

Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission
Resolution in Support of the Proposed Michigan State Board of
Education Guidelines on Learning Environments For LGBTQ Students
(Passed by the AAHRC unanimously on April 27, 2016)

Whereas, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) students nationally are targeted with physical violence and experience hostile school environments; and

Whereas, according to the 2015 Michigan Youth Risk Behavior Survey, LGB students in Michigan are more than two times as likely as their peers to be threatened or injured with a weapon, with 41% of them reporting that they have been bullied on school property, are more than twice as likely as their peers to skip school because they feel unsafe, and are 4½ times more likely to commit suicide; and

Whereas, according to that same survey, LGB students in Michigan who are also disabled, transgender, or who belong to racial minorities are at an even greater risk of negative emotional, health, and educational achievement outcomes; and

Whereas, adverse health and educational consequences for transgender students are even greater than those for LGB students and, in a national report, 26 percent of transgender students were assaulted in school in the past year because of their gender expression; and

Whereas, the US Department of Justice, US Department of Education, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), and the City of Ann Arbor, through its own Non-Discrimination Ordinance, all protect people from discrimination on the basis of sex/gender; and

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor has historically played an important role in fighting discrimination, including amending its Non-Discrimination Ordinance to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

Whereas, to ensure academic and developmental progress, all students deserve a safe, supportive school environment where they are treated equally and fairly, protected from discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, and have an opportunity to participate equally in all programs and activities; therefore it is

Resolved, that the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission support the adoption by the Michigan State Board of Education of its ***Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students*** (as proposed on February 23, 2016); and

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to each Michigan State Board of Education member before the Board's vote on these guidelines currently scheduled for May 10, 2016.