

A MORE PERFECT UNION

2017
ANNUAL
REPORT

ACLU

North Carolina



WE THE PEOPLE DARE TO CREATE A MORE PERFECT UNION

Since 1965, the ACLU of North Carolina has worked in courts, the General Assembly, and communities to protect and advance the constitutional rights of all North Carolinians. With more than 33,000 members across the state, we take up the toughest battles for civil liberties and civil rights. The ACLU of North Carolina is a state affiliate of the national American Civil Liberties Union and a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization.

IN THE COURTS

- Working to undo the harm that H.B. 2 and its discriminatory replacement have caused to LGBTQ North Carolinians and fighting for employment protections for LGBTQ people
- Challenging arbitrary and medically unnecessary barriers to abortion
- Protecting residents from religious coercion by government officials
- Defending the ability of farmworkers to advocate for better working conditions
- Representing three female students whose public charter school forces them to wear skirts and punishes them if they wear pants

IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Tracked 164 bills related to constitutional rights
- Achieved a long-sought victory: “raising the age” of juvenile jurisdiction (more on page 7)
- Defeated a bill that could have severely limited the rights of protestors
- Continue working to expand protections for pregnant workers

IN COMMUNITIES

- Combating racially-biased policing and promoting accountability through better policies on body cameras, civilian review boards, and more.
- Providing “know your rights” trainings for interactions with police, immigration officers, and school officials
- Training legal observers to protect the rights of peaceful protestors



DEAR SUPPORTER

For almost 100 years, the ACLU has stood up to presidents of both parties to protect constitutional rights for all. Today is no different, though it feels more perilous each day.

In 2017, we witnessed the first wave of unrelenting assaults on our rights from the Trump administration. We saw calculated and ever more extreme attacks on civil liberties from the North Carolina state legislature with continued assaults on voting rights and fair representation, LGBTQ equality, and First Amendment rights.

In such difficult times, I take immense pride in the work of the ACLU and the support we have received from all corners of the state.

Our team helped defeat North Carolina's worst-in-the-nation voter suppression law, winning a four-year court battle that preserved same-day registration, a week of early voting, and easier access to the polls. We worked with a bipartisan coalition to finally, at long last, raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction in North Carolina so that 16- and 17-year-olds are not automatically charged as adults in our criminal justice system. And we continue to take action across the state to protect justice for all, thanks to your support.

We the People do not—will not—accept the erosion of hard-won civil rights and liberties. We the People remain vigilant and unflinching. We the People will forever pursue the vision of a fair and more just North Carolina.

Our work isn't about one person, one party, or one issue. It's about all of us, coming together, daring to create a more perfect union.

Thank you for daring to stand with us,

Karen Anderson
Executive Director



14

Ali Asghar and Shahla Ahmadi were planning to travel from their home in Iran to Charlotte to visit their children and celebrate the Persian New Year together. Even though both parents had valid travel visas, they were told they would not be allowed to board their connecting flight in Europe because of the Trump administration's travel ban.

Their son, Saeed, contacted the ACLU of North Carolina for assistance. After a federal court blocked officials from enforcing the travel ban, the Ahmadis finally landed safely at Charlotte Douglas airport, warmly greeted by their family.

lawsuits the ACLU has filed to stop President Trump's Muslim ban

MORE FREE

When President Trump signed his first discriminatory travel ban on Muslims in January, ACLU attorneys around the country sprang into action and immediately challenged the executive order in court. Thousands of people took to the streets and airports in a daring show of resistance.

That night a federal judge in New York issued a stay blocking President Trump's discriminatory policy from taking effect and preventing refugees and immigrants from being deported—handing the Trump administration its first defeat in court. We are engaged in a coordinated nationwide effort to oppose the president's unconstitutional order at every turn to make sure there is no Muslim ban, ever.

The ACLU is also working to protect nearly 800,000 young "Dreamers" who came to this country as children and know the United States as their only home from the threat of deportation by the Trump administration.

In North Carolina we are fighting to defend voting rights for communities of color and the rights of farmworkers to unionize and advocate for better working conditions.



94%

of 16- and 17-year-olds charged with a crime will now be sent to the juvenile justice system rather than the adult system.

MORE JUST

When she was 17-years-old, Olivia Brown made a mistake—she got in a fight at school and pepper-sprayed another student. Because she lived in North Carolina before the state increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction, she was automatically charged in an adult court and given an adult criminal record. Olivia had already overcome a period of homelessness in her life and worked hard to graduate early from high school. Now Olivia fears her mistake, which gave her a public criminal record, will jeopardize her future and dreams of going to college.

