



STATEMENT ON REPEAL OF NORTH CAROLINA'S HB2

Earlier this year, FrameWorks relocated its annual retreat, which was scheduled to take place in Chapel Hill, NC, to Philadelphia. This decision was made because of the regressive policies in North Carolina, most notably, HB2.

In selecting Chapel Hill in the first place, we had hoped that bipartisan cooperation would prevail following the 2017 election and that, acting in North Carolina's best interests, lawmakers would recognize that organizations like ours cannot bring our employees to a state in which they would be discriminated against. It remains puzzling to us that a state would willfully repel visitors, undermining its own prosperity, reputation and progress and thereby punishing its own citizens. So, when common sense failed to prevail, we joined voices for justice like the NAACP, Human Rights Campaign Fund, and the Southern Poverty Law Center in committing to a boycott of North Carolina until such time as the state could signal forward progress on these important freedoms that all visitors and citizens should enjoy.

We applaud the many progressive forces within the state and nation that worked assiduously to reveal the balance sheet of discrimination. It is regrettable that North Carolina legislators had to learn again that "injustice anywhere is injustice everywhere" and discrimination against one is discrimination against all. It is equally regrettable that North Carolina's fine tradition of academic research and social science pioneers has been overshadowed by this recent history.

As North Carolina looks to its future, we suggest other policy areas that are at odds with current knowledge and our country's moral compass: most notably, North Carolina's problematic stance on voting rights, academic freedom and juvenile justice. We will be following with great interest future evidence of: voter suppression, inappropriate partisanship in appointments of campus trustees, and the state's continuing insistence on trying 16-year-olds as adults. Moreover, the recent legislation that repealed HB2 also prevents anti-discrimination ordinances in cities and counties - a clear attempt to stall the march of progress. These actions on behalf of the North Carolina legislature signal to groups like ours that the beauty and dynamism of the state are undermined by a regressive and punitive legislative mentality that puts it precariously at odds with the mainstream of public opinion.

We look forward to returning to North Carolina, but when we do, we will do so to work harder to realize the progressive promise of this great state.

Susan Nall Bales
Chairman, Board of Directors
Nat Kendall-Taylor
Chief Executive Officer

March 31, 2017