

RESOLUTION NO. 69-2022 (PSH), *First Reading*

By Council President Hart

A Resolution condemning Ohio House Bill No. 454, which prohibits affirming health care for Ohio transgender youth; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 454, which prohibits affirming health care for LGBTQ+ youth, is modeled after legislation passed in Arkansas to significant national public and legal alarm, resulting in a federal court blocking the measure in July 2021; and

WHEREAS, according to the Williams Institute at UCLA Law School, similar laws have been introduced in nine states, but enacted in only one; and

WHEREAS, banning affirming mental and medical care for minors contravenes recommended medical advice and would harm the mental and physical well-being of LGBTQ+ youth across this state, especially transgender and nonbinary youth; and

WHEREAS, gender-affirming medical care is recommended for transgender youth by the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Endocrine Society, and such care is deemed evidence-based patient care by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the American Psychiatric Association; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that gender-affirming care – medical and psychosocial health care designed to affirm individuals’ gender identities – greatly improves the mental health and overall well-being of transgender, gender-diverse, and nonbinary (“TGNB”) children and adolescents as it is well documented that TGNB adolescents and young adults experience anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation at a much higher rate than their cisgender peers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Trevor Project’s 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health, fifty-four percent of young people identifying as transgender or nonbinary reported serious consideration of suicide in the past year, and twenty-nine percent reported attempting to end their lives, while numerous studies have demonstrated that gender-affirming care leads to improved mental health among TGNB youth; and

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 454 would interfere with youth healthcare and safety in a variety of ways, including prohibiting counselors and educators from concealing or encouraging adolescents to conceal, feelings of gender dysphoria from their parents; prohibiting referrals for medicalized treatments for minors with gender dysphoria; barring Medicaid from covering the cost of sex reassignment surgery for minors; eliminating any requirement that private insurers cover medicalized treatments for gender dysphoria in adolescents; prohibit prescription of hormone blockers or cross-sex hormones to patients under age 18 experiencing gender dysphoria; and banning surgical interventions or sex reassignment surgery for minors; and

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WHEREAS, House Bill No. 454 threatens physicians who provide this care with professional discipline, civil lawsuits, and the withdrawal of public funds from any hospital at which gender-affirming care occurs; and

WHEREAS, it is already clear that House Bill No. 454 and similar legislation are negatively impacting TGNB youth and their families, compounding the prejudice, discrimination, violence, and other forms of stigma they continue to face in their daily lives in the current sociopolitical climate, and impairing the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, many families have tragically considered fleeing their home states in order to maintain appropriate medical care for their vulnerable TGNB children and adolescents, who must continue their access to affirming and evidence-based transgender health care, regardless of where they live.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and this Council hereby condemn proposed Ohio House Bill No. 454, which prohibits affirming care for Ohio transgender youth, and urgently request State legislators defeat the Bill.

SECTION 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Governor of Ohio, the Speaker of the Ohio House, and the President of the Ohio Senate.

SECTION 3. Notice of passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 4. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to register a timely objection to the proposed legislation. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

Melody Joy Hart

MELODY JOY HART
President of the Council

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Craig S Cobb

CRAIG COBB
Clerk of Council, Pro Tem

PASSED: June 6, 2022

Presented to Mayor: June 7, 2022

Approved: June 7, 2022

Kahlil

KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor