

RESOLUTION NO. 21-78

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1475 AND SENATE BILL 2012 OF THE 2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BANNING CERTAIN TRANSGENDER STUDENTS FROM PARTICIPATING IN ATHLETICS; AND DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR, THE SENATE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BROWARD STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale prides itself on being welcoming, affirming, and inclusive for all residents, including all members of the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2019, the City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, reflecting our values as an entire community, enacted one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive human rights/anti-discrimination ordinances in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the transgender community is recognized as a valued, important segment of our city entitled to equal treatment in all facets of life; and

WHEREAS, transgender youth are among the most misunderstood and marginalized within our community; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1475 and Senate Bill 2012 have been introduced during the 2021 Legislative Session would effectively ban certain transgender student athletes from participating in sports; and

WHEREAS, similar legislation excluding or curtailing the rights of the transgender community has been filed in at least 25 states as part of a coordinated campaign that puts the health and wellbeing of transgender youth at risk; and

WHEREAS, participating in sports provides critical life lessons like teamwork, dedication, and leadership that should be available to all youth, including transgender youth; and

WHEREAS, the Florida High School Athletic Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) have had existing policies in place regarding gender identity and participation in sports for nearly a decade, and no formal complaints have been identified under those existing policies; and

WHEREAS, a federal judge has already halted implementation of transgender sports ban legislation due to its likely unconstitutionality; and

WHEREAS, adopting state legislation curtailing the rights of the transgender community has previously led to millions of dollars of economic losses, including from NCAA tournament relocations and boycotts; and

WHEREAS, businesses with strong diversity and inclusion commitments, particularly in the sports and hospitality industry, may be forced to locate events outside the state to align with their values; and

WHEREAS, South Florida's NBA team, the Miami Heat, released a statement through Equality Florida on April 5th, 2021, stating, "The Miami Heat champions diversity and inclusion both on and off the court. We believe sports are at their best when they bring people together to work, to play and to create a sense of belonging for all. Every young person deserves the opportunity to participate in athletics and experience the critical life lessons that sports offer such as wellness, dedication, problem-solving, and leadership. Sports should be welcoming for all."; and

WHEREAS, South Florida's NHL team, the Florida Panthers, released a statement on April 17, 2021, stating, "The Florida Panthers are committed to diversity and equality through the NHL's hockey is for everyone initiatives, living these values through education programs and Pride community outreach. We are proud to support Equality Florida's mission.";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

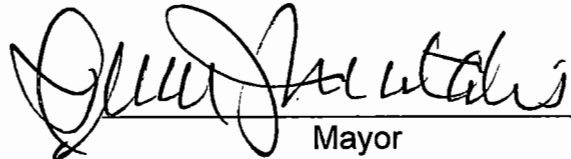
SECTION 1. The foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. The City Commission urges the Florida Legislature to strongly oppose House Bill 1475 and Senate Bill 2012 or similar legislation that would bar certain transgender students from playing sports.

SECTION 3. The City Commission directs the City Clerk to transmit certified copies of this resolution to Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Wilton Simpson, Speaker of the House Chris Sprowls, and the members of the Broward State Legislative Delegation.

SECTION 4. The City Commission directs the City's state lobbyists to advocate against House Bill 1475 and Senate Bill 2012.

ADOPTED this 20th day of April, 2021.



Mayor
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

ATTEST:



City Clerk
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI