

LG COUNCILWOMAN LENA GONZALEZ

DATE: November 20, 2018
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, District 1^{LA}
Councilmember Jeannine Pearce, District 2^{JP}
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, District 7^{RU}
Councilmember Rex Richardson, District 9^{RR}

SUBJECT: Opposition to President Trump's Anti-Transgender Agenda

RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Manager send a letter of opposition to President Trump, the Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Health and Human Services regarding their efforts to establish a legal definition of sex under Title IX that excludes transgender people.

Request new language in our State and Federal Agendas, in consultation with the LGBTQ Center of Long Beach, that specifically supports transgender-inclusive policies on the state and federal level.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

A few weeks ago, the Trump Administration began considering options to redefine and erase any definition of transgender identity from federal law by defining sex as assigned at birth and immutable rather than based on gender identity. While disappointing, this move by the administration is not surprising. Since taking office in 2016, the administration has taken nearly 30 different actions against transgender and LGB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual) people including protections of transgender students, attempting to remove transgender people from the military and banning the word "transgender" from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, to name a few.¹ However, over the past twenty years, the federal courts have continued to rule that federal sex discrimination laws apply to transgender people as well.² This potential change will endanger the over 1.4 million identified transgender individuals throughout the United States.³

¹ <https://transequality.org/the-discrimination-administration>

² <https://transequality.org/federal-case-law-on-transgender-people-and-discrimination>

³ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/How-Many-Adults-Identify-as-Transgender-in-the-United-States.pdf>

Locally, Long Beach and the greater LA region are home to the 8th largest population of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) identified people in the nation.⁴ And, as a city that has consistently stood with our LGBTQ siblings, we must continue to do all that we can to oppose and fight back against this administration clearly rooted in LGBTQ discrimination.

FISCAL/STAFF IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact for this agenda item and there is minimal staff impact for this agenda item.

SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

⁴ <https://www.sbsun.com/2015/03/24/study-greater-los-angeles-metropolitan-area-8th-in-lgbt-ranking/>