



## Opinion Poll

### North Carolina Small Businesses Support Workplace Nondiscrimination Policies

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June 4, 2013

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## Executive Summary

Small business owners nationwide and in North Carolina are doing all they can to strengthen their businesses and put the Great Recession's effects behind them. Now more than ever, it's critical they have the help of smart employment laws allowing them to attract and retain the best talent. Scientific opinion polling shows the vast majority of North Carolina small business owners believe we're long overdue for federal and state policies protecting all workers from discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. It's good for business, it helps companies attract and retain talent and it's the right thing to do, according to our leading job creators.

A North Carolina poll conducted April 8-17 for Small Business Majority by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research reveals 65% of the state's entrepreneurs believe federal law should prohibit employment discrimination against gay and transgender people. Furthermore, 67% of owners believe North Carolina should have a state law prohibiting this type of discrimination.

In fact, the vast majority of small business owners already thought such laws existed. A whopping 74% of entrepreneurs didn't realize it's currently legal under federal law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay, lesbian or transgender. A mere 16% knew it is legal. In terms of state law, 64% of entrepreneurs were unaware it is legal in North Carolina to refuse to hire someone based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Small employers also strongly believe that an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay, lesbian or transgender based on their (the employer's) religious beliefs. Sixty percent agree this should not be permitted to occur, whether or not working with a gay or transgender employee conflicts with an employer's religious beliefs.

The majority of North Carolina small business owners oppose the current federal law allowing employers to deny married same-sex couples the family benefits they offer to heterosexual couples, and another two-thirds oppose employees with a same-sex partner or spouse being taxed for their dependent's health benefits while employees who have heterosexual partners or spouses aren't. Sixty-four percent oppose the federal law prohibiting lesbian and gay workers' spouses from being provided with the Social Security benefits that are extended to heterosexual spouses, even though gay and lesbian employees, as well as their employers, contribute to the Social Security system. More than six in 10 North Carolina small business owners say businesses are hurt by the federal law—known as the Defense of Marriage Act—that requires them to treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes. Six in 10 owners also say employers are hurt by laws prohibiting gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for immigration purposes.

Considering the widespread small business support for protecting gay and transgender people from employment discrimination, it makes sense that 63% of small business owners believe laws that protect against discrimination can improve their bottom line. Entrepreneurs agree these kinds of laws help employers attract the best and brightest employees, regardless of whether an employee is gay or transgender. Additionally, entrepreneurs strongly believe implementing a nondiscrimination policy is the right thing to do. Of employers who have a nondiscrimination policy, 92% say it's because they believe all employees should be treated fairly and equally, and 81% say they have it because it's the right thing to do.

Many North Carolina small businesses already have their own formal or informal policies protecting gay and transgender workers from employment discrimination. Thirty-four percent of survey respondents have such a policy already. Among the reasons employers with nondiscrimination policies have them, half say their policy improves their ability to attract and retain talented employees. Of employers who offer family benefits, almost seven in 10 either already offer benefits to same-sex spouses and partners of their employees, or would do so if they had a gay or lesbian employee.

It's also important to note North Carolina small business owners see little to no cost associated with having this kind of policy in place. Of those who have adopted their own nondiscrimination policy to protect gay and transgender workers from discrimination, 94% report the policy cost them "nothing or next to nothing."

There are a number of federal laws that provide different types of protections for employees. Poll results revealed that entrepreneurs strongly believe gay, lesbian and transgender employees should be afforded those same employment protections.

With regard to political affiliation, 41% of small business owners identified as Republican, 42% as Democrat and 12% as independent.

## Main Findings

- **Vast majority of North Carolina business owners favor federal and state laws protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment:**

The majority of entrepreneurs (65%) believe federal law should prohibit employment discrimination against gay and transgender people. Sixty-seven percent also agree North Carolina should have a law prohibiting this type of discrimination.

- **The vast majority of small business owners didn't know it is legal under federal and/or state law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian:**

When asked if, to the best of their knowledge, it is legal or illegal under federal law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or transgender, a striking 74% of small business owners said it is illegal. Merely 16% knew it is legal. In terms of state law, 64% of entrepreneurs were unaware that it is legal in North Carolina to refuse to hire someone based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

- **Six in 10 small employers believe an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender based on their (the employer's) religious beliefs:**

A 60% majority believes an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender if working with a gay or transgender employee conflicts with their (the employer's) religious beliefs. What's more, 76% believe a business should not be legally allowed to refuse services to some customers but not others based on religious beliefs.

- **More than six in 10 entrepreneurs agree laws protecting employees from discrimination help boost bottom lines because they enable employers to attract the best and the brightest:**

Sixty-three percent of small business owners believe laws that protect against discrimination improve the business's bottom line by attracting the best and brightest employees, regardless of whether an employee is gay or transgender.

- **Many businesses have their own policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination; nearly the same number say having the policy helps them attract talent:**

Thirty-four percent of small businesses surveyed have a policy protecting gay and transgender employees. Among the reasons employers with nondiscrimination policies have them, 49% say their policy improves their ability to attract and retain talented employees. Additionally, entrepreneurs strongly believe implementing a nondiscrimination policy is the right thing to do. Of employers who have a nondiscrimination policy, 92% say it's because they believe all employees should be treated fairly and equally, and 81% say they have it because it's the right thing to do.

