



To: American Counseling Association

On behalf of the leaders and members of the Alabama Counseling Association (ALCA), we write to add our voices in opposition to the troubling legislation which has recently been passed in Tennessee and which has the potential to affect many of us as professional counselors. We are also very concerned about how the dilemma of continuing plans for the 2017 ACA Conference and Expo in Nashville, TN, are being affected.

We are deeply troubled by the recent passage of SB1556/HB1840 into law in our neighboring state, which is in direct conflict with ACA's nondiscrimination statement and Code of Ethics. We applaud the staunch and continuing efforts of TCA and ACA to advocate for our profession, along with the clients we serve and view this law as a significant impediment to the orderly delivery of our professional services.

We know from experience that a large (in this case-national conference) requires major groundwork and extensive planning beforehand. We understand that probably nothing would be as powerful as withdrawing the conference from Nashville to send a strong message of economic loss for the city; yet, showing support for our profession through our national organization would also be powerful. We empathize with your predicament and have confidence you will make a wise decision for the greater "good".

In the event the decision is made to continue with plans to meet in Nashville in 2017, Alabama would ask that significant effort be made for ACA and all its constituent groups to voice opposition to the current state of Tennessee counseling legislation, that we educate the Tennessee public and legislators to the tenets of the ACA code of ethics and change their minds regarding the need for this present legislation.

Your kind and complete consideration of our concerns is requested.

From: Alabama Counseling Association

Dr. Ervin L. (Chip) Wood, ALCA Executive Director

Mrs. Margaret Fox, ALCA President

Dr. Tomeka McGhee, ALCA President-Elect

Vincent D. Hinton, ALCA Past President