



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Gov. Nathan Deal Buckles to Bullies Vetoes Religious Freedom Bill

Marietta, Georgia. – Today, Gov. Nathan Deal failed to protect people of faith by declaring he will veto the *Free Exercise Protection Act* recently passed by the Georgia legislature. Instead of signing a bill that provides broad-based religious freedom protections for all Georgians, Deal buckled to the pressure of the LGBT community, the film industry, the NFL, and large corporate interests, such as Home Depot, Coca Cola and SunTrust.

Concerned Women for America of Georgia State Director, Tanya Ditty, says this about the veto:

“We are very disappointed with the Governor’s decision to veto the legislation. There is a ramped up assault against the fundamental right to freedom of conscience - the right to think and believe what we want without fear of punishment. Gov. Deal had the opportunity to protect that fundamental right here in Georgia – instead, he is turned his back on people of faith.

“Gov. Deal is clearly not listening to the majority of the citizens of Georgia. In a just released poll asking if the governor should sign the bill, 66 percent of those polled said they wanted the bill signed. The poll shows there is support for the bill across all demographic groups and across all 14 congressional districts. Additionally, the poll indicates that 79 percent of Republicans, 62 percent of Independents and 59 percent of Democrats want to see Gov. Deal sign the bill.

“Religious freedom is the bedrock of all liberty, and it must be protected now for the sake of the generations that come behind us. Concerned Women for America will not retreat from this fight.”

Concerned Women for America is the nation’s largest public policy women’s organization.