- **Almost seven in 10 employers that offer family benefits already provide or would provide family health benefits to same-sex partners and spouses of their employees:**

Thirty-five percent of owners offer family benefits. One in five of these employers already provide benefits to same-sex partners or spouses of their employees, and an additional 48% say they would do so if they had a gay or lesbian employee. The 33% minority say they would not.

- **Policies protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination have nearly no business cost associated with them, according to the vast majority of owners that have a policy:**

An overwhelming 94% of small business owners who have adopted their own nondiscrimination policy to protect gay and transgender people from discrimination report the policy has a cost of "nothing or next to nothing." Merely 2% say it had a small but significant cost, and none say it had a substantial cost.

- **The majority of respondents oppose the current federal law allowing employers to deny married same-sex couples the benefits they offer to heterosexual couples; two-thirds oppose same-sex couples being taxed for family benefits while heterosexual couples aren't:**

Fifty-six percent of small employers oppose the current federal law permitting employers to offer family benefits to married heterosexual couples while denying those benefits to married same-sex couples. Sixty-six percent oppose the fact that if a small business elects to provide benefits to a same-

sex couple, the employee must pay income taxes on their spouse's/partner's benefits and the employer must pay the additional payroll taxes—while businesses and their employees do *not* have to pay such taxes for health benefits provided for heterosexual employees' spouses.

■ **Almost two-thirds of North Carolina owners oppose the federal law prohibiting lesbian and gay workers' spouses from being provided with the Social Security benefits that are extended to heterosexual spouses:**

Under federal law, lesbian and gay workers, as well as their employers, contribute to the Social Security system, but these workers' spouses are not provided with the Social Security benefits extended to heterosexual spouses. Sixty-four percent of entrepreneurs oppose this law.

■ **Nearly six in 10 owners believe the federal Family and Medical Leave Act should provide unpaid leave for gay and lesbian employees, like it does for heterosexual workers:**

Currently, businesses covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act are required to provide unpaid leave when a heterosexual employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse, but not when a gay or lesbian employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse or partner. A 58% majority of entrepreneurs believe this law should be adjusted to include gay and lesbian employees.

■ **Six in 10 employers say businesses are hurt by the federal law requiring them to treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes, and by laws prohibiting gay and lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for immigration purposes:**

The federal Defense of Marriage Act requires employers to treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes. Sixty-one percent of those surveyed agree that this law hurts businesses by requiring them to treat their employees differently and to administer two systems of benefits. Furthermore, 60% believe immigration laws prohibiting gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners can hurt businesses—particularly those competing internationally.

■ **Respondents were politically diverse:**

Forty-one percent of respondents identified themselves as Republican or independent-leaning Republican, 42% as Democrat or independent-leaning Democrat and 12% as independent.

## Vast Majority of Entrepreneurs Support Protecting Gay, Transgender People from Employment Discrimination

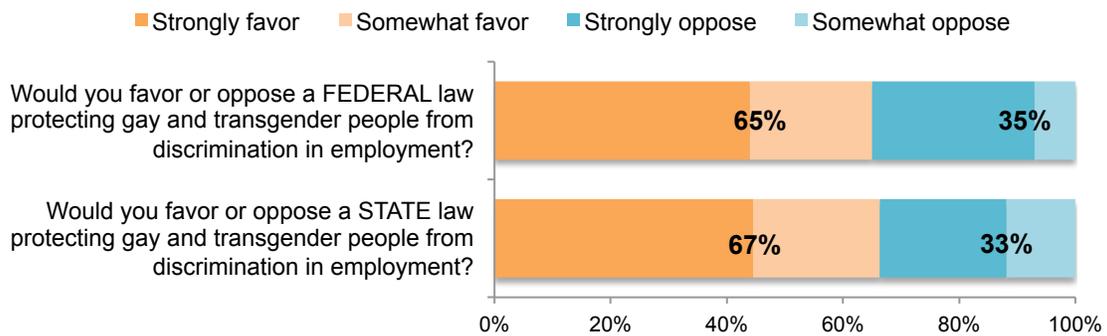
Scientific opinion polling reveals small business owners of all industries and political affiliations believe gay and transgender individuals should have equal workplace discrimination protections.

Sixty-five percent of entrepreneurs believe federal law should prohibit employment discrimination against gay and transgender people. Sixty-seven percent of owners in North Carolina also believe their state should have a law prohibiting this type of discrimination.

**Figure 1: Strong majority of owners believe federal law and North Carolina law should prohibit employment discrimination against gay and transgender people**

As you may know, federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, sex, age, race, and color. However, federal law does NOT protect gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment. Would you favor or oppose such a federal law?

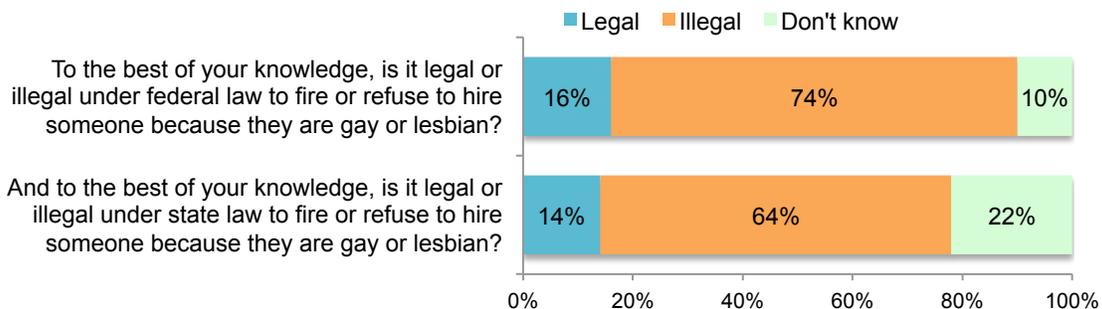
In addition state law does NOT protect gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment. Would you favor or oppose such a federal law?



