

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, STRONGLY OPPOSING SENATE BILL 1834 AND HOUSE BILL 1557, BOTH OF WHICH SEEK TO PROHIBIT SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM ENCOURAGING CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY IN FLORIDA SCHOOLS; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO SEND A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE SPEAKER OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA SENATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1834 (“SB 1834”) and its related House Bill 1557 (“HB 1557”) (together, the “Bills”) have been filed for consideration during the Florida Legislature’s 2022 session; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1834 and HB 1557 seek to prohibit school districts from encouraging classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Bills would hinder and/or prevent quality sex education that has proven through decades of studies to contribute to the mental health well-being of both lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and queer (LGBTQ) and straight students; and

**WHEREAS**, by prohibiting this type of discussion in the classroom, the Florida Legislature seeks to silence gay children, their teachers, and education advocates by banning the discussion of sexuality and gender identification topics in Florida schools; and

**WHEREAS**, if Florida Legislature genuinely cares about the wellbeing of children, it should strive to encourage and normalize classroom discussions regarding sexual orientation and gender identity; and

**WHEREAS**, seeing LGBTQ identities valued in the classroom, in the curriculum and in day-to-day interactions inspires empathy, understanding and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, many of LGBTQ student suffer teasing, bullying, harassment, violence and internalized oppression that can lead to academic consequences, risky behavior and even suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, LGBTQ youth face unique challenges and recent studies show that during 2021 alone, 42% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trevor Project estimates that at least one LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13–24 attempts suicide every 45 seconds in the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, respectful, positive discussions on gender and sexuality helps LGBTQ students feel safe, seen, valued, and respected, and decreases the educational, mental, and physical harms that they experience; and

**WHEREAS**, if passed, the Bills would send a chilling message to LGBTQ youth that their sexuality and identity are something that must be hidden, and prohibited, and would severely restrict the activity of organizations in schools that provide companionship, emotional shelter and collegiality to teens in need of support; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Miami Beach is 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**, based on the foregoing, the Mayor and City Commission vehemently oppose and condemn SB 1834 and HB 1557, and any other similar legislation, and urge the Florida Legislature to vote against the Bills or any other similar legislation brought for their consideration.

**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 Senate Bill 1834 and House Bill 1557, both of which seek to prohibit school districts from encouraging classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in Florida schools; and direct the City Clerk to send a copy of this Resolution to the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and the President of the Florida Senate.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

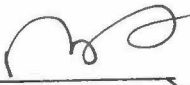
Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Gelber, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO  
FORM & LANGUAGE  
& FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

1-31-22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date