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 Realtist 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)
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<td>Indianapolis PFLAG</td>
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<td>International Language Connection</td>
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