



It's Time to Pass the Virginia Values Act

Under current Virginia law, LGBTQ people can be fired from their jobs, denied housing, or refused service at a restaurant, shop, or doctor's office. It's time to change that.

The Virginia Values Act will:

- **Modernize existing laws** to protect LGBTQ Virginians in employment, housing, access to credit, and public accommodations
- **Create new laws** to protect people of color, women, veterans, people with disabilities, and others in employment and public accommodations

This critical update to Virginia law will send a message that the Commonwealth is a safe and welcoming place for everyone.

Who Supports the Virginia Values Act?

72%

OF VIRGINIA VOTERS*

** Mason Dixon Polling*

1000+

SMALL BUSINESSES*

** Equality Means Business*

150+

FAITH LEADERS*

** Virginia Values Faith Leaders*

Discrimination in Virginia

Virginia is home to an estimated 257,400 LGBTQ adults and 50,400 LGBTQ youth.

One in three transgender Virginians reported experiencing discrimination in a place of public accommodation, including being denied service, verbal harassment, and physical assault.

One in five transgender people in Virginia reported experiencing housing discrimination, such as being evicted or denied a home or apartment.

"The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination against LGBT People in Virginia," January 2020

About the Virginia Values Coalition

Virginia Values coalition members come from all walks of life and believe in protecting our LGBTQ neighbors from discrimination. We are faith leaders, parents, law enforcement officers, veterans, and people of all political ideologies committed to making Virginia a safe place for all people to live, work, and play.

FAQs

- **Why are public accommodations protections important?**

Protections in public spaces are critical to ensure that LGBTQ people are able to participate fully in their communities and, most importantly, go about their daily lives without the fear of discrimination. In the bill, a place of public accommodation includes restaurants, shops, doctors' offices, hospitals, educational institutions, and government buildings.

- **What about restrooms?**

We all care about safety, including transgender people, who need to use the restroom just like everyone else. Harassment is already illegal, and the good news is that updating our nondiscrimination protections won't change that. And that's why this legislation is supported by anti-violence and women's safety advocates like the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance and the Virginia Anti-Violence Project.

- **Will this bill threaten the freedom of religion?**

Freedom of religion is important to all of us, including LGBTQ people. That's why it's already fully protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution and by the Virginia Constitution. Protecting LGBTQ Virginians from discrimination will not threaten freedom of religion in the Commonwealth.