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Connecticut Becomes First State To Boycott Indiana Over LGBT Discrimination Law

Posted: 03/30/2015 11:38 am EDT | Updated: 03/30/2015 6:59 pm EDT

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WASHINGTON -- Connecticut Gov. Dan Malloy (D) will sign an executive order on Monday barring state-funded travel to Indiana because of the state's new law that could allow businesses to turn away gay and lesbian customers for religious reasons.

Malloy announced his plans on Twitter.


SUGGESTED FOR YOU

 **Governor Dan Malloy**
@GovMalloyOffice Follow

Because of Indiana's new law, later today I will sign an Executive Order regarding state-funded travel. -DM

10:44 AM - 30 Mar 2015

1,279 RETWEETS 1,008 FAVORITES

 **Governor Dan Malloy**
@GovMalloyOffice Follow

When new laws turn back the clock on progress, we can't sit idly by. We are sending a message that discrimination won't be tolerated. -DM

10:45 AM - 30 Mar 2015

1,348 RETWEETS 1,108 FAVORITES

Malloy's move would make Connecticut the first state to boycott Indiana over its Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which Gov. Mike Pence (R) quietly signed (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/26/indiana-governor-mike-pence-anti-gay-bill_n_6947472.html) into law last week. The law allows businesses in the state to cite religious beliefs as a legal defense. Opponents fear it offers legal protection for businesses to refuse service to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

A Pence spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Two cities, [San Francisco](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/27/san-francisco-indiana-boycott_n_6957136.html) (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/03/27/san-francisco-indiana-boycott_n_6957136.html) and [Seattle](http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/seattle-mayor-prohibits-city-employees-traveling-indiana/story?id=29979438) (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/seattle-mayor-prohibits-city-employees-traveling-indiana/story?id=29979438>), have imposed similar bans in response to the law. Businesses have also retaliated. Angie's List is [pulling a campus expansion project](http://globenewswire.com/news-release/2015/03/28/719862/10126773/en/Angie-s-List-Withdraws-Campus-Expansion-Proposal-Due-to-Passage-of-Religious-Freedom-Bill.html) (<http://globenewswire.com/news-release/2015/03/28/719862/10126773/en/Angie-s-List-Withdraws-Campus-Expansion-Proposal-Due-to-Passage-of-Religious-Freedom-Bill.html>) in Indianapolis, and the CEO of Salesforce, a \$4 billion software corporation, announced plans to "dramatically reduce our investment" (<http://www.thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/davidbadash/4-billion-s-p-500-corporation-to-indiana-we-re-out-of-here>) in the state because of the law.

Twenty states have RFRA laws, but Indiana's law is [substantially different](http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/2015/03/30/3640374/big-lie-media-tells-indianas-new-religious-freedom-law/) (<http://thinkprogress.org/lgbt/2015/03/30/3640374/big-lie-media-tells-indianas-new-religious-freedom-law/>). While other state RFRA laws apply to disputes between a person and a government, Indiana's law goes further and applies to disputes between private citizens. That means, for example, a business owner could use the law to justify discrimination against customers who might otherwise be protected under law.

Indiana's law also differs from the federal RFRA, which President Bill Clinton signed into law in 1993, for the same reason.

Last month, [30 law professors with expertise in religious freedom](http://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/gender-sexuality/law_professors_letter_on_indiana_rfra.pdf) (http://web.law.columbia.edu/sites/default/files/microsites/gender-sexuality/law_professors_letter_on_indiana_rfra.pdf) explained why the Indiana law could lead to "confusion and conflict."

The Indiana law could result in "employers, landlords, small business owners, or corporations, taking the law into their own hands and acting in ways that violate generally applicable laws on the grounds that they have a religious justification for doing so," reads their letter. "Members of the public will then be asked to bear the cost of their employer's, their landlord's, their local shopkeeper's, or a police officer's private religious beliefs."

That's in sharp contrast to states like Connecticut, which has an RFRA but one that pertains only to religious institutions, not private establishments. And unlike some other states, Connecticut also doesn't permit discrimination based on sexual orientation in any private establishment or institution.

Gov. Malloy signed the executive order Monday afternoon.

Like signing the order, he called the Indiana law "disturbing and outright discriminatory," and said the National Collegiate Athletic Association should relocate its [Final Four](http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/2015/03/29/college-football-tournament-indiana-414114) tournament from Indiana to another state. Those games are set to begin later this week.

