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 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 has decided to let our voices be heard.

But you have my 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 in 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

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