

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. **R-01-20**

Passed

January 21, 2020

Introduced by All Members of Council

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE BIPARTISAN OHIO FAIRNESS ACT.

WHEREAS, the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives are currently considering the Ohio Fairness Act (SB11, HB369); and

WHEREAS, this legislation amends Ohio's anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected classes, expanding legal protections in housing, employment, and access to public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, this Council reaffirmed its commitment to diversity and inclusion by prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, this Council strengthened its commitment to fairness and tolerance by adding the protected category of "gender identity or expression" to the City's existing non-discrimination policy; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, this Council enacted a ban on the harmful practice of conversion therapy, prohibiting any "efforts to change sexual orientation or gender identity with a minor"; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Fairness Act would empower all Ohio residents to more fully contribute in the workplace, engage in commerce, and participate in civic life without fear of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, nearly three quarters of Ohioans favor employment and housing laws that make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and of the state's top 98 employers, over 80 have nondiscrimination policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO:

SECTION I: The City of Athens strongly supports the Ohio Fairness Act, and urges members of the Ohio Legislature to act with fairness and justice in ensuring that all Ohioans enjoy freedom from discrimination.

SECTION II: The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder, Ohio Senate President Larry

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Obhof, House Civil Justice Committee Chair Stephen D. Hambley, Senate Judiciary Committee Chair John Eklund, Representative Jay Edwards, Senator Frank Hoagland, and to all other members of the Ohio House Civil Justice Committee and Ohio Senate Judiciary Committee.

SECTION III: It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION IV: This Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date permitted by law.




President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

APPROVED:



Mayor