

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION
OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED
STATES SENATE TO APPROVE SENATE BILL S. 788,
ALSO KNOWN AS "THE EQUALITY ACT," WHICH WILL
SERVE TO EXTEND FEDERAL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
PROTECTIONS TO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND
TRANSGENDER ("LGBT") AMERICANS, BY PROVIDING
THEM WITH EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.**

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach's Human Rights Ordinance declares that "there is no greater danger to the health, morals, safety and welfare of the city and its inhabitants than the existence of prejudice against one another and antagonistic to each other because of differences of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, age, or disability"; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the Human Rights Ordinance, "prejudice, intolerance, bigotry and discrimination and disorder occasioned thereby threaten the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants and menace the very institutions, foundations and bedrock of a free, democratic society"; and

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing principles, the City's Human Rights Ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and public services, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, intersexuality, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital and familial status, age, disability, ancestry, height, weight, domestic partner status, labor organization membership, familial situation, and political affiliation; and

WHEREAS, however, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") Americans continue to lack basic legal protections in states across the country; and

WHEREAS, our nation's civil rights laws protect people on the basis of race, color, national origin, and in most cases, sex, disability, and religion but do not provide consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2019, the United States House of Representatives, passed a bill H.R. 5, entitled the "Equality Act," which would extend federal anti-discrimination protections to LGBTQ Americans; and

WHEREAS, specifically, the Equality Act would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, credit, and federally funded programs, among other areas; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate version of H.R. 5, Senate Bill S. 788, also entitled the "Equality Act" and identical in substance, was introduced to the Senate on

March 13, 2019 but no action has been taken beyond referring the bill to the Senate Judiciary Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach urges the United States Senate to vote on and approve the Equality Act, as passage of the act will provide a uniform standard of protection nationwide that will ensure that LGBT Americans are no longer treated as second-class citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby urge the United States Senate to approve Senate Bill S. 788, also known as the "Equality Act," which will serve to extend federal anti-discrimination protections to lesbian, gay, and transgender ("LGBT") Americans, by providing them with equal protection under the law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of May, 2019.


ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Gongora)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney
FA

5/20/19

Date