We also asked small business owners if it is legal or illegal, to the best of their knowledge, to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian under federal law. A striking 74% of small business owners incorrectly believed it is illegal, while merely 16% correctly believed it is legal. In terms of state law, 64% of entrepreneurs were unaware that it is legal in North Carolina to refuse to hire someone based on sexual preference or gender identity.

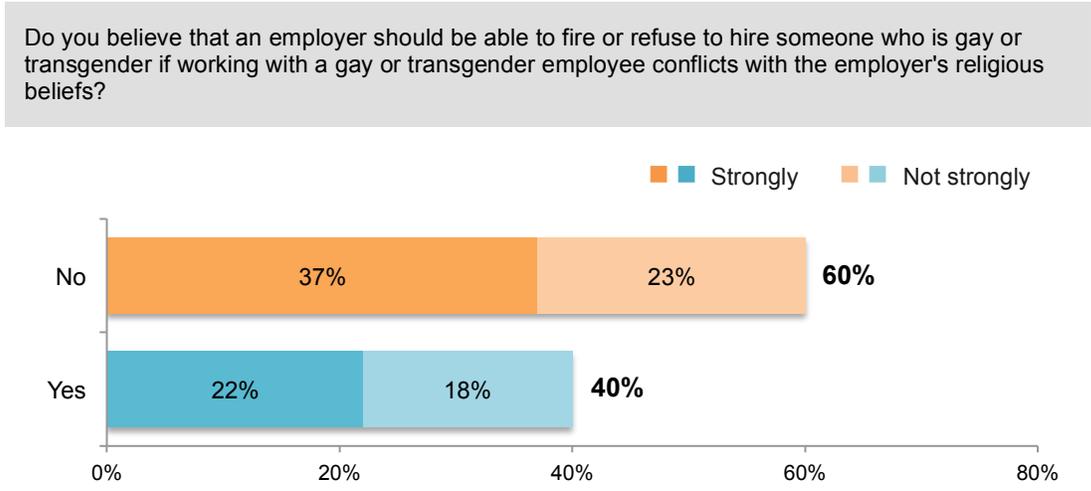
**Figure 2: Vast majority of small employers didn't know it is legal to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian**

To the best of your knowledge, is it legal or illegal under state or federal law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian?



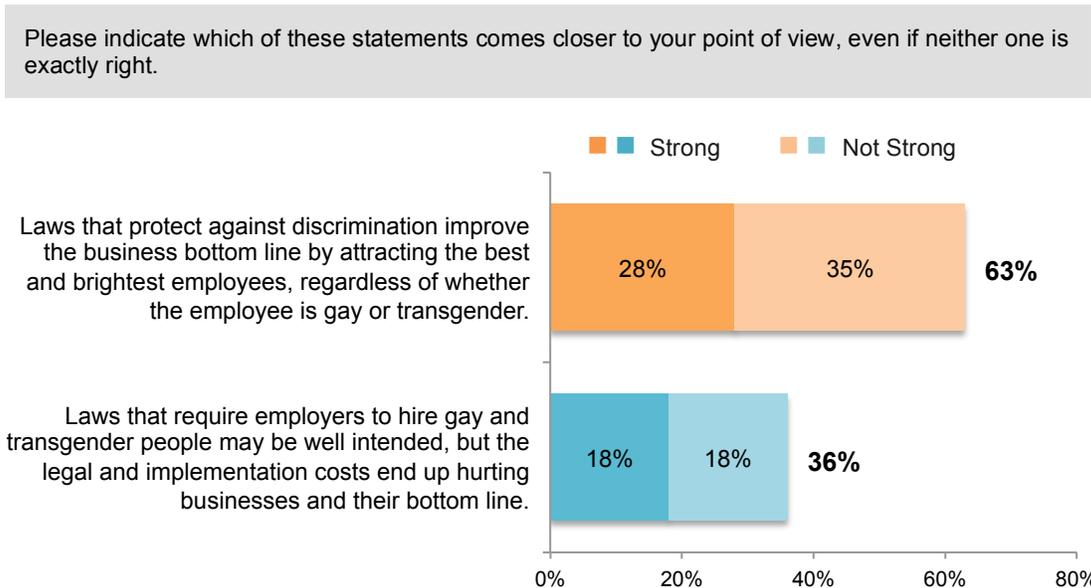
A 60% majority believes an employer should not be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender, regardless of whether working with a gay or transgender employee conflicts with their (the employer's) religious beliefs. What's more, 76% believe a business should not be legally allowed to refuse services to some customers but not others based on religious beliefs.

**Figure 3: Majority agrees an employer shouldn't be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender, based on their religious beliefs**



A strong majority of entrepreneurs (63%) agree laws protecting employees from discrimination help boost bottom lines because they enable employers to attract the best and the brightest workers.

