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Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

Hate Crimes Legislation: Endorsement of HB 426

Georgia is one of four states in the United States that currently does not have a Hate Crimes Law. During this historic period for our country when we are all reflecting on the things that we can do as a society to close the gap of systematic inequity that people of color face daily, the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is committed to doing its part.

House Bill 426, by Representative Chuck Esfration (R-Dacula) was passed by the Georgia House of Representatives last year and is currently awaiting action by the Georgia Senate. This legislation calls for stiffer penalties for anyone convicted of targeting a victim based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability or physical disability.

The Georgia General Assembly is scheduled to return on June 15, 2020 to complete the 2019-2020 legislative session. The Georgia Hispanic Chamber supports HB 426 in its current form and calls for Georgia State Senate to vote on it and for Governor Kemp to sign it after such passage.

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber intends to be present when the legislative session continues and it will be actively engaging the general assembly advocating for HB 426's passage. It calls on all its allies to join it in working to pass this important piece of legislation.