Duke Health’s Sexual & Gender Diversity Advisory Council
Invites All Duke Faculty, Staff & Students to
Sign a Petition Calling for the Repeal of HB2

We, the undersigned faculty, staff, students, and friends of Duke University, officially call for the full and permanent repeal of North Carolina’s House Bill 2.

With the passage of one of the most disturbing and far reaching bills to descend from our legislature in recent years, comes a clear and resounding call to stand up and stand beside our fellow Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Gender Non-Conforming (LGBTQ+) classmates, colleagues, friends, family members and patients whose civil rights and sense of basic safety have been attacked.

HB2 stands in direct opposition to the values and mission of our institution and to our commitment to foster culture of inclusion, equity and mutual respect. The fact that this law exists at all creates a climate of justified fear, especially for those who are transgender or gender non-conforming as well as other members of our community. The bill creates an expectation that one’s gender be expressed in a very particular/binary fashion which can limit all people’s freedom to be themselves. The way it stands, anyone could potentially fall victim to those who may misperceive our gender/gender expression.

According to National Center for Transgender Equality House Bill 2 puts North Carolina law in direct conflict with federal laws that say that transgender people have the right to use restrooms that match their gender. It also bars local protections in public accommodations on the basis of gender identity, sexual orientation, and veteran status.

We live, learn and work in a world that is increasingly diverse, and it’s our diversity that adds depth, richness and excitement to the experience of being a member of the Duke community and the State of North Carolina. As residents, employees and tax payers, we stand up against this ill-conceived and discriminatory legislation.

We believe that the repeal of HB2 will enable all people who call North Carolina home to build confidence in the freedom to live and work in a state that embraces the full spectrum of diversity, including but not limited to gender, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. Repeal of this legislation will also give confidence to prospective employers, students and businesses looking to locate here that North Carolina is focused on improving the economy and creating jobs, rather than singling out whole classes of people for legalized discrimination.

The School of Medicine’s Sexual & Gender Diversity Council stands proudly with Duke’s President, Provost and Chancellor, The Nicholas School of the Environment, The School of Nursing, The Divinity School, and countless other students, faculty and staff who have spoken out and taken action against this discriminatory bill.