

APRIL 2016

Don't Let Illinois Become Another North Carolina



As we watched with abhorrence last month as the sweeping anti-LGBT bill became law in North Carolina, we cannot forget the proposal pending right now in an Illinois House committee that copies a major section of the North Carolina law.

HB 4474 is a shameful bill. It would marginalize transgender students and force trans men to use women's facilities and trans women to use men's facilities in schools. Equality Illinois lobbyists are on the case in Springfield making sure lawmakers understand

the discriminatory measure and seeking to prevent it from advancing out of committee this month. But state representatives need to hear from you, their constituents. Sign our petition against HB 4474, and don't let Illinois become another North Carolina.

[SIGN PETITION](#)

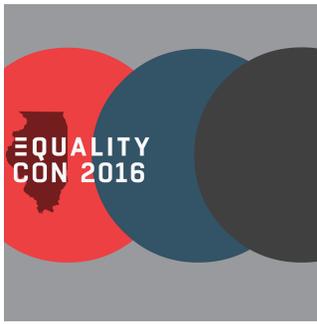


HOW ELSE YOU CAN HELP #1: JOIN LGBT EQUALITY ADVOCACY DAY

With an ambitious legislative agenda that significantly affects our community, now is the time to tell our elected leaders where we stand. Join us in Springfield for LGBT Equality Advocacy Day on April 13, when citizen advocates such as you meet with your state senator and representative and other officials. The daylong advocacy event includes lobbying training, lunch, meetings with legislators and

a reception at the end of the day.

[JOIN US](#)



HOW ELSE YOU CAN HELP #2: GET INFORMED, SHARE STRATEGY AT EQUALITYCON

Registration is now open for **EqualityCon 2016**, hosted by Equality Illinois Institute, to be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago on May 13-14.

Take advantage of the early-bird discount and secure your spot at Illinois' premier strategy session bringing together LGBT community members and allies, progressive advocates, and civic leaders to discuss issues that affect us all.

With conversations on everything from racial justice to transgender equality, safety in schools to finding equality in faith communities, education on wellness and guidance on financial security, and breaking through barriers on passing state and federal policies, we will have something for everyone.

[REGISTER](#)



HOW ELSE YOU CAN HELP #3: SAY NO TO NORTH CAROLINA

policies.

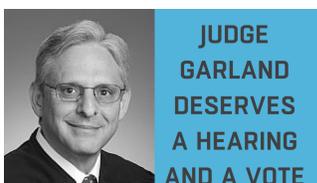
North Carolina is a major vacation destination, national sports venue and regional business center. After state officials imposed the most drastic anti-LGBT law in the U.S., our dollars do not belong there, and many businesses agree. They've put the state on notice, but we have to keep up the pressure until the state changes its oppressive



THANK YOU, BERNARD

Yesterday was the last day on the job for Bernard Cherkasov, our chief executive who has led Equality Illinois through an historic seven years. In a column in the Chicago Sun-Times, Bernard reflected on the remarkable advances for LGBT rights and shares his vision for a future where his family lives in a world where justice and fairness prevail. We thank Bernard for all he has contributed—and will continue to do—in the ongoing fight for LGBT rights.

[READ MORE](#)



EQUALITY ILLINOIS URGES PROMPT CONSIDERATION OF SUPREME COURT NOMINEE

Immediately after President Obama appointed Judge Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court, Equality Illinois urged



Republican Sen. Mark Kirk to break with his party's knee-jerk opposition and give the nomination due consideration.

Kirk soon joined Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin in saying he would fairly assess the nominee and call for a vote. Equality Illinois will continue to ask Sen. Kirk to pressure his party leadership to follow his direction. Inaction by the Senate is an abuse of power and contrary to the United States Constitution and American history.

[READ MORE](#)

EQUALITY ILLINOIS AT WORK AND AT PLAY

*Equality Illinois Jubilee
Gala volunteers at Elixir*

In March...we offered trainings on understanding transgender individuals and issues for Cook County correctional officers and media...a delegation of human rights advocates from around the world, part of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in partnership with WorldChicago, discussed LGBT rights with the Equality Illinois leadership...EI CEO Bernard Cherkasov and Policy Director Mike Ziri joined LGBT activists, candidates, and elected officials at the Victory Fund & Institute Candidate and Campaign Training in Indianapolis...our *Cherchez la Femme* brunch at R Public House brought out a fun crowd...we thanked Jubilee Gala volunteers at Elixir in Andersonville.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

TGI SPRING!

TONIGHT – Come celebrate spring's arrival with all of your friends at TGI Spring! For only \$10, you get two drink tickets and all the fun you can handle. Door prizes, too! Your contribution directly supports the important work of Equality Illinois in securing and defending the equal rights of LGBT Illinoisans.

[JOIN US](#)



SPRING WINE TASTING

Our Spring Wine Tasting returns Wednesday, May 11 at Sidetrack, and this is your chance to sample over 100 wines from around the world. No passport required! This event sells out every year — do not procrastinate.

Proceeds from the wine tasting benefits our work in Springfield. We need you to raise your glass to ensure that our work continues until we're all equal. VIP tickets include \$10 off voucher for purchased wines and an extra hour of tasting. General admission tickets include

two hours of wine tasting.

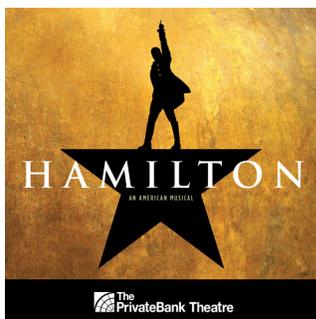
TICKETS

MOMOSA BRUNCH

Join us for a brunch cocktail event for you, your mother and all others who support equality! All proceeds benefit the work of Equality Illinois.

On Saturday, May 14, 1:30-3:30 pm, at Sidetrack Chicago, we'll toast our moms.

TICKETS



HAMILTON-CHICAGO OPENING NIGHT

Equality Illinois is offering our supporters the exclusive opportunity to see **Hamilton** on its Chicago Opening Night, Tuesday, September 27, 2016. Only a limited number of orchestra tickets remain. By purchasing tickets through Equality Illinois, you will not only benefit our educational work to support LGBT equality, but you will also have access to a post-show reception.

TICKETS



FUN HOME-CHICAGO OPENING NIGHT

Equality Illinois is offering our supporters the exclusive opportunity to see FUN HOME on its Chicago Opening Night, November 2, 2016. There will be much excitement for this show and there are only limited tickets available. Seats will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis in each section - so make sure to buy yours now.

One of the most groundbreaking productions ever to hit Broadway, FUN HOME is the winner of five 2015 Tony Awards® including Best Musical. By purchasing tickets through Equality Illinois, you will not only enjoy a great show but benefit our educational work to support LGBT equality.

TICKETS

If you would like an Equality Illinois speaker at your event—at work, a local civic organization, on campus, a union meeting, a business group, your faith group, a home EI fundraiser—please contact us at info@eqil.org or call 773-477-7173.

Follow us on the web and social media!



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Stay informed of LGBT-equality matters by visiting us at www.equalityillinois.org, and follow us on: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

Established 25 years ago, Equality Illinois builds a better Illinois by advancing equal treatment and social justice through education, advocacy and protection of the rights of the LGBT community.

Equality Illinois | 17 N. State St., Suite 1020, Chicago, IL 60602 | (773) 477-7173 | info@eqil.org | www.equalityillinois.org

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