

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, URGING THE OKLAHOMA STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS HOUSE BILL 2456, CREATING THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION ACT PROHIBITING HEALTH CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FROM PROVIDING CONVERSION THERAPY TO PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE.

- § 1. WHEREAS, the City of Norman is committed to the protection of civil rights and to building an inclusive community; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, Resolution R-1516-65, passed by the Norman City Council on December 22, 2015, provides that the City's prohibition of sex discrimination included in the City's personnel policies and Civil Rights Ordinance (Chapter 7) be interpreted and administered to guard against the use of assumptions and stereotypes associated with sexual orientation and gender identity; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, the City of Norman is home to several local equality advocacy groups who support the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community, including their families and allies, who educate the community about the unique issues and challenges facing the LGBTQ community and advocate for changed attitudes and the creation of policies and laws that achieve full equality; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, the City of Norman values the LGBTQ community as part of the City's diversity to be celebrated; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, fifteen (15) states and the District of Columbia have laws banning conversion therapy for minors; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and American School Counselor Association oppose the practice of conversion therapy, concluding that sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts can pose critical health risks to LGBTQ people, including depression, suicide, substance abuse, self-hatred, and a feeling of being dehumanized.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 7. THAT the City of Norman urges the Oklahoma State Legislature to pass House Bill 2456, creating the Youth Mental Health Protection Act prohibiting health care and mental health professionals from providing conversion therapy to persons under eighteen (18) years of age.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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City Clerk