(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.huffingtonpost.com%2F2015%2F03%2F30%2Fconnecticut-indiana->

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"I don't think we have a choice for them to do if that's possible," said Malloy. "I'll leave it up to them to make those decisions."

President Mark Emmert has said he is "surprised and disappointed" (keeping-close-eye-indiana-legislators-new-law-allow-businesses-discriminate-gays-lesbians) by Indiana's law, and that he is waiting for some kind of clarification to the law, or an outright repeal, before deciding whether to keep holding sporting events in the state.

Malloy said his executive order allows for any of the state's current contractual obligations with Indiana to play out, but said he doesn't plan to enter into any new ones.

"Somebody's got to stand up to this kind of bigotry and I'm prepared to do it," he said.

This post has been updated with more information on state and federal RFRA laws.

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Suzi Pratt via Getty Images



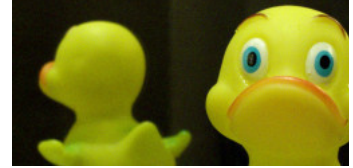
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Do you think private businesses whose owners object to birth control on religious grounds should be required to provide health care plans that cover the cost of contraceptives for their employees?

Yes No Not sure

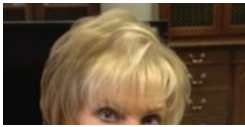
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Aaron Posey · Top Commenter

For those of you who have not taken the time to do the research before commenting, the citizens in my state are furious. We protested before the bill was even voted on by the general assembly. Then, called the Governor's phone until he had it shut off. The people have organized campaigns to identify businesses known to support the bill. Big Apple Bagels in Brownsburg probably will not survive this after merely showing support for Pence. There is a statewide campaign for supporters of everyone's civil rights to self identify, with the proceeds going to SCORE. We're trying, guys. Seriously.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 918 · [Follow Post](#) · 18 hours ago



Kjn Nick · Top Commenter · Works at Consultant

Good to know. We certainly support your efforts. Everyone must do all they can to stop this kind of thing from happening anywhere again.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 141 · 18 hours ago



Ken Johnston · Top Commenter · Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

I hope it doesn't affect you guys too much. Just enough to reverse the decision. Things are going to get tough for everyone in your state. It's unfortunate but necessary to send a message.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 111 · 18 hours ago



Chris Kelly · Top Commenter · Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

We know. I've spent a lot of time on the Indianapolis Star website this week, and its evident that this was not a popular law. Please keep working from the inside.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 89 · 17 hours ago

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Doug Witney · Top Commenter

This will be a case where capitalism will work for the People. Reroute trucks outside of the state, no visiting out-of-state fans to sports events in the state, no internet purchases of goods or services provided from Indiana companies unless they post they serve everyone, vacation travelers route around the state (no tolls, no fuel, no food purchases, no hotels). This might wake the residents up when the impact starts being measured over time.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 567 · [Follow Post](#) · 19 hours ago



Tom Schnurstein · Top Commenter

Blah...Blah...Blah

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 66 · 19 hours ago



Clay Coleman · [Follow](#) · Top Commenter

...or we continue to keep this news worthy, Pence plummets at the polls, calls his buddies at the State Capitol asking why they're f'ing him, law "clarified" to have no bite -just rhetoric, back to square one...I like your idea better.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 120 · 19 hours ago



Abe Lillard · Top Commenter · University of Tennessee

Tom Schnurstein That's right, blah...blah...blah. This is how things get



done against drags on society like you.

Reply · Like · 528 · 19 hours ago

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Susan Riley · Top Commenter · Tucson, Arizona

Awesome move on the part of Connecticut Gov.! Like they said on SNL Saturday night...the new signs on Indiana businesses will be "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS". No place for this kind of hate and discrimination in 2015.

Reply · Like · 346 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Pall Ua Deághaidh · Follow · Top Commenter · President of the United States at The White House

"No place for this kind of hate and discrimination in 2015."

In other states there is exactly the same kind of hate - the discrimination is more subtle - is that what you prefer?

Reply · Like · 37 · 18 hours ago



Mark Marcellin · Top Commenter · University of Pennsylvania

Maybe Connecticut should first repeal its own version of the same law?!

