

March 21, 2016

The Honorable Nathan Deal
Office of the Governor
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Governor Deal:

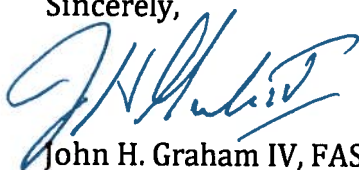
On behalf of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), a Washington, DC-based Section 501(c)(6) organization representing more than 21,000 association executives and industry partners from nearly 10,000 tax-exempt organizations, I respectfully urge you to veto House Bill 757 and thus stand by your remarks to veto any legislation that allows the perception of discrimination against any segment of the population.

ASAE stands strongly in support of diversity and inclusion practices within the association industry. Laws that permit discrimination are not only regressive, they put our members at risk of being denied service anywhere from restaurants to meeting and convention facilities, and send a harmful message that fairness, equality and the principles of our Constitution are secondary to personal prejudice. ASAE has many members, industry partners and vendors in Georgia and is concerned that the measure adopted could create an unwelcoming environment for some residents and visitors to the state. This legislation could potentially cause serious harm to the meetings and conventions industry.

ASAE is hopeful that your office and the state Legislature will take corrective action to allay the concerns of many with this legislation by moving quickly to veto House Bill 757.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



John H. Graham IV, FASAE, CAE
President and CEO

cc: President Pro Tempore of the Senate David Shafer, Senate Majority Leader Bill Cowsert, Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson, Speaker of the House David Ralston, House Majority Leader Jon Burns, House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams