



Legislation Text

File #: 11-1472, **Version:** 1

Resolution Protecting Ann Arbor's Non-Discrimination Ordinance and Opposing HB 5039

Whereas, the diversity of our community makes Ann Arbor a great place to live, work, and raise a family;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor recognizes that respect for diversity is a vital component of successful economic development and talent retention;

Whereas, Michigan's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act does not currently prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or student status;

Whereas, The City of Ann Arbor's current Human Relations Ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and student status, in addition to the categories presently included in Michigan's Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act;

Whereas, Article VII, Section 22 of the Michigan Constitution guarantees each city and village the "power to adopt resolutions and ordinances relating to its municipal concerns";

Whereas, The State has no legitimate interest in restricting the ability of local units of government to adopt anti-discrimination ordinances that reflect the values and unique circumstances of our communities;

Whereas, Proposed House Bill 5039 would void the City of Ann Arbor's ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and student status; and

Whereas, The effect of House Bill 5039 will be to legalize discrimination against students and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents in Ann Arbor;

RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Ann Arbor opposes House Bill 5039 and urges the Michigan Legislature to defeat this legislation; and

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder, State Senator Rebekah Warren and State Representatives Jeff Irwin and Mark Ouimet.

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Smith, and Taylor

As Amended by Ann Arbor City Council on November 21, 2011