Twenty states have the same law, state-level versions of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2015/03/27/19-states-that-have-religious-freedom-laws-like-indianas-that-no-one-is-boycotting/>

Reply · Like · 64 · 18 hours ago



Eddie Parisen · John Jay College of Criminal Justice

No, most intelligent people prefer no discrimination at all...

Reply · Like · 138 · 18 hours ago

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Rich Kathy Host · Top Commenter · Manager at The Cedars RV Resort

The phone at Mike's office should be ringing off the hook by now.

The business community has had time to ponder this.

You see, they profess to love the 'invisible' God, but their true allegiance is to a God they can see every day.

The almighty \$\$\$.

The almighty \$\$\$.

Reply · Like · 227 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Pennyjane Hanson · Top Commenter · "None".

you hit the nail on the head....oligarchs worship money...they pay lip service to the fundamentalist bigots for votes....they know they are not intelligent enough to realize they are but pawns in the game of profit. people so ignorant and bigoted that they will sell their own selves into slavery as long as they get to take their bigotry with them. it is just as paul ryan said, "the smart people will never be with us" so they go after the idiots, the fundamentalists who are really not bright enough to read and understand their own scripture.

Reply · Like · 109 · Edited · 18 hours ago



Scott Schor · Follow · Senior Fellow at Ade systems inc.

The Dollar is the senior ranking deity.

Reply · Like · 63 · 18 hours ago



Aaron Posey · Top Commenter

His phone did ring off the hook. Then he shut it down. People spoke and continue to do so, but are being ignored.

Reply · Like · 52 · 18 hours ago

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Mark Kuga-Henderson · Top Commenter · President at MASE Group, LLC

Good choice. The law is outrageous; and they should become a pariah.

Reply · Like · 104 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Elizabeth Pengson · Top Commenter

really in his day & age.. having this kind of law.It's like going back to the Dark Ages.

Reply · Like · 57 · 18 hours ago



Jeana Prewitt · Top Commenter · Head gardener at Bedside Manor

This law was a nod to the rightwingers who vote. If the moderates and left wing voted in the same numbers, you wouldn't see sh!t like this. And the rightwingers ought to be outraged that their tax payed representatives are wasting huge amounts of THEIR money on legislation they KNOW won't hold up in court and is nothing more than a wink for votes. Not sure if the dog is cahsing its tail or the other way around.

Reply · Like · 60 · 18 hours ago



Aaron Posey · Top Commenter

Jeana Prewitt Of the 7 state senators who authored the bill and were up for election last year 4 ran unopposed. Don't put blame where it doesn't belong, especially with second hand knowledge of the situation.

Reply · Like · 18 · 18 hours ago

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Godfrey Donathan · Top Commenter · Macon, Georgia



Although, logistics wise, It's too late to move the NCAA tournaments for this year, but I'd like to see a letter sent to the Governor mentioning that it may be moved next year if this law is still active.

More businesses boycotting this state or at least printing signs that says "they support all people" and post them at there place of business would send unprecedented message

Reply · Like · 75 · Follow Post · Edited · 19 hours ago



Dan Rittmann · Top Commenter · University of Texas at Arlington

The Final Four only is in Indiana a minimum of every five years. The NCAA has a contract and must bring it back at most five years from now. Their whole headquarters is in this God-forsaken state, that's the real problem. They have leases, employees have homes.

Reply · Like · 12 · 18 hours ago



Paul Moschetta · Top Commenter

In response to your suggestion, Godfrey, I would love it if the NFL told Pence that Indianapolis' Lucas Stadium can no longer bid for any future Super Bowls, and relocate the annual NFL Combine from Indianapolis also starting in 2016.

The Super Bowl alone generates almost \$50 million to the local economy.

Reply · Like · 59 · 18 hours ago



Ralph Reinhold · Top Commenter · Necedah High

You and other sports fans can affect NCAA by either not watching the game or having Final Four parties. The cable company and streaming tracks your viewing. So, if twenty guys are watching the game, it is only one tick that gets in the ratings not twenty. If you are watching over the air are interviewed by Arbitron or Nielsen, tell them you aren't watching the game, even if you are. Believe me, a 10% drop in ratings over last year will get their undivided attention.

