

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 28 – 30, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Consent Agenda: Ratify Interim Council Actions**  
(Prepared by Executive Committee Member Tanya Zanish-Belcher)

**BACKGROUND**

Current parliamentary policy agrees on validating board decisions made remotely, and ratifying the Council's online and conference-call decisions via the Consent Agenda does not conflict with any existing SAA policy.

**DISCUSSION**

Given the Council's robust use of an email discussion list to function as a group and to make decisions remotely, approving interim Council actions via the Consent Agenda contributes to streamlining the group's work and improves access to the interim decisions of SAA's elected decision makers.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the following interim actions taken by the Council between January 16 and May 8, 2015, be ratified:**

- Unanimously adopted the January 16 SAA Council conference call minutes. (February 12, 2015)
- Unanimously approved the creation of an SAA Student Chapter at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. (April 7, 2015)
- Unanimously approved "SAA Statement on Indiana Religious Freedom Restoration Act and Subsequent Action by Indiana General Assembly and Governor." (See attachment.) (April 7, 2015)

## **SAA Statement on Indiana *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* and Subsequent Action by Indiana General Assembly and Governor**

**April 7, 2015**

The Society of American Archivists shares the concerns expressed by many about Indiana's controversial *Religious Freedom Restoration Act* (RFRA). We are gratified that on April 2, 2015, the Indiana General Assembly and Governor Mike Pence amended certain aspects of the *RFRA* (Section 1.IC34-13.9 of the *Indiana Code*), which had been signed into law days earlier.

The values of diversity, equity, and transparency form the foundation of the archival profession as reflected in the Society of American Archivists' [Core Values Statement and Code of Ethics](#). As noted in SAA's [Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy](#), discrimination and unequal treatment are inimical to the Society's values and goals. SAA prohibits within the organization discrimination on the grounds of age, color, creed, disability, family relationship, gender identity/expression, individual life style, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, and believes that discrimination within the larger context of society is indefensible. SAA will vigorously pursue a policy and practices of non-discrimination and equal opportunity through its programs (including its annual meeting), services, operations, activities, employment, and business contracts.

The revised Indiana law prohibits service providers from using it as a legal defense for refusing to provide goods, services, facilities, or accommodations, and it bars discrimination based on race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or U.S. military service. The measure exempts churches and affiliated schools, along with nonprofit religious organizations. Gay-rights groups have noted that Indiana's civil rights law still does not include LGBT people as a protected class.

SAA urges all states to respect and protect the rights of all their citizens.

*Approved by the SAA Council on April 7, 2015.*

*Published on the SAA website on April 8, 2015: <http://www2.archivists.org/news/2015/saa-statement-on-indiana-religious-freedom-restoration-act-and-subsequent-action-by-indian>*