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September 14, 2021

Governor Bill Lee  
600 Dr. Martin L. King Blvd.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Senator Randy McNally  
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate  
700 Cordell Hull Bldg.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Representative Cameron Sexton  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
600 Cordell Hull Bldg.  
Nashville, TN 37243

Governor Lee, Lieutenant Governor McNally and Speaker Sexton:

On behalf of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the nation's leading advocate for parks and recreation, and our constituents, I write to strongly condemn the recent passage of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation by the Tennessee General Assembly and the enactment of these bills into state laws. Our membership of more than 60,000 park and recreation professionals, advocates, patrons, and suppliers are committed to equity and to working toward a future where all people have fair and just access to quality spaces, programs and services. We strongly believe that the positive transformation of society is made possible through the power of collaboration of all people.

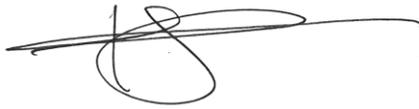
The series of anti-LGBTQ+ bills recently signed into law in Tennessee, stand directly antithetical to our collective vision. These newly enacted laws are not only discriminatory, but they also harm and single out an already marginalized community. Excluding any child from enjoying the myriad benefits of public outdoor recreation spaces and programs is cruel and unacceptable.

The 2021 NRPA Annual Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, September 21-23. NRPA did not want to do further harm to the Nashville community by taking away an estimated \$6.4 million in business generated during the event. However, NRPA will not hold future conferences and events in Tennessee with discriminatory legislation in place.

Moreover, we have added our voice and advocacy resources to local civil rights organizations that are working to overturn these discriminatory laws.

Our organization strongly condemns legislation that seeks to discriminate and marginalize vulnerable communities. Instead of deepening systemic inequity, we should ensure that all people have equitable access to public spaces. Our goal is to dismantle barriers to equity and inclusion so that everyone has fair and welcome access to public spaces. We urge you to rescind these hateful laws and cease consideration of future bills that bring harm to the LGBTQ+ community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristine Stratton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristine Stratton  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Recreation and Park Association