

## **GEORGIA NEEDS WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS**

\*Share a personal story about workplace discrimination and its devastating effects if you have one.

- A majority of fair-minded people do not realize that, in most of Georgia, a person can be fired from their job simply for being gay or transgender.
- Freedom to work without fear of discrimination in hiring and advancement is key to building a secure life for one and one's family. Because employers in Georgia can refuse to employ or fire a person based on their sexual orientation, we especially need this bill now.
- Georgia Equality conducted a poll during the last general assembly session to determine how Georgian's feel about a number of issues that impact the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Schapiro Research Group conducted the poll with a representative sample of 450 Georgia voters. Respondents were asked if they thought gays and lesbians should be protected from anti-gay workplace discrimination. Eighty percent said yes including 82% of Democrats, 72% of Republicans and 85% of those identifying as Independent. Only 15% said gays shouldn't be protected and 5% refused to answer.
- Nineteen states have passed workplace discrimination laws, but discrimination is still legal in Georgia.
- In Georgia, as across the country, corporations are leading the way. Eighty five percent of the Fortune 500 already have policies to protect LGBT employees against workplace discrimination in their internal practices. Quite a few Georgia companies have taken those same steps - including, but not limited to: Alston and Bird, AT&T, Choice Point, Coca Cola Company, Cox Communications, Delta, Earthlink, Genuine Parts, Home Depot, ING, Kilpatrick Stockton, Powell Goldstein, Mirant Corporation, Mohawk Industries, Newell Rubbermaid and Siemens Energy and Automotive, SunTrust, Turner, UPS and Worldspan Technologies, to name a few.