Reply · Like · 30 · 18 hours ago

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Roberto Carvalho de Magalhães · Top Commenter

Another reason to be proud of my state - and of New England in general. Besides, I beg the journalists to stop writing phrases like "opponents fear it offers legal protection for businesses to refuse service to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people." THE LAW SIGNED BY MIKE PENCE WAS DESIGNED TO ALLOW UNPUNISHED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE. It's enormously uncivilized and goes far beyond religious freedom. It sanctions the religious right to bully others.

Reply · Like · 64 · Follow Post · Edited · 18 hours ago



Roberto Carvalho de Magalhães · Top Commenter

By the way, three of the lobbyists that helped to make the bill and pass it into law are notorious haters and anti-LGBT activists: Micah Clark, Curt Smith, and Eric Miller. Look it up.

Reply · Like · 28 · 17 hours ago



Roberto Carvalho de Magalhães · Top Commenter

Anne Vought The American Spectator is rather misinformed. Before posting misinformation, you should inform yourself better - and get the information from websites that know what they are talking about:

<https://www.glad.org/rights/connecticut/c/anti-discrimination-law-in-connecticut>. Obviously, your only purpose has nothing to do with stating the truth, but to making anti-LGBT propaganda. Sorry, it doesn't work. The facts are out there for whomever has any respect for the truth.

Reply · Like · 17 · Edited · 15 hours ago



Barbara Ann Stevenson · Top Commenter · New Castle, Delaware

Roberto Carvalho de Magalhães Bravo!

Reply · Like · 5 · 15 hours ago

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Ronald Peacock · Top Commenter

Simply put. OUCH! Seems these Republican Governors sure like to take their states to the edge and beyond in their dangerous follies. Kansas the state of bankruptcy caused by a Koch run governor that imposes no taxes, IN with about as much common sense as AK in discrimination against their FELLOW MAN. I liked the fellow man stuff. Gives a sense of entwining the two. As it should be. Just saying..

Reply · Like · 62 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Merete Cunningham · Top Commenter · Handelshøyskolen i Trondheim

MArkansas is next - Walmart is not happy with the idea of a boycott for that law, which is pretty much the same. ALEC at work!

Reply · Like · 21 · 18 hours ago



James Turner · Top Commenter · LaSalle Senior High School

I repeat. This stuff doesn't matter to the average voter in these states. That is why these pinheads with the ethics of a maggot get elected and re elected. If Pence is not term limited, he will be re elected too because he as an "R" after his name. The American electorate is not known for deep thinking or being aware of the issues; most don't know we fought an undeclared war in Vietnam for 10 years. Really, you are asking too much of them.

Reply · Like · 34 · 16 hours ago



AC Long · Top Commenter

Ronald: yes, like when it was passed at the federal level by that pesky Republican Bill Clinton. Also, Illinois passed one in 1998 - was that republicans? doubt it.

Reply · Like · 11 · 16 hours ago

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Rob Anderson · Top Commenter · Educator at Boulder Valley School District
Good!!! Homophobics lose another. Take your theocracy and join DAESH.
Reply · Like · 46 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Stephen Gee · Top Commenter
You might forward your post to Governor Malloy - his state have the same laws on the books.
Reply · Like · 7 · 17 hours ago



Rob Anderson · Top Commenter · Educator at Boulder Valley School District
Stephen Gee That's doesn't make it right. Look at = protection of the law. Then take your theocratic H8triot dogma and move to Russia or join DAESH.
Reply · Like · 18 · 17 hours ago



Robb Hibbard · Top Commenter
Stephen Gee Ye Gods, this very article concludes with how Connecticut's law differs from Indiana's. Did you not see that part?
Reply · Like · 56 · 17 hours ago

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Tom Hazen · Top Commenter · Burlington High School
Indiana pence, also known as Indiana jones, listens to too many tea bags
Reply · Like · 43 · Follow Post · 19 hours ago



Ray Knitterman Whiting · Top Commenter
<http://www.raywhiting.com/PenceHeadset.jpg>
Reply · Like · 1 · 15 hours ago



Jason Valdivia · Top Commenter · New Orleans, Louisiana
Indiana Jones is changing his name to Nevada Jones =)
Reply · Like · 6 · 11 hours ago



Alfred Leffall · Top Commenter · Booker T. Washington High School
"Pence has, Flenched"*****
Reply · Like · 9 hours ago

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