

# An Open Letter to Our North Carolina Readers

**We**, the undersigned, authors and illustrators of children's books, are disappointed and angered by the reprehensible legislation that Governor McCrory signed into law, eliminating anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. This law undermines our core values of mutual respect and dignity for all.

We want to tell all of you, our readers, in no uncertain terms, that you are wonderful just as you are. Now more than ever, we stand with you. With all of you. We will continue to stand with you, to stand for you, and to speak out on your behalf against laws and lawmakers that would deprive you of your rights.

As artists, we strive to create books that promote acceptance of all people regardless of race, religion, or gender identity. We will continue to do so; however, we cannot and will not support a state government that promotes discrimination. Each one of us will have to consider our participation in conferences and festivals in North Carolina while this law is in place.

But you have our word that we will never abandon our thousands and thousands of readers in North Carolina. We stand with those who share our guiding principles and fundamental beliefs of equality, inclusion, and fair treatment. Thus, we will continue to visit your schools and libraries. We will spread kindness and inspire compassion and hope, as we believe books, in their best moments, always have and always will.

Like so many others, we call for the immediate repeal of this hateful piece of legislation. As even the youngest among you recognize, a law that promotes, enables, or encourages discrimination of any kind is wrong.

Know that in time and with hard work, hope will triumph over fear. Know that acceptance will prevail over intolerance. Know that respect—for all our differences—will always unite us. Know that we love you, as you are.

Be safe. Be kind. Be proud. Be you.

