Welcome Center](#)
[Indiana Association of the Deaf](#)
[Indiana Council for the Social Studies](#)
[Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.](#)
[Indiana Disability Rights](#)
[Indiana Friends Committee on Legislation](#)
[Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities](#)
[Indiana Institute for Working Families](#)
[Indiana Latino Institute](#)
[Indiana Latino Roundtable](#)
[Indiana Minority Health Coalition, Inc.](#)
[Indiana Muslim Advocacy Network](#)
[Indiana Public Health Association](#)
[Indiana State Conference NAACP](#)
[Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council \(INSILC\)](#)
[Indiana Transgender Wellness Alliance, Inc.](#)
[Indiana Women's Political Caucus](#)
[Indiana Youth Group](#)
[Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council](#)
[Indianapolis National Organization for Women](#)
[Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center \(INRC\)](#)

[Indianapolis PFLAG](#)
[Indianapolis Urban League](#)
[Indivisible Indianapolis Inc.](#)
[Indy Pride Inc.](#)
[International Language Connection](#)
[Japanese American Citizens League - Hoosier Chapter](#)
[John Boner Neighborhood Centers](#)
[La Plaza](#)
[Latino Health Organization](#)
[Legacy House](#)
[LUNA Language Services](#)
[Marion County Commission on Youth \(MCCOY\), Inc.](#)
[Martin Luther King Community Center](#)
[Mexican Consulate in Indianapolis](#)
[Muslim Alliance of Indiana](#)
[National Association of Social Workers-Indiana Chapter](#)
[National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Indiana Chapter Inc.](#)
[National MS Society-Indiana State Chapter](#)
[National Organization for Women, Hamilton County](#)
[National Organization for Women, Terre Haute](#)
[Near East Area Renewal \(NEAR\)](#)
[Noble](#)
[Open for Service](#)
[Peace Learning Center](#)
[Planningplus+](#)
[Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, a Division of The Villages](#)
[Prosperity Indiana](#)
[Psychological Services](#)
[Purpose of Life Ministries](#)
[Re-Generation Indy](#)
[Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis](#)
[SikhsPAC](#)
[South Suburban Housing Center](#)
[The Arc of Indiana](#)
[The Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley](#)
[The Gifted Gown](#)
[The Julian Center](#)
[Wheels on the Ground, Inc.](#)
[Trusted Mentors](#)
[Women4Change Indiana](#)