**Figure 4: Majority of entrepreneurs believe laws protecting gay and transgender employees from discrimination boost the business bottom line**

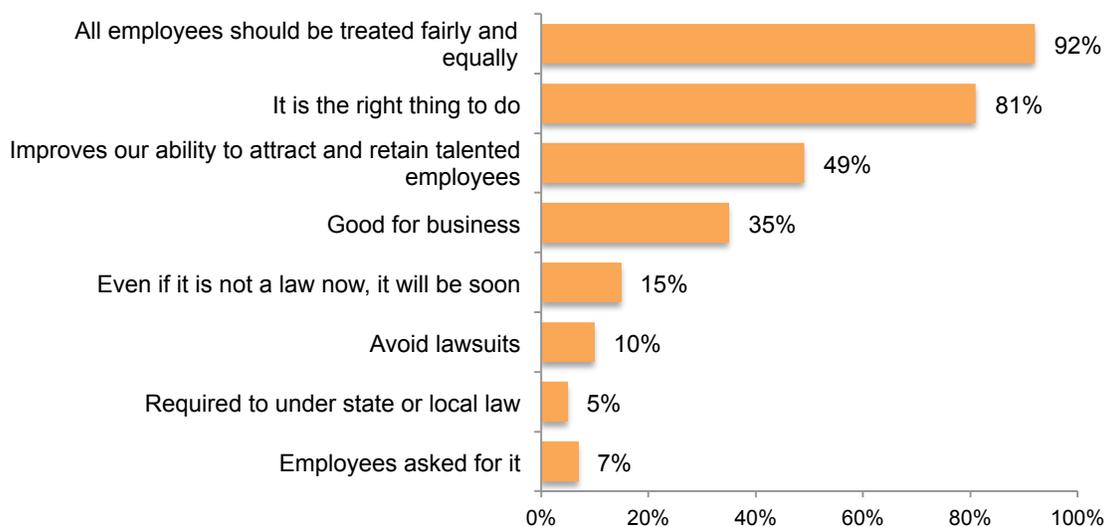


## Many Entrepreneurs Have a Nondiscrimination Policy and Agree it Benefits Business, Costs Next to Nothing

More than three in 10 businesses (34%) have their own policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination. Among the reasons employers with nondiscrimination policies have them, 49% report the policy improves their ability to attract and retain talented employees. This is the third most cited reason, next to entrepreneurs' belief that all employees should be treated fairly and equally (92%), and that having this kind of policy is the right thing to do (81%).

■ **Figure 5: Reasons why employers have adopted policies protecting gay and transgender employees from workplace discrimination**

Which of the following best describes the reasons your company adopted a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in hiring and promotion? You may mark as many responses as you want.



Overall, 35% of owners offer family benefits. Of that group, 68% say they either provide or would provide family health benefits to same-sex partners and same-sex spouses of their employees: 20% already provide benefits to same-sex partners and spouses of their employees, and an additional 48% say they would do so if they had a gay or lesbian employee. A 40% minority say they would not.

According to the vast majority of owners who have policies protecting gay and transgender employees from discrimination, these policies have a business cost that is nothing or next to nothing.

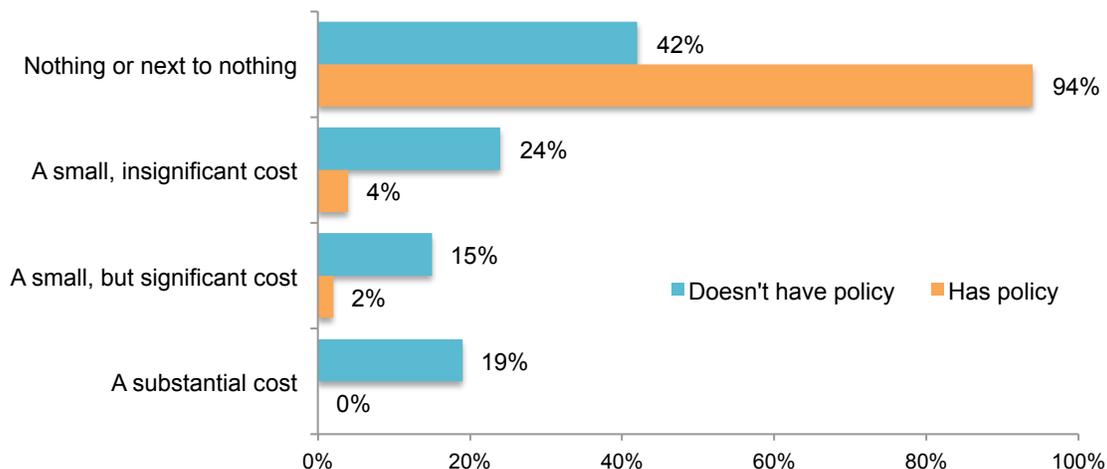
Of business owners who do *not* have a formal policy, 42% estimated the cost of creating a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination to be nothing or next to nothing. Twenty-four percent estimated a small but insignificant cost. Fifteen percent estimated a small but significant cost, and 19% estimated a substantial cost.

According to business owners who actually have a policy, the cost of creating the policy is nearly non-existent. An overwhelming 94% of small business owners that have adopted their own nondiscrimination policy to protect gay and transgender people from discrimination report the policy has a cost of nothing or next to nothing.

