

TENNESSEE REDUX: TONY PERKINS PROMOTES MARGINALIZING LGBT PEOPLE AMIDST CRISIS

LEGISLATURE CONSIDERING SLEW OF ANTI-LGBT BILLS

(Washington, D.C.) Today, Accountable for Equality as part of their “No Time For Nonsense” campaign issued the following statement regarding the people capitalizing on the Tennessee legislature's “[Slate of Hate](#)”.

The Tennessee legislature is currently considering several bills that would put the transgender youth at risk and prevent lifesaving, affirming medical care; defy the Supreme Court’s same-sex marriage ruling by attempting to establish a new legal definition of marriage; weaken local government control over anti-LGBT discrimination; and target the LGBT community.

[Tony Perkins](#), President of the anti-LGBT Family Research Council, this week sent out an email asking supporters to protest against major companies like Nike, Amazon, Dell, Hilton, American Airlines, and Mars that have previously opposed Tennessee’s anti-LGBT adoption law. In a letter earlier this year, these companies [called on state lawmakers](#) to “not pursue any further harmful bills this legislative session.” Perkins has a long history of anti-LGBT behavior, and has repeatedly pushed for scientifically discredited conversion therapy, fought trans-inclusive bathroom policies, denounced marriage equality, and made other offensive and hateful comments about the LGBT community.

“Wouldn’t it be nice if for once, not to mention while Tennesseans are sick, dying, and recovering from COVID-19, while mental health is declining, unemployment reaches record highs, and state budgets are decimated, that national voices like Tony Perkins would not fundraise on the marginalization of the LGBT community.” said Chris Fleming, spokesman for Accountable for Equality. “The Tennessee legislature has again prioritized making life harder for LGBT Tennesseans and to AFE that is unconscionable during a global pandemic. There is no time for nonsense like this — full stop. It’s time priorities are set straight and we all work to protect Tennesseans rather than fundraise for a hate-filled, bigoted agenda.”

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, Accountable for Equality is focusing its efforts to highlight those that are capitalizing on the pandemic to advance their own biased priorities that marginalize populations. It’s #NoTimeForNonsense

###