

No. R-255. Joint resolution supporting transgender youth and their parents who seek essential medical care for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

(J.R.S.53)

By Senators Balint, Campion, Cummings, Hardy, Hooker and Lyons,

Whereas, Vermont values the transgender members of our community and has been a leader in establishing policies that prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, and

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, the University of Vermont Children's Hospital, the Vermont Medical Society, the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, the Vermont Psychiatric Association, the Vermont American Academy of Emergency Physicians, the Physician Assistant Academy of Vermont, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, and other leading health care authorities support best practice medical care for transgender youth, and

Whereas, patients, their parents, and their health care providers should decide what medical care is appropriate for a patient in accordance with current medical best practices, not politicians, and

Whereas, denying best practice medical care and support to transgender youth can be life-threatening and has been shown to contribute to depression, social isolation, self-hatred, risk of self-harm and suicidal behavior, and more, and

Whereas, more than a third of the 150,000 transgender youth 13 to 17 years of age in the United States live in the 15 states that have restricted or banned access to best practice medical care for transgender youth or are considering legislation to do so, and

Whereas, parents of transgender children, like all parents, simply want to do what is best for their child, and many such parents now face prosecution for child abuse in some jurisdictions for seeking best practice medical care for their transgender child as recommended by their health care provider, and

Whereas, Vermont recognizes the importance of letting transgender youth know that they are seen and valued for who they are, protected from stigmatizing policies that jeopardize their health and well-being, and supported by a community that wants to see them thrive, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly condemns the actions of states to ban best practice medical care for transgender youth and prosecute parents for seeking such essential care for their children, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the General Assembly shall explore all available options to ensure that transgender youth and their families are safe in Vermont to make the best medical care decisions for themselves in consultation with their health care providers *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Admiral Rachel L. Levine, U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, and U.S. Representative Peter Welch of Vermont.