■ **Figure 6: Four in 10 owners estimate that a nondiscrimination policy costs little to nothing; nearly all who have them report that to be true**

Which of the following best describes how much you estimate it would cost your business to create a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination? (Asked of those who don't have a policy)

Thinking back, which of the following best describes how much it cost your business to adopt a non-discrimination policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination? (Asked of those with policy)



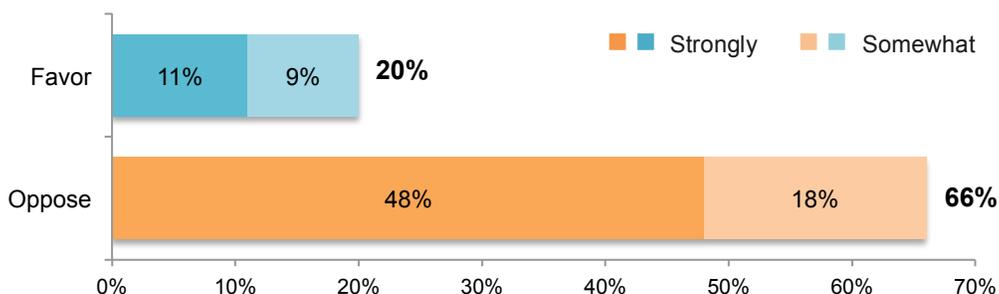
## Majorities Say Various Federal Benefits for Heterosexual Employees Should Also Apply to Gay and Lesbian Employees

There are a number of federal laws that provide different types of protections for employees. Poll results revealed that entrepreneurs strongly believe gay, lesbian and transgender employees should be afforded the same employment protections.

Specifically, 56% of small employers oppose the current federal law permitting employers to offer family benefits to married heterosexual couples while denying those benefits to married same-sex couples. And, 66% oppose the federal law requiring that when a small business elects to provide benefits to a same-sex couple, the employee must pay income taxes on their spouse's/partner's benefits and the employer must pay the additional payroll taxes—while businesses and their employees *do not* have to pay such taxes for health benefits provided for heterosexual employees' spouses.

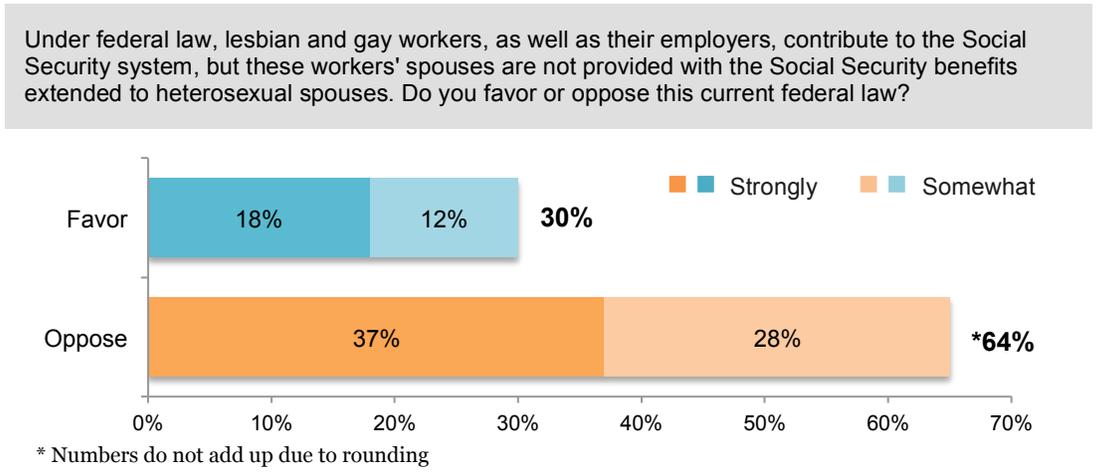
■ **Figure 7: Two-thirds of owners believe same-sex couples and their employers should not have to pay extra taxes for family benefits**

Do you favor or oppose this different taxation of health benefits for same-sex couples?



In addition, under current federal law, lesbian and gay workers, as well as their employers, contribute to the Social Security system—but these workers' spouses are not provided with the Social Security benefits extended to heterosexual workers' spouses. Sixty-four percent of entrepreneurs oppose this law.

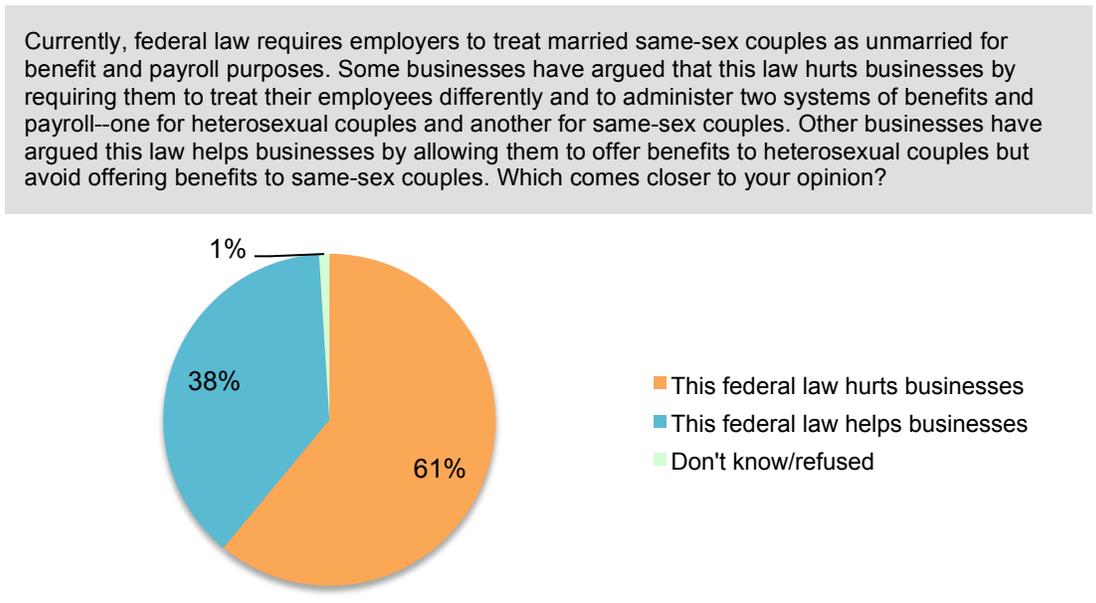
**Figure 8: Nearly two-thirds of owners oppose gay and transgender employees' spouses not being extended the Social Security benefits extended to heterosexual workers' spouses**



