



Mark Jeffreys
Councilmember

November 18, 2024

AMENDED MOTION

Protecting the Mental Health & Safety of Transgender and Gender Nonbinary Youth

WE MOVE that the administration allocate \$250,000 in FY 2025 and another \$250,000 in FY 2026 from the Cincinnati Health Department for mental health and safety services for transgender and gender nonbinary youth.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the administration identify gaps in service provided, issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) that asks applicants to fill needed gaps, and that this work be done in concert with Cincinnati Public Schools, local foundations and non-profit partners to ensure separate efforts are holistically meeting the need. It should also include ways to track and measure the impact of this effort.

STATEMENT

Over the past few years, mental health among our children has become a crisis in the U.S. as well as in our city; multiple efforts are under way to address it in our city. The mental health challenges faced by transgender and gender nonbinary youth in particular is an especially urgent issue. A recent study published in the journal *Nature Human Behavior* concluded that state laws focused on transgender issues have led to an up to 72% increase in attempted suicide by transgender and gender nonbinary youth in the past year. And that was before the heated political rhetoric of this year's national election, which demonized transgender youth. The result: an acute crisis with the mental health and safety of transgender and gender nonbinary youth that must be addressed.

By filling the gaps in mental health services for transgender and gender nonbinary youth a priority, we will ensure that this crisis is addressed in an urgent fashion so all children in our city can thrive and live to their fullest potential.