

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE NON-DISCRIMINATION FOR ALL TEXANS

WHEREAS the Texas Legislature in the 2017 session made discrimination of the LGBT Community a priority and pursued misguided legislation known as the “Bathroom Bill” and a broad consortium of businesses, chambers of commerce, and corporate executives have all opposed such discriminatory legislation as inhibiting their ability to attract the best talent and keep Texas competitive and

WHEREAS the Comptroller of the City of New York coordinated signatories of many executives and investment managers on Wall St. representing over \$ 11 Trillion in collective assets (seven times the size of the entire annual Texas economy of \$ 1.6 Trillion) sent a letter to Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, and Speaker Joe Straus expressing their grave concerns over this misguided legislation and the economic damage it would do to the state’s competitiveness, and 82 percent of the Fortune 500 now have comprehensive non-discrimination employment policies including gender identity/expression.

WHEREAS, the Texas House Select Committee on Economic Competitiveness recently released their final report to Speaker Straus in March 2018 and found that potential discriminatory legislation is a factor affecting important quality of life assessments of Texas and a major concern of executives in the Hospitality, Transportation, Technology, and Entertainment industries among others.

WHEREAS the executive director of the Governor’s Office on Economic Development and Tourism testified that the proposed “Bathroom Bill” made his job more difficult to lure business to Texas, and that the mere consideration of this legislation caused 3 organizations to cancel Conventions in Texas at a loss of more than \$ 66 Million in economic activity, and an independent analysis commissioned by the Texas House Select Committee found that such discriminatory legislation would initially cost Texas \$ 3.3 Billion in foregone economic activity and the loss of nearly 36,000 jobs per year, and

WHEREAS , when States try to mandate social policy it not only interferes with matters better left to local governments and local control, but countless business leaders testified and determined it is in Texas’ best interest for leadership to acknowledge that such legislation should not have been pursued and should publicly state that it will not be pursued again – that unless and until this public commitment is made, Texas will likely lose out to other States for not only bids like Amazon’s HQ2 and it’s potential \$ 5 Billion investment accompanied by 50,000 new jobs, but other future business opportunities as well.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Texas Democratic Party supports and advocates for full and completely comprehensive and inclusive non-discrimination protections in all areas of life, including employment and all public accommodation so that ALL Texas citizens and taxpayers enjoy the same basic civil rights without exception.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas Democratic Party opposes any effort by the State or Federal Legislature to restrict, limit, or override all non-discriminatory ordinances passed by local governments across Texas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Texas Democratic Party recognizes that so-called “Religious Freedom” bills and legislation are in fact an effort to discriminate against LGBT Texans, who as taxpayers, are entitled to Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness as enshrined in the U.S. Declaration of Independence as unalienable rights.

SUBMITTED BY: TEXAS STONEWALL DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS APPROVED BY SENATE DISTRICT _____ CONVENTION