Furthermore, businesses covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act are required to provide unpaid leave when a heterosexual employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse, but not when a gay or lesbian employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse or partner. A 58% majority of entrepreneurs favor adjusting this law to include gay and lesbian employees.

Federal law also requires employers to treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes. Sixty-one percent of those surveyed agree this hurts businesses by requiring them to treat their employees differently and to administer two systems of benefits. On the other hand, only 38% agree this law helps businesses by allowing them to offer benefits to heterosexual couples but avoid offering benefits to same-sex couples.

**Figure 9: Owners agree current federal law hurts employers by making them treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes**



Turning to another topic, current law prohibits gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for the purpose of immigration. Sixty percent agree this can hurt businesses—particularly those that compete internationally—by making it harder to attract and retain workers, and therefore oppose the law prohibiting gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for the purpose of immigration.

## Conclusion

Small business owners' views clearly underscore the need to for improved employment laws that protect all American workers from discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Entrepreneurs resoundingly favor federal and state laws protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment. In fact, the vast majority was under the impression that such laws already existed. This shows our employment laws are lagging much too far behind common perceptions and expectations people have about employment.

Many small businesses voluntarily provide protections to gay, lesbian and transgender employees and report positive outcomes of implementing these policies. This shows why they want these laws officially on the books. Protecting all employees from workplace discrimination, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, helps small business owners attract and retain the best talent—and it costs virtually nothing. The vast majority of entrepreneurs who provide family health benefits either already offer those benefits to same-sex partners and spouses, or would do so if they had gay or lesbian employees. Entrepreneurs' opinions make it evident: it's time for our employment laws to reflect the modern day workplace and the views of the people who shape it.

## Methodology

This poll reflects a national Internet survey of 508 small business owners with oversamples of 100 respondents each in North Carolina, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, creating a combined data set of 1008 small business owners. This report reflects the data from a combined database where the state oversamples were weighted down to reflect their proportion of the target population. The sample was drawn from Research Now and conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research for Small Business Majority. The survey was conducted from April 8-17, 2013. The overall margin of error is +/- 3.1%. The margin of error for state-level data is +/- 9.8%.

## Poll Toplines

April 8-17, 2013

### 100 Small Business Owners with 100 or fewer employees

Q.1 Do you own your own business?

	NC
Yes .....	100
No .....	-
Not sure.....	-
(ref:SBOSCR)	

Q.2 How many people are directly employed by your business or company, including yourself?

	NC
1 .....	-
2-5 .....	55
6-10 .....	14
11-25 .....	16
26-50 .....	13
51-100.....	2
More than 100 .....	-
(TERMINATE IF NOT ANSWERED) .....	-
(ref:NUMEMPLY)	

Q.3 Which ONE of the following categories best describes your business? -

	NC
Retail (such as a shop or store) .....	14
Service industry .....	14
Finance and insurance.....	9
Real estate.....	9
Construction .....	5
Information technology.....	3
Manufacturing .....	3
Whole sale trade .....	5
Arts, entertainment and recreation.....	2
Retail services (such as car repair, home repair, landscaping).....	10
Restaurant.....	3
Scientific and technical services .....	4
Administrative support and accounting .....	4
Agriculture .....	1
Legal.....	-
Medical or dental .....	1
Other .....	13
(Prefer not to say) .....	-
(ref:BUSTYPE)	

Q.4 Now we're going to ask you some questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers. To the best of your knowledge, is it legal or illegal under federal law to fire or refuse to hire someone because they are gay or lesbian?

	NC
Legal.....	16
Illegal .....	74
Don't know .....	10
(ref:KNOWFED)	

Q.5 And to the best of your knowledge, is it legal or illegal under state law to fire or refuse to hire someone

because they are gay or lesbian?

