

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 -049

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO EXPRESSING THE CONDEMNATION OHIO HOUSE BILL NO. 454, WHICH PROHIBITS AFFIRMATIVE CARE FOR OHIO TRANSGENDER YOUTH, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, House Bill No. 454 is an attack on affirming mental and medical care for LGBTQ+ youth and 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 by 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

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, 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 Kent, Portage County, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. Kent City Council hereby condemns proposed Ohio House Bill No. 454, which prohibits affirmative care for Ohio transgender youth.

SECTION 2. it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council, and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements of Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 3. this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this City, for which reason and other reasons manifest to this Council this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force immediately after passage.

PASSED: May 18, 2022
Date

J. T. Fiala
Jerry T. Fiala
Mayor and President of Council

EFFECTIVE: June 17, 2022
Date

ATTEST: Amy Wilkens
Amy Wilkens
Clerk of Council

I, AMY WILKENS, CLERK OF COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF KENT, COUNTY OF PORTAGE, AND STATE OF OHIO, AND IN WHOSE CUSTODY THE ORIGINAL FILES AND RECORDS OF SAID COUNCIL ARE REQUIRED TO BE KEPT BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF *RESOLUTION No. 2022-049*, ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT ON May 18, 2022.

Amy Wilkens
AMY WILKENS
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(SEAL)