

In Response to HB2

As an organization that cares about and works every day to end sexual and domestic violence, Safe Alliance favors laws and policies that protect all people from discrimination.

Nondiscrimination laws protecting transgender people have existed for a long time. Over 200 municipalities and 18 states have nondiscrimination laws that have protected people from discrimination without creating harm. None of those jurisdictions have seen a rise in sexual violence or other public safety issues due to nondiscrimination laws. Those protections have not weakened public safety or criminal laws, nor have they compromised their enforcement.

We believe in respecting the identities of transgender people. Transgender people already experience extremely high rates of sexual violence. As advocates committed to ending sexual assault and domestic violence of every kind, we do not support any law or policy that could put anyone at greater risk for assault or harassment. That is why we support transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination protections.

It is natural to be concerned about safety and privacy. As advocates and survivors, we know the threat of sexual assault is real and pervasive. Every time we hear of someone who speaks of their assault or abuse, we feel their pain. The safety fears that many have, especially those who are survivors, are not baseless or irrational, nor should they be dismissed. However, discriminating against transgender people does not decrease the risk of sexual assault.

Our focus is to serve and protect victims and potential victims. We will only accomplish our goal of ending sexual and domestic violence by treating all people, including those who are transgender, with fairness and respect.