

The Connecticut General Assembly



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 5, 2016

Contact: Aysha Mahmood
860-240-8742

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATORS CALL ON BANK OF AMERICA TO MOVE HEADQUARTERS TO CT

Tuesday, a bipartisan group of more than 40 Connecticut legislators, led by Banking Committee chairs **Rep. Matthew Lesser** (D-Middletown) and **Sen. Gary Winfield** (D-New Haven) wrote to Charlotte-based Bank of America inviting the corporation to relocate its corporate headquarters to Connecticut.

The letter follows passage of a new law restricting the rights of LGBT residents of North Carolina. Bank of America has been particularly outspoken in its opposition to a law that it views as targeting its LGBT workforce and longstanding support for public policies that support nondiscrimination.

"Connecticut is home to world class financial institutions," Rep. Lesser said. "We invite Bank of America to consider moving to a state that shares its social values and supports its LGBT workforce. We welcome Bank of America and major North Carolina financial institutions threatened by their state's reckless actions." Lesser noted that Bank of America is already expanding its footprint in Connecticut and applauded recent moves by the company including an expansion of paid family and medical leave.

"If the State of North Carolina insists on standing on the wrong side of history by keeping this law on the books, we are more than happy to invite Bank of America to join us in Connecticut, where we are proud to stand with the LGBT community," said Sen. Winfield. "We have a proven track record of upholding the rights of individuals in this community. We too are appalled by HB2, and welcome Bank of America to join the ranks of the world class financial institutions that call Connecticut home."

The letter was signed by dozens of legislators, including **Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey** (D-Hamden), **Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz** (D-Berlin) and Commerce Committee co-Chair **Rep. Chris Perone** (D-Norwalk). Republican legislators also signed on, including **Rep. Jesse MacLachlan** (R-Westbrook) and **Rep. John Scott** (R-Mystic).

North Carolina's House Bill 2, the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, blocks transgendered residents from accessing restrooms and prevents local governments from adopting nondiscrimination ordinances. The bill has been deemed the most anti-LGBT legislation in the country.

Bank of America is the biggest of many North Carolina companies to openly oppose the law.

The Banking Chairs would not rule out targeting other North Carolina financial institutions, including Wells Fargo and PayPal, both of which have strongly opposed the new law.