

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

RESOLUTION IN SOLIDARITY WITH DURHAM’S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND IN SUPPORT OF SUTENTS’ RIGHTS TO INFORMATIONAL PRIVACY

- WHEREAS,** hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, & queer) people have increased every year for the past four years; and
- WHEREAS,** members of the LGBTQ+ community currently experience one of the highest rates of hate-motivated violence among all marginalized communities in the US; and
- WHEREAS,** mass shootings by domestic terrorists at LGBTQ+ gathering spaces such as Club Q and Pulse have created fear and trauma in LGBTQ+ communities across the country; and
- WHEREAS,** protests and demonstrations targeting drag shows and drag performers have increased dramatically over the last several years, with such protests being held in several locations in North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** there has been a sharp increase in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the US, with 233 anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed in state legislatures across the country in January of 2023 alone; and
- WHEREAS,** a copycat version of Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” bill has been filed in the NC Senate this session (SB49) which would limit how schools could respond to students seeking advice and counseling around their gender identity, prohibit discussion of LGBTQ+ identity in most elementary school classrooms and require schools to tell parents if their child asks to use a different name or pronouns at school; and
- WHEREAS,** a bill has been filed in the NC House this session (HB43) that would prohibit gender-affirming healthcare including hormone treatment, puberty blockers, and surgery for people under 18; and
- WHEREAS,** political attacks and anti LGBTQ+ legislation have threatened access to healthcare, support systems, and affirming spaces at school for LGBTQ+ students, having a negative impact on their mental health; and
- WHEREAS,** access to safe, affirming spaces and gender-affirming healthcare is critical for the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ people and teens in particular, who are four times more likely to consider suicide than their cisgender and heterosexual peers; and
- WHEREAS,** SB49 is a scheme said to promote parents’ rights when it is actually a politically motivated culture war about control and moves us backwards in terms of progress by banning open and honest discussions and sharing accurate information with children for whom it would be greatly beneficial;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Durham County Commissioners, affirm the full civil and human rights of our LGBTQ+ students and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn all violence, hatred, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we stand in opposition to HB43, SB49, and all legislation that erodes the safety, health, civil rights, and/or bodily autonomy of LGBTQ+ people, including minors.

This the 27th day of February 2023.

Brenda Howerton, Chair

Wendy Jacobs, Vice-Chair

Nida Allam, Commissioner

Nimasheena Burns, Commissioner

Heidi Carter, Commissioner

