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AKRON CITY COUNCIL

**SUBSTITUTE
OFFERED AS
AMENDMENT**

April 8, 2022

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OFFERED BY: MAYOR HORRIGAN, COUNCILMAN MALIK, COUNCILMAN FUSCO, COUNCILWOMAN MOSLEY, COUNCILWOMAN HOLLAND, AND COUNCILWOMAN CONNOR

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2022 expressing opposition to H.B. 616, a bill that has been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly, which would limit how teachers educate K-12 students about sexual orientation and gender identity, and how teachers educate our K-12 students about racism; reaffirming the City of Akron’s support for the LGBTQ+ and racial minority communities; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 616 is a copy of Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” bill, and severely limits the ability of K-12 teachers to educate students about sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 616 will effectively chill the discussion of non-traditional families in K-12 classrooms and will ban LGBTQ+ students and students with LGBTQ+ parents from discussing their own lived experiences; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 616 also purports to ban ideas that the state board of education defines as divisive or inherently racist, which will undermine the ability of our teachers to honestly and accurately educate K-12 students about the history and present reality of racism in society; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 616 is part of a larger trend of attacks on the LGBTQ+ and racial minority communities, specifically erasing history and preventing the achievement of further progress toward equality; and

WHEREAS, H.B. No. 616 unfairly and punitively restricts educators, creating purposely vague prohibitions intended to stop teachers from discussing crucial subject matters critical to our youth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Akron is proud to celebrate its diversity and is committed to supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Akron:

Section 1. That Council, on behalf of the City of Akron, hereby expresses its opposition to H.B. 616, a bill that has been introduced in the Ohio General Assembly, which would limit how teachers educate K-12 students about sexual orientation and gender identity, and how teachers educate our K-12 students about racism.

Section 2. That Council, on behalf of the City of Akron, hereby reaffirms its support

for the LGBTQ+ and racial minority communities.

Section 3. That the Clerk of Council is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Mike DeWine, Ohio House Speaker Robert Cupp, Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, and to the members of the Ohio General Assembly representing the citizens of the City of Akron.

Section 4. That this resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is immediately necessary for this Council to express its strong opposition to the proposed bill that would have devastating and discriminatory consequences for minority and LGBTQ+ individuals throughout Ohio, and provided this resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members elected or appointed to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time allowed by law.

Passed _____, 2022

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Approved _____, 2022

MAYOR