	<b>NC</b>
Legal.....	14
Illegal .....	64
Don't know.....	22
(ref:KNOWST)	

Q.6 As you may know, federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender, sex, age, race, and color. However, federal law does NOT protect gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment. Would you favor or oppose such a federal law?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	44
Somewhat favor .....	21
Somewhat oppose.....	7
Strongly oppose .....	28
(Don't know/refuse) .....	-
<b>Total Favor.....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total Oppose .....</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose.....</b>	<b>30</b>
(ref:SUPENDA1)	

Q.7 (SKIP IN ENDA STATES) In addition (STATE) state law does NOT protect gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment. Would you favor or oppose a STATE law protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in employment?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	45
Somewhat favor .....	22
Somewhat oppose.....	12
Strongly oppose .....	22
(Don't know/refuse) .....	-
<b>Total Favor.....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Total Oppose .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose.....</b>	<b>33</b>
(ref:SUPENDA2)	

Q.8 Do you believe that an employer should be able to fire or refuse to hire someone who is gay or transgender if working with a gay or transgender employee conflicts with the employer's religious beliefs?

	<b>NC</b>
Yes, strongly.....	22
Yes, not strongly .....	18
No, not strongly .....	23
No, strongly.....	37
(Don't know/refuse) .....	-
<b>Total Yes .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Total No .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Yes-No .....</b>	<b>-21</b>
(ref:SUPENDA3)	

Q.9 Please indicate which of these statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither one is exactly right.

	1st Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	DK/ Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
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Laws that protect against discrimination improve the business bottom line by attracting the best and brightest employees, regardless of whether the employee is gay or transgender.

OR

Laws that require employers to hire gay and transgender people may be well intended, but the legal and implementation costs end up hurting businesses and their bottom line.

NC .....	28	35	18	18	1	63	36	28
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(ref:PAIRS2)

Q.10 Does your business have a policy, formal or informal, protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination?

NC

Yes .....	34
No .....	56
(Don't know/refused) .....	10

(ref:POLICY4)

Q.11 (IF YES ON POLICY4, ASK) Which of the following best describes this policy?

NC

This policy is a formal, written non-discrimination or Equal Employment Opportunity policy.....	31
This policy is an informal policy that is not written down.....	69
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:POLICY5)

Q.12 (IF YES ON POLICY4, ASK) Which of the following best describes the reasons your company adopted a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination in hiring and promotion? You may mark as many responses as you want.

NC

All employees should be treated fairly and equally .....	92
It is the right thing to do.....	81
Improves our ability to attract and retain talented employees .....	49
Good for business .....	35
Even if it is not a law now, it will be soon .....	15
Avoid lawsuits .....	10
Required to under state or local law .....	5
Employees asked for it.....	7
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:REASON1)

Q.13 (IF NO ON POLICY4) Which of the following best describes how much you estimate it would cost your business to create a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination?

	<b>NC</b>
Nothing or next to nothing .....	42
A small, insignificant cost.....	24
A small, but significant cost.....	15
A substantial cost.....	19
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:COST3)

Q.14 (IF YES ON POLICY4) Thinking back, which of the following best describes how much it cost your business to adopt a non-discrimination policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination?

	<b>NC</b>
Nothing or next to nothing .....	94
A small, insignificant cost.....	4
A small, but significant cost.....	2
A substantial cost.....	-
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:COST4)

Q.15 (IF NO ON POLICY4, ASK) Which of the following best describes the reasons your company has not adopted a policy protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination?

	<b>NC</b>
Never came up .....	62
Business is too small to worry about things like this.....	39
Do not have gay or transgender employees .....	29
Moral or religious objections.....	20
Will cost too much .....	4
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:REASON2)

Q.16 Does your company provide FAMILY health benefits to your employees?

	<b>NC</b>
Yes .....	35
No .....	65
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:BNFITS1)

Q.17 (IF YES ON BNFITS1) Does your company provide family health benefits to the same-sex partners or same-sex spouses of your employees?

	<b>NC</b>
Yes .....	20
I would if I had a gay or lesbian employee .....	48
No .....	33
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

(ref:BNFITS2)

Q.18 Currently, federal law allows employers who offer family benefits to married heterosexual couples to deny those family benefits to married same-sex couples. Do you favor or oppose the current federal law?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	20
Somewhat favor .....	13
Somewhat oppose .....	22
Strongly oppose .....	34
(Don't know/refused) .....	11
<b>Total Favor.....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Total Oppose .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose.....</b>	<b>-23</b>
(ref: BENFIT3)	

Q.19 Under the same federal law, when an employer does provide health benefits for a same-sex spouse or partner of one of their employees, the employee is required to pay income taxes on the value of this benefit, and the employer is required to pay the additional payroll taxes. Businesses and their employees do not have to pay such taxes when a business provides health benefits to an employee's heterosexual spouse. Do you favor or oppose this different taxation of health benefits for same-sex couples?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	11
Somewhat favor .....	9
Somewhat oppose .....	18
Strongly oppose .....	48
(Don't know/refused) .....	14
<b>Total Favor.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total Oppose .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose.....</b>	<b>-46</b>
(ref: BENFIT4)	

Q.20 Under federal law, lesbian and gay workers, as well as their employers, contribute to the Social Security system, but these workers' spouses are not provided with the Social Security benefits extended to heterosexual spouses. Do you favor or oppose this current federal law?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	18
Somewhat favor .....	12
Somewhat oppose .....	28
Strongly oppose .....	37
(Don't know/refused) .....	5
<b>Total Favor.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Total Oppose .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose.....</b>	<b>-34</b>
(ref: SOCSEC)	

Q.21 Businesses covered under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ARE required to provide unpaid leave when a heterosexual employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse, but not when a gay or lesbian employee needs to care for a sick or injured spouse or partner. Regardless of whether your business is covered by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, do you favor or oppose changing the act to require businesses to provide equal leave for same-sex couples?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	38
Somewhat favor .....	21
Somewhat oppose .....	17
Strongly oppose .....	17
(Don't know/refused) .....	7
<b>Total Favor</b> .....	<b>58</b>
<b>Total Oppose</b> .....	<b>34</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose</b> .....	<b>24</b>
(ref:FMLA)	

Q.22 Currently, federal law requires employers to treat married same-sex couples as unmarried for benefit and payroll purposes. Some businesses have argued that this law hurts businesses by requiring them to treat their employees differently and to administer two systems of benefits and payroll--one for heterosexual couples and another for same-sex couples. Other businesses have argued this law helps businesses by allowing them to offer benefits to heterosexual couples but avoid offering benefits to same-sex couples. Which comes closer to your opinion?

