

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EQUALITY ILLINOIS DISMAYED THAT CHICK-FIL-A RETAINS
HOMOPHOBIC POLICIES**

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois, the state’s oldest, largest and most-respected LGBT advocacy organization, today expressed dismay that Chick-fil-A continues to support discrimination against lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual Americans.

“While it will let anyone eat in its restaurants, as the law requires, this was a failed opportunity for Chick-fil-A to lead, as have many other corporations, to greater respect for LGBT Americans,” said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

The restaurant chain issued a news release clarifying reports out of Chicago that it is allegedly changing its way of doing business.

The release states that the chain wants to stay out of political and social debate. But asserting that the company aims to be “responsible stewards of all that God has entrusted to us,” it confirmed that it will continue to support causes that “strengthen families and enrich marriages.”

“Chick-Fil-A’s charitable giving to programs that supposedly ‘strengthen families and enrich marriages’ do not include in their vision same-sex couples and the families they are building,” Cherkasov said. “And we’re dismayed that in order to ‘strengthen families and enrich marriages,’ Chick-Fil-A chooses to fund organizations that marginalize LGBT families, oppose marriages of gay and lesbian couples and disrespect LGBT people.”

The Chick-fil-A release asserts that its “culture” is to treat everyone the same “regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender,” but the statement pointedly refuses to clarify any changes to corporate policy.

“There is no evidence and nothing in the statement that says Chick-fil-A has ended donations to anti-gay organizations, changed any internal policies or changed their culture,” Cherkasov said.

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Mailing Address
3318 N. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60657

Phone
773-477-7173

Fax
773-477-6912

E-mail
info@eqil.org

Web
www.equalityillinois.org