

# 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.

— 267 children's book authors and illustrators

## 267 children's book author 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 PEN A	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	JULIE FALATKO	KRISTEN-PAIGE MADONIA	MICHAEL DI MARTINO
MARIE LU	LISA MCMANN	CECIL CASTELLUCCI	LISA SCHROEDER	ANN DEE ELLIS	MALINDA LO	CHRIS GRABENSTEIN	LAMAR GILES	RITA WILLIAMS GARCIA
MELISSA DE LA CRUZ	LAUREN OLIVER	RAE CARSON	MATTHEW CODY	DAN EHRENHAFT	JON SKOVRON	AUGUSTA SCATTERGOOD	SHARON G. FLAKE	RACHEL HAWKINS
TOM ANGLEBERGER	KIMBERLY DERTING	KAMI GARCIA	JEFF ZENTNER	MAUREEN JOHNSON	SUSANE COLASANTI	CHRIS CRUTCHER	SARA FARIZAN	CLAIRE LEGRAND
BILL KONIGSBERG	CASSANDRA CLARE	LISI HARRISON	LISA GRAFF	ALYSON NOEL	ANNE URSU	CG WATSON	KATHY ERKSINE	JASON REYNOLDS
CHRISTA DESIR	NINA LACOUR	JUSTINE LARBALESTIER	ADAM SILVERA	JANDY NELSON	RICHELLE MEAD	SHANA COREY	DHONIELLE CLAYTON	ANDREW HARWELL
JARRETT KRO-SOCZKA	JAMES DASHNER	TIM PRATT	ALEX GINO	NICO MEDINA	LISA YEE	HANNAH BARNABY	MONICA BROWN	PAUL RUDNICK
GAYLE FORMAN	CINDY PON	SCOTT WESTERFELD	PETER LERANGIS	ALAN GRATZ	BRUCE COVILLE	GIGI AMATEAU	HANNAH BARNABY	LANE SMITH
A.S. KING	KATIE ALENDER	LIBBA BRAY	SCOTT WESTERFELD	JENNIFER E. SMITH	KEVIN LEWIS	CYNTHIA LEVINSON	DANIEL KIRK	PATRICK NESS
MICHAEL GRANT	DAVID MACINNIS GILL	LEIGH BARDUGO	LAINI TAYLOR	MEG CABOT	SONYA SONES	GAE POLISNER	DANIEL KIRK	JUDY BLUNDELL
KATHERINE APPEGATE	JESSE ANDREWS	LAINI TAYLOR	ROBIN WASSERMAN	ROBIN BENWAY	NANCY KRULIK	GEORGE O'CONNOR	CG WATSON	S. JAE-JONES
JOHN COREY WHALEY	NICOLA YOON	ROBIN WASSERMAN	SUSAN ADRIAN	NATALIE STANDIFORD	NANCY KRULIK	ANNE MARIE PACE	SHANA COREY	LAUREN DESTEFANO
TAHEREH MAFI	ELLEN HOPKINS	SUSAN ADRIAN	SARAH REES BRENNAN	JEFF GARVIN	AUDREY VERNICK	ALAN KATZ	HANNAH BARNABY	JERI SMITH-READY
CRISTIN TERRILL	DEBRA DRIZA	SARAH REES BRENNAN	ELIZA WASS	ALEXANDRA DUNCAN	JO KNOWLES	KELLY MILNER HALLS	GIGI AMATEAU	NANCY HOLDER
BRENDAN REICHS	RACHEL COHN	ELIZA WASS	ADI ALSAID	MARISA REICHHARDT	OLUGBEMI-SOLA RHU-DAY-PERKOVICH	CHRIS BARTON	CYNTHIA LEVINSON	JENNIFER NIVEN
SHANNON HALE	DAN SLOTT	ADI ALSAID	STEPHANIE PERKINS	JIM DI BARTOLO	MIKE JUNG	VARIAN JOHNSON	MATTHEW CORDELL	JESSICA BRODY
ZAC BREWER	VERONICA ROSSI	STEPHANIE PERKINS	JESSICA SPOTSWOOD	MARIE RUTKOSKI	BARBARA O'CONNOR	LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON	CYNTHIA LEVINSON	DONNA GEPHART
MARGARET STOHL	RUTA SEPETYS	JESSICA SPOTSWOOD	STEPHANIE KUEHNERT.	MEAGAN SPOONER	PETE HAUTMAN	LAURIE ANN THOMPSON	MATTHEW CORDELL	STACEY LEE
DAN POBLOCKI	LAUREN MYRACLE	STEPHANIE KUEHNERT.	STEPHANIE KUEHNERT.	T. MICHAEL "MIKE" MARTIN	JENNIFER ZIEGLER	AMIE KAUFMAN	CHRIS BARTON	ELISSA SUSSMAN
HOLLY GOLDBERG SLOAN	GRETCHEN MCNEIL	STEPHANIE KUEHNERT.	STEPHANIE KUEHNERT.	LIESL SHURTLIFF	LYNDA MULLALY HUNT	JAMES KENNEDY	KIRBY LARSON	SABAA TAHIR
ELIOT SCHREFER	DANIELLE PAIGE	TOM SNIEGOSKI	TOM SNIEGOSKI	TODD HASAK-LOWY	KATHI APPELT		CHRIS BARTON	
E. LOCKHART	ADELE GRIFFIN	DANIEL HANDLER	DANIEL HANDLER	LINDA SUE PARK	LEUYEN PHAM		CHRIS BARTON	
	JENNY HAN	LARRY DIXON	LARRY DIXON	DANIEL KRAUS	KATE MESSNER		CHRIS BARTON	