

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, STRONGLY OPPOSING HOUSE BILLS 1363, 305, 5, AND 537, AND THEIR COMPANION BILLS, SENATE BILLS 1864, 1336, AND 778, RESPECTIVELY, WHICH SEEK TO INVALIDATE LOCAL ORDINANCES THAT PROTECT LGBTQ EMPLOYEES AND LEGALIZE THE CONTROVERSIAL AND HARMFUL PRACTICE OF "GAY CONVERSION THERAPY", AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION, SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE.

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2020, four pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation, each with a companion bill in the House and the Senate, were submitted for consideration during the 2020 Florida Legislative Session by Rep. Anthony Sabatini, Sen. Dennis Baxley, Rep. Bob Rommel, Sen. Joe Gruters, Rep. Michael Grant, Sen. Keith Perry, and Rep. Byron Donalds; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1363 and its companion, Senate Bill 1864, seek to make a providing best practice medical care to transgender youth a second-degree felony; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 305 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 1126, seek to repeal LGBTQ employment protections that currently cover thirteen (13) million Floridians; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 3 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 1336, seek to repeal twenty-two (22) local ordinances protecting vulnerable LGBTQ youth from "conversion therapy," that seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, and to prohibit any local governments from establishing conversion therapy bans in the future; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 537 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 778, seek to roll back critical protections for LGBTQ youth by enabling conversion therapy even where cities and counties have already instituted protections, as long as the therapy occurs in a home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Miami Beach prides itself on being a diverse and inclusive community and has demonstrated a long history of opposing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, among other categories; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the City's 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, and sexual orientation, among other classifications; and

WHEREAS, in addition, as a leader in adopting legislation supporting the rights of the LGBTQ community, and in adopting policies of inclusiveness, on June 8, 2016, the City of Miami Beach became the second city in the nation to adopt a local ordinance banning conversion therapy by prohibiting licensed professionals from engaging in counseling efforts, practices, or treatments with the goal of changing a minor’s sexual orientation or gender identity, except when such counseling provides support for minors undergoing gender transition or when such counseling provides social support, identity exploration, and identity development; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy is a discredited practice that attempts to change a person’s sexual orientation through psychological or spiritual means – it is grounded in the belief that being LGBTQ is abnormal or unnatural and is banned in more than a dozen states and Washington, D.C., according to the National Center for Lesbian Rights; and

WHEREAS, as such, the Mayor and City Commission declare their strong opposition to the four House bills and their companion Senate Bills, and any substitutes or similar legislation which seeks to roll back local protections from LGBTQ Floridians.

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 strongly oppose House bills 1363, 305, 5, and 537, and their companion bills, Senate bills 1864, 1336, and 778, respectively, which seek to invalidate local ordinances that protect LGBTQ employees and legalize the controversial and harmful practice of "gay conversion therapy", and direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to the members of the Commission of Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the President of the Florida Senate.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of February, 2020.

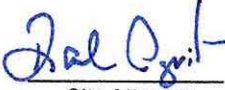
ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

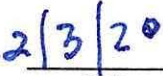
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Michael Góngora)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney
FVS



Date