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March 31, 2015

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson  
Governor  
State of Arkansas  
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Governor Hutchinson:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, we urge you to veto HB 1228, the so called Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) should it reach your desk.

Founded in 1929, our organization has fought discriminatory laws against Latinos and other minorities for decades. As such, we are greatly concerned about the negative impact that the RFRA would have in Arkansas, particularly on our LGBT brothers and sisters. According to some analysts, the legislative language of the RFRA is so broad that any individual, corporation, institution, or business organization may be able to justify discrimination against LGBT individuals by claiming a religious belief. This could mean that:

- Local non-discrimination ordinances protecting LGBT individuals may be undermined
- Licensing organizations may face interference with their professional regulations protecting LGBT individuals
- Employees may bring litigation against employers who enforce internal nondiscrimination policies, including employer provided benefits for same-sex spouses (health insurance, retirement) and LGBT non-discrimination policies.
- Pharmacists may refuse to provide HIV and hormone replacement therapy drugs.
- Restaurants and inns/hotels may turn away same-sex couples celebrating an anniversary, adoption, or pregnancy.
- Wedding garment shops, bakeries, photo studios, and reception halls may close their doors to same-sex couples planning their weddings.

Discrimination of any form is completely unacceptable. Given the backlash in Indiana regarding their version of the RFRA, Arkansas should take note. This law is divisive, discriminatory, and will be a national embarrassment for Arkansas. The RFRA in Arkansas supports an even broader range of legalized discrimination and provides a religious justification for those actions. Religious leaders from around the state have asked you to veto this bill. LULAC asks you to stand with ALL the people of Arkansas by exercising your veto authority and rejecting the Religious Freedom Restoration Act should it reach your desk.

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History judges our politicians by the actions taken on behalf of its citizens. Some as with former Governor Wallace blocking the doors of the University of Alabama are recognized as anachronistic and reflective of legalized discriminatory barriers. Other politicians are remembered for their support for policies and laws that broaden the goals of our Constitutional rights – freedom and equality for all. If you should have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Luis Torres, LULAC National Director of Policy, at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org) or (202) [833-6130](tel:833-6130) or Dr. Terry Trevino-Richard; LULAC State Director, at [trichard@ualr.edu](mailto:trichard@ualr.edu) or (501) 551-4456.

Sincerely,



Margaret Moran  
LULAC National President



Dr. Terry Treviño-Richard  
LULAC Arkansas State Director