



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 15, 2026**

**Equality Indiana Advocates Condemns Governor Braun's State of the State Address for Failing LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and Young Adults**

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** — Equality Indiana Advocates today issued a sharp rebuke of Governor Mike Braun's State of the State address delivered Wednesday, January 14, stating that the Governor's proposed economic policies and prior executive actions continue to exclude—and actively harm—LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and young adults struggling to afford life in Indiana.

"Governor Braun spoke at length about affordability, opportunity, and Indiana's future, yet his policies tell a very different story," said G. David Caudill, Executive Director of Equality Indiana Advocates. "Nearly every major policy proposal and executive action advanced by this administration either ignores or worsens the economic reality facing LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and young adults. These communities are already disproportionately impacted by low wages, housing insecurity, healthcare barriers, and workplace discrimination—and the Governor's agenda offers them no relief."

Equality Indiana emphasized that true affordability cannot be achieved while entire communities are excluded from economic security. LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers, particularly transgender people and young adults, face higher rates of poverty, unemployment, housing instability, and lack of access to healthcare. Rather than addressing these disparities, the Governor's policies prioritize culture-war politics and corporate interests over the material needs of working Hoosiers.

"The Governor's vision does not solve the affordability crisis for average working Hoosiers," Caudill added. "It does not lower housing costs, expand healthcare access, protect workers from discrimination, or ensure fair wages. For LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and young adults, it sends a clear message: you are not part of this administration's economic plan."

Equality Indiana pointed to its **2026 Legislative Initiatives**, available on its website, as a clear alternative path forward—one that would directly address affordability and economic stability for all working Hoosiers. These initiatives include comprehensive nondiscrimination protections, healthcare access and medical privacy, education equity, pro-democracy reforms, public safety improvements, and targeted economic justice policies that uplift marginalized communities rather than exclude them.

"If enacted, Equality Indiana's legislative priorities would materially improve affordability for everyday Hoosiers," said Caudill. "Fair wages, affordable housing, accessible healthcare,

workplace protections, and inclusive economic policies are not abstract ideals—they are the building blocks of a thriving state economy. Indiana cannot grow while leaving LGBTQIA+ people and young adults behind.”

Equality Indiana called on lawmakers to reject exclusionary policies and instead advance legislation that reflects the real needs of Hoosiers across the state.

“Indiana’s future depends on whether we choose division or dignity,” Caudill concluded.

“Equality Indiana Advocates will continue to fight for policies that ensure all Hoosiers—regardless of who they are or who they love—can afford to live, work, and thrive in this state.”

**About Equality Indiana Advocates (a 501c4 entity)**

Equality Indiana Advocates is a nonpartisan, statewide advocacy and civil rights organization committed to advancing full equality for LGBTQIA+ people across Indiana. Through policy advocacy, coalition-building, and public education, Equality Indiana Advocates works to ensure every Hoosier can live with dignity, safety, and opportunity. Learn more at [www.EqualityIndiana.org](http://www.EqualityIndiana.org).

**Media Contact:**

G. David Caudill (any pronoun with respect)

Executive Director

Equality Indiana Advocates, a 501c4 entity

gdavid@equalityindiana.org

317-407-3042

**END**