



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 15, 2025**

## **Equality Indiana Condemns Violent Sermon by Pastor Stephen Falco, Urges Elected Officials to Respond**

**Indianapolis, IN** — Equality Indiana unequivocally condemns the violent and dehumanizing remarks delivered by Lay Pastor Stephen Falco of Sure Foundation Baptist Church during a sermon on Sunday, June 29, 2025. In the sermon, which was publicly livestreamed, Pastor Falco explicitly called for the death of LGBTQIA+ individuals—a reprehensible and dangerous act that cannot be dismissed as mere religious opinion.

This kind of rhetoric ought not be protected spiritual expression—it is incitement to violence. When a religious leader uses the pulpit to advocate for the extermination of an entire group of people, it crosses every moral, legal, and ethical boundary.

“This is not just HATE speech—it’s a call to action that could cost lives,” said G. David Caudill, Executive Director of Equality Indiana. “No Hoosier should have to live in fear of being targeted because of who they are or who they love. We must confront this hatred head-on and demand that those in power speak with clarity and conviction.”

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### **A Call for Leadership and Accountability**

Equality Indiana urges Indiana’s elected leaders—Governor Mike Braun, Lieutenant Governor Micah Beckwith, Attorney General Todd Rokita, state legislators, local officials, and mayors across the state—to take immediate, public, and decisive action:

- Condemn Pastor Falco’s sermon and all calls for violence.
- Affirm their commitment to protecting all Hoosiers, but especially LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers, under the law.
- Investigate potential legal violations and refer the sermon for review by appropriate law enforcement or civil rights authorities.

“When a pastor calls for LGBTQIA+ people to be executed, it is not a theological debate—it is a threat to the safety and humanity of our neighbors,” said Derrick Holder, a Board Member from Equality Indiana. “Silence from our leaders at this moment is complicity.”

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## About Equality Indiana

Equality Indiana is a statewide advocacy and civil rights organization committed to advancing full equality for LGBTQIA+ people across Indiana. Through policy advocacy, public education, and grassroots organizing, we work to ensure that every person—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, or belief—can live in dignity and safety. Its goal is to make Indiana a welcoming state to EVERYONE.

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