

FIXED



* Pence signs legislation to clarify RFRA bill, but LGBT citizens still not a protected class in Indiana

George Stephanopoulos

“One fix that people have talked about is simply adding sexual orientation as a protected class under the state civil rights laws. Will you push for that?”

Gov. Mike Pence

“I will not push for that. That is not on my agenda and that has not been an objective of the people of the state of Indiana. And that has nothing to do with this law.”

March 29 on “This Week” on ABC

By Michael Majchrowicz
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INDIANAPOLIS — In a hurried attempt to reclaim credibility for his state, Gov. Mike Pence signed off on a clarification to the “religious freedom” law Thursday.

In the midst of furious debate, Pence said in a statement, he prayed.

Since he signed it last week, Senate Bill 101 has come under attack as anti-gay and brought a firestorm of condemnation on the entire state. The new language — Senate Bill 50 — clarifies that the bill does not condone discrimination.

It comes after Seattle, San Francisco and the states of New York and Connecticut barred official non-essential travel to Indiana; the NCAA Tournament — worth more than \$11 billion in contracts — threatened to leave Indianapolis; Wilco canceled a concert; Angie’s List called off a 1,000-job expansion; Twitter exploded with #boycottindiana and #impeachmikepence.

Stephen King only needed one

HOW THEY VOTED
House 66-30
Senate 34-16

tweet: “You can frost a dog turd, but it’s still a dog turd.”

One petition called for the governor to be recalled. Another called upon IU to confer him an honorary doctorate in interpretive dance after he avoided answers to yes-no questions on television. The Indianapolis Star, the state’s largest newspaper, devoted an entire front page to its editorial board’s stance: “FIX THIS NOW.”

It was repeatedly called the most embarrassing moment in recent Indiana history.

Opponents of the original legislation pushed for sweeping nondiscrimination measures that would have allowed LGBT individuals class protection. During Thursday’s committee discussions, one transgendered youth asked lawmakers for full protection for LGBT and gender nonconforming individuals. A clean start.

House Republicans and Senate leadership met somewhere in the middle.

While the result, SB 50, protects

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Pence throughout RFRA controversy



Since the inception of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Gov. Mike Pence’s defensive rhetoric has changed drastically.

MARCH 24

“The legislation, SB 101, is about respecting and reassuring Hoosiers that their religious freedoms are intact. I strongly support the legislation and applaud the members of the General Assembly for their work on this important issue.”

Gov. Mike Pence, on the passage of the bill

MARCH 29

“This is not about disputes between individuals. It’s about government overreach. And I’m proud that Indiana stepped forward.”

Pence, on “This Week” with George Stephanopoulos

MARCH 31

“I abhor discrimination. I believe in the Golden Rule that you should ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ If I saw a restaurant owner refuse to serve a gay couple, I wouldn’t eat there anymore.”

Pence, in a Wall Street Journal op-ed

“Let me say, on the — the subject of the bill itself, I don’t believe for a minute that it was the intention of the General Assembly to create a license to discriminate or right to deny services to gays, lesbians or anyone else in this state. And it certainly wasn’t my intent. But I can appreciate that that’s become the perception, not just here in Indiana but all across this country, and we need to confront that and confront it boldly in a way that respects the interests of all involved.”

Pence, at a press conference regarding the law

APRIL 2

“Our state is rightly celebrated for our pro-business environment, and we enjoy an international reputation for the hospitality, generosity, tolerance and kindness of our people. Hoosier hospitality is not a slogan; it is our way of life. Now that this is behind us, let’s move forward together with a renewed commitment to the civility and respect that make this state great.”

Pence, on the passage of the new language

RFRA laws across America and how Indiana is different

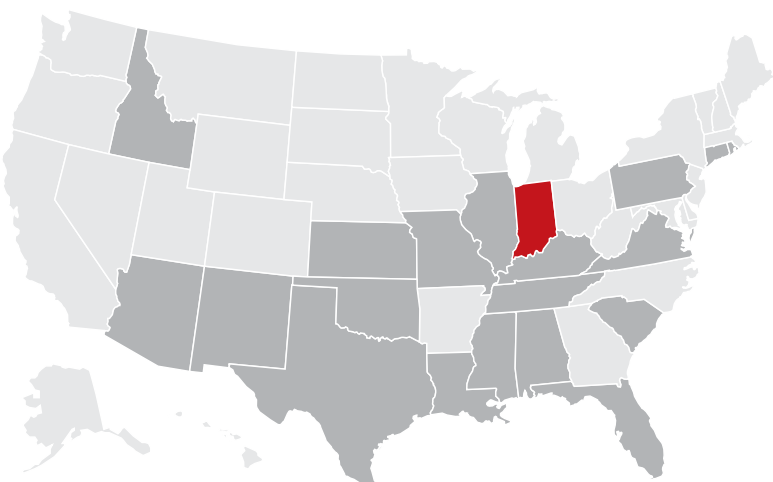
While 19 other states and the federal government have RFRA laws, Indiana’s has caused a stir for a variety of differences.

First is the public perception of marriage equality today versus when the 20 other laws were passed.

Public approval of same-sex marriage is much higher today than it was in the 1990s when many of these other RFRA laws were passed.

Indiana also has no equal protection status for sexual orientation.

If a court case based on sexual orientation went through the Indiana court system, the people claiming discrimination would not receive protection.



SOURCE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

University backs new language changes in RFRA

From IDS reports

IU released a statement approving of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act changes made by the Indiana General Assembly in a press release Thursday morning.

IU appreciates that nothing in the RFRA bill will provide legal

protection for discrimination against a person based on sexual orientation, race, religion, sex, gender identity, disability, national origin, age, ancestry or any other demographic, according to the release.

In the release, IU asked “all Hoosiers to remember that religious liberty and equal protection under

the law are both cornerstones of our democracy and they should not be in conflict with each other. Our system of government works best when people of good will come together to reconcile their differences and find common ground.”

Suzanne Grossman