

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE
STATEWIDE AND FEDERAL NONDISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION**

RESOLUTION 2019-___

WHEREAS, Solebury Township prides itself on being an inclusive community and a community that respects the equal rights and freedoms of all residents and visitors;

WHEREAS, the freedom to be who a person is and the ability to access the means to build a life of one's own choosing, including an equal opportunity at success, are fundamental values of our society;

WHEREAS, such equal opportunity and freedom is meaningless when a good job, housing, or participation in other aspects of society can be denied to a person or taken away simply because of who that person is, who they love, and/or prejudice as to how a person looks, acts, or preconceptions about how a person should look or act;

WHEREAS, the effects of discrimination extend to a person's physical and mental well-being, their ability to access necessary healthcare, their relationships with others, and their ability to feel safe and at home not only in our society, but also in their own bodies;

WHEREAS, minors are particularly at risk of harm from discrimination, especially during crucial developmental years in which they are exploring and becoming comfortable with themselves and who they are;

WHEREAS, these risks and harms are compounded the more marginalized a person is based simply on who they are, including their skin color, identity, outward appearance, and who they love;

WHEREAS, federal and Pennsylvania antidiscrimination statutes do not expressly prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression;

WHEREAS, federal judicial decisions have begun to more fully recognize that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression is a prohibited type of discrimination called "sex stereotyping;"

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission recently followed the trend of federal judicial decisions in accepting certain kinds of discrimination claims based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression;

WHEREAS, protections for basic human dignity, freedom, and ability to access jobs, housing, and other services crucial to being full participants in society should be enshrined in state and federal law;

WHEREAS, there have been consistent federal and Pennsylvania efforts over recent years to expressly include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression under anti-discrimination laws, but none to date have been enacted into law;

WHEREAS, 15 states (including New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland), the District of Columbia, and some Pennsylvania municipalities have prohibited conversion therapy in order to protect minors, including Doylestown Borough, which expressly classified conversion therapy as a prohibited form of discrimination under its nondiscrimination ordinance;

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania General Assembly has pending legislation, SB 56, SB244, SB 614, HB 1293 and HB 1404, which would prohibit “sexual orientation change efforts” or “conversion therapy” as to individuals under 18 years of age, including efforts to change such a person’s gender identity, and would expressly include sexual orientation and gender identity or expression under state anti-discrimination laws; and

WHEREAS, the 116th United States Congress has re-introduced the federal Equality Act (H.R. 5 and S.788), which would expressly include sexual orientation and gender identity under federal anti-discrimination laws and restore balance in federal law between protecting equal opportunity for all and respect for religious freedom;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township, Bucks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,

1. The Township endorses the introduction and passage of comprehensive non-discrimination state and federal legislation that:
 - a. expressly includes sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression as protected classes from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations;
 - b. prohibits conversion therapy as to minors; and
 - c. maintains federal, state, and local authority to prohibit and remedy invidious discrimination.
2. The Township supports the introduction and passage of such legislation promptly and urges state and federal legislators to work together to make passage of such legislation a reality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to State Senator Steve Santarsiero, State Representative Wendi Thomas, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick, and U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Patrick Toomey.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED and APPROVED, on the ____ day of _____, 2019, at a regular public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Solebury Township.

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Mark Baum Baicker, Chair

John Francis, Vice-Chair

Noel Barrett, Member

Robert A. McEwan, Member

Kevin Morrissey, Member

Attest:

Catherine Cataldi, Township Secretary

Date