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Media Contacts:

Transgender Community Confronts Governor Baker on Lack of Leadership at LGBT Event

Boston, MA- Last night at an LGBT Executive Networking Event hosted by Boston Spirit Magazine, an estimated group of 200 citizens vocalized frustration and disappointment with Governor Charlie Baker over his lack of support of "An Act Relative to Transgender Anti-Discrimination", commonly referred to as the Trans Public Accommodations Bill ([WATCH: Video of the crowd's reaction to Baker](#)).

Organized by a small group of trans people of color and their allies, the purpose of the action was for the transgender community to be seen and heard, and last night's eruption of anger tapped into a desperate frustration that currently grips the transgender community in Massachusetts.

By having our action inside the Boston Spirit Magazine event, we hoped to galvanize a larger community that would allow political apathy for transgender people. Boston Spirit Magazine offered Gov. Baker an opportunity to speak without recognizing or understanding his position on transgender issues, and when presented by the possibility of criticism of their event and their actions, they were surprised at the anger that the community vocalized.

"While we had hoped that Governor Baker's participation in Spirit Magazine's event would signal support and commitment to the citizens of the commonwealth, we were incredibly disappointed by his remarks and lack of action" shared Sasha Kaufmann (33, from Allston), an attendee of the Spirit Event. "We were instead met with an insulting ambiguity and lack of compassion for our rights as a transgender community." "It is clear from the events of last night that Baker fails to understand his constituents' needs and is capable of ignoring the criticism outright," added Eli Vivas, another organizer of the action.

"Governor Baker has not demonstrated the leadership that we, his constituents, have asked for on this issue," shared Maxwell Ng (38, from Boston), an organizer of the action. "Given the most recent happenings in North Carolina and other parts of the country regarding transgender individuals and our civic liberties, there is a palpable fear in the community. He ran on a platform of being a different kind of Republican, yet when Governor Baker leads with silence on this matter, all we hear is the same discrimination perpetuated by Governor McCrory of North Carolina being condoned and encouraged to happen against transgender Bay Staters".

The bill currently languishes in the Judiciary Committee as the House prepares to secure a veto-proof majority. Meanwhile, the Senate announced yesterday they will debate the bill later this spring.

Organizers of the event listed a set of demands for the governor, stating, "As citizens of the Commonwealth, we expect him to be Governor of all our people. We presume more from him than merely playing partisan politics with our lives. We expect him to demonstrate real leadership. We want ensured passage of this Bill and to hold Gov. Baker accountable to our entire community. We want our rights NOW."

Organizers of this action included:

Maxwell Ng, Michelle Tat, Eli Vivas, Justice Williams, and Sasha Kaufmann