

RESOLUTION NO. 55 - 2023

**EXPRESSING** the desire of Council for the City of Cincinnati to be considered a safe haven for individuals seeking gender-affirming healthcare; and **REQUESTING** that the Administration adopt policies to further the City's role as a Gender-Affirming Healthcare Safe Haven.

WHEREAS, the City strives to celebrate diversity and promote equitable policies that make Cincinnati a welcoming and inclusive community for all, including people of all gender identities and expressions; and

WHEREAS, gender-affirming healthcare is evidence-based and can be medically necessary and lifesaving according to the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Pediatricians, the Endocrine Society, the American Psychiatric Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, among other institutions; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that access to gender-affirming healthcare improves the overall well-being of transgender people and that access to gender-affirming healthcare for youth is associated with better mental health outcomes and lower risks of suicide; and

WHEREAS, over 94 percent of LGBTQIA+ youth surveyed by the Trevor Project in late 2021 said recent politics have negatively impacted their mental health, and 93 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth surveyed by the Trevor Project in 2022 said they have worried about transgender people being denied access to gender-affirming healthcare due to state or local laws; and

WHEREAS, members of the Ohio state legislature have recently joined other states across the country in introducing bills that seek to restrict access to gender-affirming healthcare, and local clinics and advocates have heard from families living all across the United States who are considering moving away from these states to access gender-affirming healthcare; and

WHEREAS, multiple healthcare institutions across the country, including in Ohio, have scaled back or considered scaling back gender-affirming healthcare services in response to legal challenges, perception of legal risk, harassment, or threats of violence; and

WHEREAS, Cincinnati is home to a large number of the Ohio institutions that provide or wish to provide gender-affirming healthcare, and local advocates already report long waitlists and difficulty accessing medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare; and

WHEREAS, people of all gender identities and expressions living in or visiting Cincinnati have the support of the Mayor and this Council who believe access to all medically necessary healthcare that promotes an individual's physical well-being or mental health should be preserved; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati has consistently declared its commitment to furthering transgender equity and supporting its growing transgender community; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and this Council wish to declare their support for healthcare professionals who provide gender-affirming healthcare in the City of Cincinnati, as well as for individuals who seek, receive, or assist another individual who seeks or receives gender-affirming healthcare in the City of Cincinnati; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and this Council hereby express their desire for the City of Cincinnati to be considered a safe haven for individuals seeking gender-affirming healthcare.

Section 2. That the Mayor and this Council encourage the Administration to adopt policies to support the City as a Gender-Affirming Healthcare Safe Haven, including the following policies to:

- a. Advocate against criminal prosecution or imposition of administrative penalties on an individual or organization for providing, seeking, receiving, or assisting another individual who is seeking or receiving gender-affirming healthcare.
- b. Support and encourage access to all medically necessary healthcare that promotes an individual's physical well-being or mental health, and continue to provide its services in a nondiscriminatory manner and promote policies that protect individuals from discrimination based on gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, sexual health decisions, and all other forms of discrimination that are prohibited by local, state, or federal laws.
- c. Continue to prioritize efforts to address violent crimes that are threats to residents' physical safety, which affect large numbers of City residents, over efforts that would threaten or violate the privacy, sanctity, or autonomy related to an individual's medical decisions.
- d. Not prioritize assisting other jurisdictions' efforts to impose criminal punishment, civil liability, administrative penalties, or professional sanctions on an individual or organization for providing, seeking, receiving, or assisting another individual who is seeking or receiving gender-affirming healthcare in Ohio.
- e. Protect the privacy of health-related and personally identifiable information in its possession as required by law.

- f. Review City policies so that they promote access to and protection of gender-affirming healthcare and encourage businesses and other institutions within the City to adopt similar policies.

Section 3. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed: June 26, 2023

Attest:   
Clerk

  
Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Reggie Harris