	<b>NC</b>
This federal law hurts businesses.....	61
This federal law helps businesses.....	38
(Don't know/refused) .....	1
(ref:DOMA1)	

Q.23 Unlike married heterosexual couples, current law prohibits gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for the purpose of immigration. Some have argued this hurts businesses, particularly those that compete internationally, by making it harder to attract and retain workers. Do you favor or oppose the law prohibiting gay or lesbian people from sponsoring their partners for the purpose of immigration?

	<b>NC</b>
Strongly favor .....	19
Somewhat favor .....	21
Somewhat oppose .....	29
Strongly oppose .....	31
(Don't know/refused) .....	-
<b>Total Favor</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Total Oppose</b> .....	<b>60</b>
<b>Favor-Oppose</b> .....	<b>-20</b>
(ref:IMMIG)	

Q.24 Which one or two of these is the best reason to support laws protecting gay and transgender people from discrimination?

NC

Gay and transgender people should be judged on their work performance alone.....	73
It is the right thing to do.....	39
It can attract and retain the most talented employees .....	22
It is good for business.....	4
Small businesses can better compete with bigger companies.....	1
None of these .....	13
(Don't know/refused) .....	-
(ref:LIST)	

Q.25 Should a business owner be legally allowed to refuse to provide services to some customers but not others based on religious beliefs?

NC

Yes, strongly.....	17
Yes, not strongly .....	8
No, not strongly .....	29
No, strongly.....	47
(Don't know/refused) .....	-

**Total Yes .....** 24

**Total No .....** 76

**Yes-No .....** -51

(ref:ALLOW1)

Q.26 In what year were you born?

NC

18 - 24.....	2
25 - 29 .....	-
30 - 34 .....	2
35 - 39 .....	11
40 - 44.....	12
45 - 49 .....	9
50 - 54 .....	18
55 - 59.....	13
60 - 64.....	9
65 and over .....	18
(No answer) .....	6
(ref:AGE)	

Q.27 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

NC

Democrat .....	33
Independent-lean Democrat .....	9
Independent.....	12
Independent-lean Republican.....	9
Republican .....	32
Other .....	3
Don't know/Refused.....	2
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.28 For statistical purposes only, which of these categories best describes the gross revenue of your business in 2012?

	<b>NC</b>
Less than \$100,000 .....	28
\$100,000 to under \$250,000 .....	22
\$250,000 to under \$500,000 .....	12
\$500,000 to under \$1 million .....	8
\$1 million to under \$2 million .....	10
\$2 million or under \$5 million .....	7
\$5 million or more .....	3
Don't know .....	1
Prefer not to say .....	8

(ref:INCOME)

Q.29 For statistical purposes only, which of these categories best describes your family's personal income- including any pass through income from your business- in 2011?

	<b>NC</b>
Less than \$50,000 .....	14
\$50,000-\$99,999 .....	33
\$100,000-\$249,999 .....	33
\$250,000-\$999,999 .....	5
Over \$1 million .....	3
Don't know .....	-
Prefer not to say .....	13

(ref:PERSINC)

Q.30 Do you currently have or have you had anyone in the past working for you that you know to be gay,lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

	<b>NC</b>
Yes .....	43
No .....	43
Not sure.....	14

(ref:KNOWGAY5)

Q.31 For statistical reasons only, do you consider yourself to be heterosexual or straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

	<b>NC</b>
Straight or heterosexual .....	97
Gay .....	1
Lesbian .....	1
Bisexual .....	-
Transgender .....	-
(Don't know/refused) .....	1

(ref:LGBT)

Q.32 What is your religion?

	<b>NC</b>
Protestant.....	38
Catholic .....	10
Other Christian .....	32
Not affiliated or nothing in particular .....	12
Jewish .....	5
Mormon .....	1
Other non-Christian religion .....	-
Muslim/Islam .....	-
(Don't know/refused) .....	2

(ref:RELIGTFN)

Q.33 How often do you attend church or other religious services?

	<b>NC</b>
Every week .....	26
Once or twice a month.....	23
Several times a year .....	17
Hardly ever .....	25
(Never) .....	8
(Don't know/refused) .....	2
(ref:RELIGB)	

Q.34 What is your race?

	<b>NC</b>
White.....	78
African American or Black .....	21
Hispanic or Latino .....	1
Asian or Pacific Islander.....	1
American Indian or Native American .....	-
Other .....	-
Biracial or multiracial.....	-
Prefer not to say.....	-
(ref:RACE)	

Q.35 What is your gender?

	<b>NC</b>
Male.....	58
Female.....	42
(ref:GENDER)	