After years of advocacy by the ACLU-NC and others, this year North Carolina legislators finally “raised the age” so that most 16- and 17-year-olds charged with crimes will be sent to the juvenile justice system, where they will receive more effective support in a safer environment. No longer will a young person who makes one bad decision and is charged with even the most minor offense be housed in an adult jail, where they are at greater risk of suicide and sexual assault—nor will they be saddled with the consequences of a lifelong criminal record.

This was a hard-fought battle. Our strength together brought us to this moment, and through the haze of our state’s polarizing and often paralyzing politics, this victory shines bright.

But, of course, the work continues. We are working to expose North Carolina’s unjust system of mandatory court fines and fees, which traps thousands of people in jail or on probation simply because they are poor. We also continue our work with communities across North Carolina to stop racially biased-policing and dramatically shift our broken criminal justice system so that fewer people are wrongfully arrested and incarcerated.

400,000



LGBTQ North Carolinians without clear protections from discrimination at work, school, or in public places

MORE EQUAL

Maddy Goss is from Hickory, North Carolina. She teaches Taekwondo and is a devoted parent to her 11-year-old daughter. She is also a transgender woman and a plaintiff in our legal challenge to House Bill 142, a law that created uncertainty about whether she would be treated as a criminal for using women's restrooms in public buildings.

When North Carolina lawmakers replaced the infamous House Bill 2 with another anti-LGBTQ law, we filed a new court challenge to continue fighting for the rights and dignity of all LGBTQ people.

In October, we announced a proposed agreement in our case that would finally affirm the right of transgender North Carolinians to use public facilities that match their gender.

Nothing can make up for the cruel and senseless attacks transgender people have faced in North Carolina, but we hope that this settlement will be the first step toward undoing the harm caused by House Bills 2 and 142.

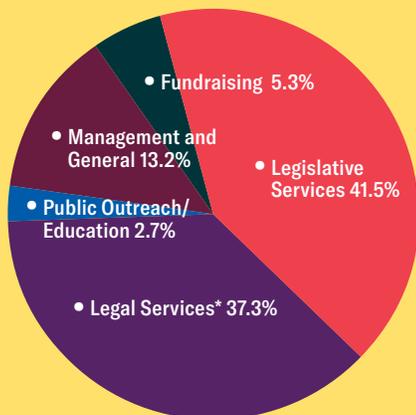
The work of fully protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination is far from over. This year we filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of Lonnie Billard, a former Teacher of the Year who was fired from his secular teaching job at a Catholic high school after he announced his engagement to his long-time partner.

We will keep fighting for LGBTQ North Carolinians to be protected from discrimination at work, in school, and in public places.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

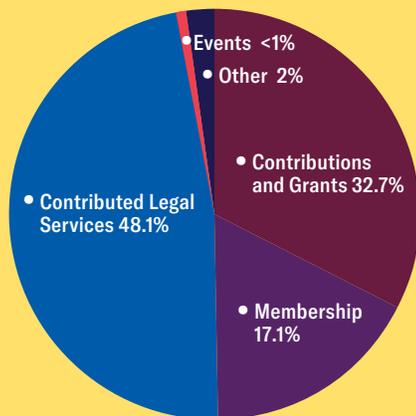
The American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina and ACLU-NC Legal Foundation
Fiscal year 2017 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017)

Fiscal Year 2017 Expenses: \$2,945,626



* Includes legal education outreach.

Fiscal Year 2017 Income: \$3,785,478



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO OUR WORK.

The ACLU of North Carolina's work is made possible by the support of thousands of people in North Carolina who care passionately about defending our Constitution. The ACLU is nonprofit and nonpartisan. We do not receive any government funding.

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL.

BECOME A CARD-CARRYING MEMBER

ACLU-NC membership is only \$35 per year. Joining makes you a member of the nationwide network and the North Carolina affiliate. Learn more and join at acluofnc.org/JoinUs.

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE GIFT

Because the ACLU-NC Legal Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax-deductible. You can make a one-time or recurring financial contribution, a gift of stock, or donate a car, truck or other vehicle. Donate online at acluofnc.org/Donate.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF LIBERTY

What threats to civil liberties will we face in 20, 30, or 40 years? Whatever they are, the ACLU will be there—proud, principled, and unflinching. When you name the ACLU to receive a bequest or other gift through your estate plans, you play a personal role in protecting freedom's future. Visit aclu.org/legacy or call 877-867-1025 to learn more.

If you have questions about supporting the ACLU-NC, please contact Seth Friedman at 919-256-5893 or sfriedman@acluofnc.org.

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This report is a joint publication of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina and the ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation. The report refers collectively to the two organizations as the ACLU of North Carolina.

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