



## The Facts About Senate Bill 200

### Colorado is not the first state to prohibit discrimination in housing and public accommodations.

- 19 other states and the District of Columbia have already updated their nondiscrimination protections to include sexual orientation, and 12 of these states also include gender identity/expression.\*
- This bill made nondiscrimination laws consistent in their scope and application. In addition to sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, the law added age, ancestry, color, disability, marital status, national origin, and religion to various state laws that had omitted these categories.

### The law is necessary.

- This law is about basic fairness and treating people equally. In addition to housing and public accommodations, the law updated nondiscrimination laws dealing with jury service, auto insurance, consumer credit, public education, health care, and other topics.
- Many of Colorado's nondiscrimination laws had not been updated since the 1960s and this bill was a necessary update to protect all Coloradans.

### Opposition to the law is based on misinformation and fear.

- Claims made in opposition to this law are NOT based in fact. Nothing in the law addresses public restrooms - opponents of the legislation are making twisted interpretations to reach their ridiculous conclusions.
- Opponents are using fear, misinformation, and stereotypes that just aren't true.
- There have been no reported crimes in Colorado as a result of this law. Even those who opposed the law concede this point. \*\* Nor can they point to crimes in the other 19 states with similar laws.
- Nothing in the law creates a defense against prosecution for criminal conduct.\*\*\*

*\* 12 States prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression: Minnesota, Rhode Island, New Mexico, California, Illinois, Maine, Hawaii, New Jersey, Washington, Iowa, Oregon, and Vermont; plus the District of Columbia. 7 States prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation: Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Nevada, and Wisconsin.*

*\*\* Bruce Hausknecht, Focus on the Family, "I have not heard of anything." Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, June 26, 2008.*

*\*\*\* "I don't think it's any kind of free pass to break existing law," said Mesa County District Attorney Pete Hautzinger, as quoted in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel on June 26, 2008.*

Learn the truth about SB 200, read the legislation for yourself... visit [www.leg.state.co.us](http://www.leg.state.co.us)