



For Immediate Release – March 26, 2019

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**FAIR HOUSING CENTER DEMANDS A
FULLY INCLUSIVE, COMPREHENSIVE HATE CRIME LAW**

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the Indiana House passed SB 198 – a bill that was hastily amended yesterday to include incomplete language related to a bias crimes law. In its current form, this legislation would exclude gender and gender identity from groups covered under a hate crime law. The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana will only support a hate crime law that 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.

Passage of SB 198 only brings more negative and unnecessary attention to our State by once again portraying Indiana as a state that will openly allow some forms of bias, hate, and discrimination. We cannot accept or tolerate this bigotry. The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana urges passage of a fully inclusive and comprehensive hate crime law. We will not support any legislation which leaves Hoosiers commonly targeted by hate and violence behind. We expect Governor Holcomb and our General Assembly to do the same.

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