



OPPOSE

Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)

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In a recent address, Governor Paterson declared, "We have an immense opportunity to expand civil rights here on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King." Paterson called upon New York's civil rights leaders "to recognize that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities deserve equal rights as well."
GENDA would amend the civil rights law to include transgender individuals.

The Governor was wrong to link the African-American Civil Rights movement to the current attempt to expand transgender rights. While it is true that many people disapprove of transgender behavior, there is hardly centuries of violence, segregation and slavery the likes of which were experienced by Blacks. Nowhere is a transgender individual being told to drink from a separate fountain, attend different schools or ride in the back of a bus. Neither is the transgender community lacking in political representation.

Discrimination based on race in this country is illegal for the specific reason that race is a characteristic which is inborn, involuntary (you cannot choose it), immutable (you cannot change it), and innocuous (it harms no one). The choice to engage in transgender behavior is none of the above.

Proponents of GENDA insist that they are being discriminated against, but GENDA would infringe upon the rights of the majority of New Yorkers for the sake of a small, but vocal minority.

GENDA would force *traditional* values to find a seat in the back of the bus. For these reasons, NYCLF stands opposed to the bill.