

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

INVESTIGATIONS &
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

COMMITTEES

AGING

CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS
& RECREATION

HEALTH

JUDICIARY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



SENATOR
BRAD HOYLMAN
27TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF NEW YORK

DISTRICT OFFICE:
322 EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 1700
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10001
PHONE: (212) 633-8052
FAX: (212) 633-8096

ALBANY OFFICE:
ROOM 413
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE (518) 455-2451
FAX (518) 426-6846

e-mail:
hoylman@nysenate.gov

website:
hoylman.nysenate.gov

March 31, 2015

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Bldg.
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We write to you as the only openly LGBT members of the New York State Legislature to urge you to immediately sign an Executive Order barring state-funded travel to Indiana, in light of its so-called "Religious Freedom Restoration Act" (RFRA), the discriminatory new measure signed into law last week by Governor Mike Pence.

Indiana's new law is uniquely abhorrent and alarming. The RFRA allows businesses to assert a right to "the free exercise of religion" - essentially giving corporations the same "free exercise" rights and defense against anti-discrimination lawsuits traditionally reserved for individuals. These troubling provisions open the door for state-sanctioned discrimination against LGBT people cloaked in the guise of religious freedom.

These provisions make clear that Indiana businesses are permitted by law to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in matters including housing, employment, and access to public accommodations.

Employees of the State of New York should not be placed in a situation where they are required to travel to a state where they face legalized discrimination. Likewise, New York State taxpayers should not be footing the bill for such travel. We urge you to bar state-funded travel to Indiana, thereby sending a strong message that New York will not stand for legalized discrimination and injustice against LGBT people.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and your ongoing leadership on LGBT issues.

Sincerely,

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Deborah Glick
Member of the Assembly
66th District

Matthew Titone
Member of the Assembly
138th District

Harry Bronson
Member of the Assembly
69th District

Danny O'Donnell
Member of the Assembly
61st District