



For Immediate Release – February 15, 2019

Contact: Amy Nelson, Executive Director
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana
Phone: 317-644-0673 x1001
Email: anelson@fhcci.org

FAIR HOUSING CENTER SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF SB 12 A COMPREHENSIVE AND INCLUSIVE HATE CRIME LAW

INDIANAPOLIS – The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) urges passage of a fully inclusive and comprehensive hate crime law that removes Indiana from the list of five states that does not have a bias crimes statute.

SB 12 is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Public Policy Committee on Monday, February 18, 2019 at 8:00 AM. The FHCCI supports SB 12 because it includes bill language that provides justice to victims targeted on the basis of the victim's real or perceived race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender.

The FHCCI is very concerned about the misinformation being distributed by those against passage of a hate crime law. SB 12 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 12:

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

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. Hoosiers across Indiana have witnessed and experienced an increasing number of hate crimes. 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 those groups here, and the State of Indiana will not tolerate hatred and bigotry in any form. We urge passage of SB 12.

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization founded in 2011 and based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education and outreach. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org