



# CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION BANNING LGBT CONVERSION THERAPY

**WHEREAS:** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth in the City of Boston and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have been subjected to so-called conversion therapies designed to change their sexual orientation and/or gender identity; and

**WHEREAS:** Conversion therapy entails dangerous and discredited treatments for sexual orientation and gender identity ranging from public shaming and behavioral conditioning to corporal punishment and electrocution; and

**WHEREAS:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit found substantial evidence that conversion therapies were ineffective (*King v. Governor of the State of New Jersey*), and the U.S. Supreme Court described homosexuality as an “immutable nature” in concluding that same-sex couples had a constitutional right to marriage (*Obergefell v. Hodges*); and

**WHEREAS:** Health experts from organizations including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, the U.S. Surgeon General, and the Pan American Health Organization – a regional branch of the World Health Organization – have taken formal positions that homosexuality and transgenderism are normal, natural, and healthy; and

**WHEREAS:** Legislation to protect LGBT youth from conversion therapy by banning its practice by licensed professionals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been introduced by State Representative Kay Khan with the support of various members of the Boston state legislative delegation; and

**WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has legitimate interests in the health of its people, the behavior of its businesses, and the welfare of its most vulnerable residents, such as LGBT youth; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council supports the passage of House Bill 97, *An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors*, and urges the Legislature to enact the proposed petition.

Filed in Council: July 22, 2015