—269 children's book authors and illustrators

R.J. PALACIO	BECKY ALBERTALLI	DANIEL JOSE OLDER	MAUREEN JOHNSON	LISA BROWN	MARY E. PEARSON	MARC TYLER NOBLEMAN	RICK RIORDAN	RAINBOW ROWELL
MEG MEDINA	JOHN PARKE DAVIS	PAUL ZELINKSY	MATT DE LA PEÑA	BARNABAS MILLER	JOHN GREEN	MATT TAVARES	AB WESTRICK	AMY REED
PHIL BILDNER	CARRIE RYAN	HOLLY BLACK	DAVID LUBAR	RACHEL CAINE	NICK ELIOPULOS	NICK BRUEL	LILA WEAVER	KELLEY ARMSTRONG
ALEX LONDON	RANSOM RIGGS	LEV GROSSMAN	DAVID LEVITHAN	MICHELLE HODKIN	ZACK LORAN CLARK	LOREN LONG	AISHA SAEED	TAMARA IRELAND STONE
PSEUDONYMOUS BOSCH	MICHAEL BUCKLEY	ALLY CONDIE	ADAM GIDWITZ	BETH REVIS	RYAN GRAUDIN	E.E. CHARLTON-TRUJILLO	WENDY SHANG	DAISY WHITNEY
ALEXANDRA BRACKEN	JULIE MURPHY	CAROLE BOSTON WEATHERFORD	SARAH DESSEN	JAY ASHER	ANNA CAREY	LIZ GARTON SCANLON	ISABEL QUINTERO	LAURA RUBY
VERONICA ROTH	ANDREA CREMER	GITTY DANESHVARI	JAYE ROBIN BROWN	RENÉ E AHDIEH	SARAH J. MAAS	DON TATE	ELLEN OH	COE BOOTH
LAUREL SNYDER	VICTORIA SCHWAB	CHRISTINA LAUREN	MARK SIEGEL	SIMONE ELKELES	KELLY SUE DECONNICK	LEE BENNETT HOPKINS	CAROLYN MACKLER	AARON HARTZLER
ANDREW SMITH	GWENDA BOND	ELIZABETH EULBERG	SETH FISHMAN	SIOBHAN VIVIAN	GORDON KORMAN	KRISTEN-PAIGE MADONIA	KRISTEN-PAIGE MADONIA	MICHAEL DI MARTINO
MARIE LU	LISA MCMANN	CECIL CASTELLUCCI	LISA SCHROEDER	ANN DEE ELLIS	MALINDA LO	LAMAR GILES	LAMAR GILES	RITA WILLIAMS GARCIA
MELISSA DE LA CRUZ	LAUREN OLIVER	RAE CARSON	MATTHEW CODY	DAN EHREHAFT	CHRIS GRABENSTEIN	SHARON G. FLAKE	SHARON G. FLAKE	RACHEL HAWKINS
TOM ANGLEBERGER	KIMBERLY DERTING	KAMI GARCIA	JEFF ZENTNER	MAUREEN JOHNSON	AUGUSTA SCATTERGOOD	SARA FARIZAN	SARA FARIZAN	CLAIRE LEGRAND
BILL KONIGSBERG	CASSANDRA CLARE	LISI HARRISON	LISA GRAFF	ALYSON NOEL	CHRIS CRUTCHER	KATHY ERKSINE	KATHY ERKSINE	JASON REYNOLDS
CHRISTA DESIR	NINA LACOUR	JUSTINE LARBALESTIER	ADAM SILVERA	JANDY NELSON	CG WATSON	DHONIELLE CLAYTON	DHONIELLE CLAYTON	ANDREW HARWELL
JARRETT KRO-SOCZKA	JAMES DASHNER	TIM PRATT	ALEX GINO	NICO MEDINA	SHANA COREY	MONICA BROWN	MONICA BROWN	PAUL RUDNICK
GAYLE FORMAN	CINDY PON	SCOTT WESTERFELD	PETER LERANGIS	ALAN GRATZ	BRUCE COVILLE	HANNAH BARNABY	HANNAH BARNABY	LANE SMITH
A.S. KING	KATIE ALENDER	TERRA ELAN MCVOY	LEIGH BARDUGO	JENNIFER E. SMITH	KEVIN LEWIS	DANIEL KIRK	DANIEL KIRK	PATRICK NESS
MICHAEL GRANT	DAVID MACINNIS GILL	LIBBA BRAY	LAINI TAYLOR	MEG CABOT	SONYA SONES	GAE POLISNER	GAE POLISNER	JUDY BLUNDELL
KATHERINE APPLIGATE	JESSE ANDREWS	LEIGH BARDUGO	ROBIN BENWAY	ROBIN BENWAY	NANCY KRULIK	GEORGE O'CONNOR	GEORGE O'CONNOR	S. JAE-JONES
JOHN COREY WHALEY	NICOLA YOON	LEIGH BARDUGO	NATALIE STANDIFORD	NATALIE STANDIFORD	AUDREY VERNICK	MATTHEW CORDELL	MATTHEW CORDELL	LAUREN DESTEFANO
TAHEREH MAFI	ELLEN HOPKINS	LEIGH BARDUGO	JEFF GARVIN	JEFF GARVIN	JO KNOWLES	CYNTHIA LEVINSON	CYNTHIA LEVINSON	JERI SMITH-READY
CRISTIN TERRILL	DEBRA DRIZA	LEIGH BARDUGO	ALEXANDRA DUNCAN	ALEXANDRA DUNCAN	OLUGBEMI-SOLA RHU-DAY-PERKOVICH	MATTHEW CORDELL	MATTHEW CORDELL	NANCY HOLDER
BRENDAN REICHS	RACHEL COHN	LEIGH BARDUGO	MARISA REICHARDT	MARISA REICHARDT	MIKE JUNG	LAUREN DESTEFANO	LAUREN DESTEFANO	JENNIFER NIVEN
SHANNON HALE	DAN SLOTT	LEIGH BARDUGO	JIM DI BARTOLO	JIM DI BARTOLO	BARBARA O'CONNOR	STACEY LEE	STACEY LEE	JESSICA BRODY
ZAC BREWER	VERONICA ROSSI	LEIGH BARDUGO	MARIE RUTKOSKI	MARIE RUTKOSKI	PETE HAUTMAN	ELISSA SUSSMAN	ELISSA SUSSMAN	DONNA GEPHART
MARGARET STOHL	RUTA SEPETYS	LEIGH BARDUGO	MEAGAN SPOONER	MEAGAN SPOONER	JENNIFER ZIEGLER	SABAA TAHIR	SABAA TAHIR	
DAN POBLOCKI	LAUREN MYRACLE	LEIGH BARDUGO	T. MICHAEL "MIKE" MARTIN	T. MICHAEL "MIKE" MARTIN	LYNDA MULLALY HUNT	BARNEY SALTZBERG	BARNEY SALTZBERG	
HOLLY GOLDBERG SLOAN	GRETCHEN MCNEIL	LEIGH BARDUGO	LIESL SHURTLIFF	LIESL SHURTLIFF	KATHI APPELT			
ELIOT SCHREFER	DANIELLE PAIGE	LEIGH BARDUGO	TODD HASAK-LOWY	TODD HASAK-LOWY	LEUYEN PHAM			
E. LOCKHART	ADELE GRIFFIN	LEIGH BARDUGO	LINDA SUE PARK	LINDA SUE PARK	KATE MESSNER			
	JENNY HAN	LEIGH BARDUGO	DANIEL HANDLER	DANIEL HANDLER				
	LARRY DIXON	LEIGH BARDUGO						