



MASSACHUSETTS
City of Northampton

In the City Council, March 17, 2022

Upon the Recommendation of Councilor Marissa Elkins and Councilor Karen Foster

22.060 A Resolution in Support of H3126, An Act Providing for a Gender Neutral Designation on State Documents and Identifications, and S2282, An Act Relative to Gender Identity on Massachusetts Identification

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 queer youth identify as nonbinary and peer-reviewed research has found that young people whose gender is not recognized by others are more likely to have lower self-esteem, struggle with depression, and consider and attempt suicide¹, and

WHEREAS, currently in Massachusetts, a person who is neither exclusively male nor exclusively female has no appropriate gender option on a majority of non ID state forms, and

WHEREAS, H3126 and S2282 ~~“an act providing for a gender neutral designation on state documents and identifications”~~ will require all state forms and documents requiring individuals to indicate their gender to provide for a gender neutral identification shown as “X”, and

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles has allowed for an “X” gender marker on driver’s licenses and ID cards since 2019 via administrative change, and

WHEREAS, 22 states and the District of Columbia allow non-binary gender identification on at least state ID and in 2021 federal government allowed for a gender “X” marker for gender non-binary persons on passports, and

¹ The Trevor Project Research Brief: Diversity of Nonbinary Youth.
https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Diversity-of-Nonbinary-Youth_-July-Research-Brief.pdf

WHEREAS, in stark contrast, across the country, several states are considering legislation that would put transgender and gender nonconforming young people and their families in grave danger by criminalizing parents, guardians, and medical providers who support children who have a medical need for gender affirming counseling and medical treatment, and

WHEREAS, the governor of the state of Texas signed an executive order declaring gender affirming medical care of any kind to be child abuse and subjecting families to unprecedented and invasive child welfare investigations and would remove transgender children from their homes, and

WHEREAS, other states are seeking to repeal previously passed bans on discredited, costly, and harmful conversion therapy and outlawing school curriculums that affirm and inform young people about diverse gender and sexual orientation identities, and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, the Massachusetts GLBTQ Political Caucus, GLAD, ACLU of Massachusetts, Mass Equality, Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, Greater Boston PFLAG, and OUT MetroWest are all organizations that fully support H3126 and S2282, and

WHEREAS, the City of Northampton and the Northampton City Council have long supported transgender equality by: passing a unanimous resolution on August 18, 2011 in support of the Massachusetts House Bill adding gender identity as a protected category to anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, education, public accommodations, and credit; unanimously passing “A Resolution to Affirm the City’s Non-discrimination Policy and in Support of the Equality of Access in Public Places” on May 19, 2016; and on August 10, 2017, the Northampton School Committee unanimously voted to formalize into policy its commitment to ensure for students and employees nondiscrimination on the basis of transgender or gender nonconforming status.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Northampton affirms its support for H3126 and S2282 and asks the State Legislature to pass the law, allowing for a gender “X” designation on state forms, with haste, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Senate sponsors State Senator Joanne M. Comerford, Jason M. Lewis, Julian Cyr, and Rebecca L. Rausch, State Representative Lindsay Sabadosa, House sponsors Representatives Mindy Domb and Marjorie Decker, and Chair of Ways and Means Committee Representative Aaron Michlewitz.