

DRAFT

Budget Recommendation 2022-23

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2022, Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton issued disturbing and dangerous directives impeding the safety and personal freedoms of our transgender youth and their families;

WHEREAS, City of Austin values and recognizes the LGBTQIA+ community and will not support any efforts to compromise the welfare and safety of our LGBTQIA+ youth and their families;

WHEREAS, Gender identity and freedom of expression are vital to how children and teens see themselves and their ability to thrive;

WHEREAS, Family support and professional care reduce suicide attempts by LGBTQIA+ youth by 40%;

WHEREAS, It is critical for families and transgender youth to have safe access to resources and professional guidance to ensure a positive quality of life;

WHEREAS, Major medical healthcare organizations support gender-affirming care and oppose legislation that will hinder medical care for transgender youth;

WHEREAS, Dismissing the needs of transgender youth and families is fundamentally negligent and poses a significant risk that may have harmful and dangerous physical and mental health consequences;

WHEREAS, Actions like those of Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton are likely to increase rejection, targeted harassment, and hate crimes against transgender youth intersex youth;

WHEREAS, The intended directives by Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton are a misrepresentation of the law and intend to erode the rights of families and the LGBTQIA+ youth statewide;

WHEREAS, City of Austin Leadership has a long history of standing in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community, including recent actions of the Travis County Attorney and District Attorney statements to not unjustifiably interfere with the medical decisions made between children, their parents, and their medical physicians;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Human Rights Commission recommends to Council and the City Manager to stand in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community, protect their rights to seek care and feel physically and mentally safe in our community, oppose actions that negatively impact the well-being and rights of LGBTQIA+ youth and their families, and include funding in the FY 2022-2023 budget to demonstrate this commitment.