

# NAACP NEWS

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Francys Johnson, President  
Georgia NAACP

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### GEORGIA NAACP PRAISES GOV. DEAL VETO OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION BILL

*State's Oldest and Largest Civil Rights Organization Agrees HB757 would have Codified Discrimination*

**ATLANTA** - After mounting pressure from organizations across the state, Georgia Governor Nathan Deal vetoed a so-called "religious exemption" bill, HB 757, that would have allowed open discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. The Georgia NAACP, the state's oldest and largest civil and human rights organization, was among the organizations that called for the governor's veto. The Georgia NAACP released the following statement in response Governor Deal's announcement:

"The Georgia NAACP has been a leading ally with LGBTQ organizations trying to block HB 757 during this session and we are glad Governor Deal took the right action by vetoing this discriminatory measure," said Francys Johnson, Georgia NAACP State President and a Statesboro lawyer. "The measure hailed by evangelical Christians and the Republican base codified discrimination and even more is yet another example of the right-wing extremists missing the essential gospel message of Jesus – do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

"This reactionary measure was an attempt to rollback progress in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision last year legalizing gay marriage. The bigots supporting this legislation under the pretense of 'religious freedom' have a lot of repenting for the false and misleading fear mongering that secured passage of this legislation. Today, their efforts were proven to be in vein. Discrimination cannot – and did not – prevail."

For more information about the work of the Georgia NAACP, please visit our website at [www.naacpga.org](http://www.naacpga.org).

Founded in 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. The Georgia NAACP has had an unbroken presence in Georgia since 1917. The Georgia NAACP maintains a network of branches throughout Georgia, from cities to small rural counties. The Georgia NAACP has been the most effective and consistent advocates for civil and human rights in Georgia. The NAACP's half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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