

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2024(COTW),
First Reading

By Councilmember Petras

A Resolution opposing Ohio House Bill 68 (“HB 68”), which restricts gender-affirming healthcare and sports participation for transgender youth, undermining the judgement of medical professionals, the recommendations of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and the intuition of the families who support transgender youth.

WHEREAS, HB 68 was recently passed by the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, with co-sponsorship predominantly from the House and Senate Republicans; and

WHEREAS, Governor Mike DeWine vetoed HB 68 on December 29, 2023, stating that this action was “in the public interest;” and

WHEREAS, in January 2024 the Ohio House and Senate voted to override Governor Mike DeWine’s veto of the anti-transgender HB 68, effectively enacting the legislation and making Ohio the 22nd state to ban gender-affirming care for transgender minors and the 24th to impose a ban on trans girls and women from participating in sports teams consistent with their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, HB 68 bans medically necessary treatments such as hormone blockers, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and surgery for transgender youth—treatments which are often critical to the mental and physical well-being of transgender youth and in some cases, lifesaving; and,

WHEREAS, despite recommendations from the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) which support the rights of transgender students to participate in athletics, HB 68 bans transgender girls from participating in women’s sports teams, and threatens legal consequences for schools that allow transgender youth to compete in sports aligned with their gender identity; and

WHEREAS, HB 68 egregiously infringes upon the rights of parents to make informed and compassionate healthcare decisions for their children, effectively eliminating parental decision making; and

WHEREAS, such legislation not only discriminates against transgender individuals but also undermines the principles of equality and freedom, potentially threatening the rights of all citizens who may at some future point find their health care decisions in the cross hairs of a political debate.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 019-2024(COTW)

SECTION 1. That this Council strongly condemns the override of Governor DeWine's veto and the enactment of HB 68 as discriminatory, harmful to transgender youth, and a violation of parental rights.

SECTION 2. That this Council strongly encourages members of the public to contact their representatives in the Ohio General Assembly to express opposition of HB 68.

SECTION 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to Cleveland Height's State Senator, House Representative, and the sponsors of HB 68.

SECTION 4. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time permitted by law.



TONY CUDA
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: February 20, 2024

Presented to Mayor: 02/21/2024

Approved: 03/01/2024



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor