

**NLC BOARD RESOLUTION
AFFIRMING CHARLOTTE AS HOST OF THE 2017 CITY SUMMIT**

WHEREAS, in November 2012 NLC’s Board of Directors selected the city of Charlotte, North Carolina, to host the 2017 City Summit, the organization’s annual fall conference, which brings together more than 4,000 delegates to build networks, learn skills and best practices and vote on the organization’s [advocacy policies](#); and

WHEREAS, in February 2016, more than three years later, Charlotte’s City Council amended the city’s nondiscrimination ordinance to include protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in places of “public accommodation,” including public restrooms; and

WHEREAS, in response, the state of North Carolina enacted House Bill 2 (HB2), a law that preempts local authority over non-discrimination ordinances such as Charlotte’s, and, furthermore, mandates that information provided on birth certificates can determine who may access certain public facilities; and, additionally, limits workplace protections for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community; and

WHEREAS, in a further blow to local authority, HB2 also prevents cities and counties from setting minimum wage standards for private employers who do business in their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina’s preemptive actions present a dangerous challenge to the principle of local decision-making authority and run counter to the notion that inclusiveness is a fundamental pillar of strong cities; and

WHEREAS, in protest to the state’s actions, hundreds of businesses and governmental entities have chosen to ban travel to and not to conduct business in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, these protests are bringing great harm to the city of Charlotte and its residents through reduced patronage of their businesses and loss of tax revenues that support essential city services; and

WHEREAS, in June 2016, to protest the state’s actions and as a show of solidarity with Charlotte in the fight for local authority, NLC’s Board of Directors affirmed its selection of Charlotte as host of the 2017 City Summit; and

WHEREAS, local decision-making authority embodies the idea that local elected leaders have the responsibility—and are in the best position—to make decisions that affect their residents and communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments play a critical role in creating an environment where cities—including all residents, and the businesses they use and own—are able to thrive; and

WHEREAS, placing limits on local decision-making authority ultimately is a limit on the political power of local residents; and

WHEREAS, local governments are the most trusted level of government; and residents depend and rely on local elected leaders to build strong vibrant communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT NLC condemns HB2 and similar actions taken by state governments that restrict local decision-making authority to protect residents from discrimination, establish minimum wages, build and operate broadband networks and promote immigrant inclusion, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NLC and our nation's cities will not be silent as states aggressively seek to undermine the fundamental rights of localities to determine their own destinies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NLC urges city officials to attend the 2017 City Summit to send a clear message to the state of North Carolina: We stand with the City of Charlotte, and we will oppose any actions that preempt local authority or discriminate against members of our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Officers and Board of Directors of the National League of Cities direct that this resolution shall be delivered to the Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina and the North Carolina General Assembly; and the Honorable Jennifer Roberts, Mayor of Charlotte and the Charlotte City Council.