

A RESOLUTION OF THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Resolution No. 2021-8

Trans Rights Are Human Rights

Whereas, anti-transgender violence and hate crimes increased 20% in 2019 and only 15 percent of law enforcement agencies report hate crimes to the FBI, meaning crimes against the transgender community are likely heavily under-reported (1); and

Whereas, over 100 anti-transgender bills, attacking the rights and dignity of transgender people in at least 33 states, have been proposed in the 2021 legislative session. These bills include bans on transgender athletes in same-gender sports, gender-affirming treatments for youth, and gender-identity curriculum in schools (2); and

Whereas, there have been 35 fatal crimes against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals with several cases of clear anti-trans bias or cases in which transgender individuals may have been at higher risk due to being pushed into homelessness, poverty, or sex work (3); the majority of these deaths were trans women of color (4); and

Whereas, transgender youth are at greatly increased risk of suicide and self-harm. In 2020, 52% of all transgender and non-binary youth had contemplated suicide, 75% of LGBTQ youth had experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their life, and 94% of LGBTQ youth have had their mental health negatively impacted by recent politics (5); and

Whereas, Oregon has only recently banned the “gay panic” or “trans panic” defense in criminal court proceedings and is only the 14th state to ban such practices (6); and

Whereas, anti-LGBTQ hate speech and actions happen throughout Oregon including: a) a recent decision by the Newburg school district to ban, among other things, the Pride flag (7); and b) public comments made by a special education teacher from Talent Elementary School equating gender-identity to identifying as a cat (8); and c) Two Grants Pass teachers released a video on YouTube advocating for: i) changing bathrooms to ‘anatomical male’ and ‘anatomical female’; and ii) requiring students to gain parental permission for using a name or pronouns “counter to their apparent anatomical presentation”; and iii) banning policies that require staff or faculty use a students preferred name and/or pronouns (9); and d) the Josephine County

Commissioners came out in support of the Grants Pass teachers and the resolution, calling it a common sense approach (10).

NOW, THEREFORE, THE JACKSON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

a) We unequivocally state that Trans Lives Matter, Black Trans Lives Matter, and Trans Rights are Human Rights; the hate and discrimination faced by the trans and gender non-conforming community is anti-American and should be rebuked whenever and wherever it occurs.

b) We call on the United States Congress to bring to the floor and vote for the passage of HR 5 “The Equality Act”, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation and to develop and pass legislation banning health insurance providers from excluding gender affirming treatment in their health care plans.

c) We call on the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 2694 relating to the inclusion of LGBT-owned businesses in business equity programs.

d) When the Jackson County Democratic Party secures in-person meeting spaces or offices with publicly available bathrooms, the availability of gender-neutral bathrooms will be considered in determining a suitable location, and appropriate gender-neutral signage will be used.

e) We will encourage all meeting attendees to list or state their pronouns, if they are comfortable doing so, to normalize the practice and allow space for transgender and gender non-conforming to provide theirs.

REFERENCES:

(1) NBC News (November 2020): <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/anti-transgender-hate-crimes-soared-20-percent-2019-n1248011>

(2) CNN (April 2021): <https://www.cnn.com/2021/04/15/politics/anti-transgender-legislation-2021/index.html>

(3) Human Rights Campaign Resources (September 2021): <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021>

(4) Harvard Civil Rights - Civil Liberties Law Review (September 2020):

https://harvardcrcl.org/americas-war-on-black-trans-women/?fbclid=IwAR003QchTJrpd_e0-TrqPtV5fVbfbWLGFR2grCiWhj_YJP9plmqF8zTIW2M

(5) Forbes (May 2021):

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dawnstaceyennis/2021/05/19/terrible-time-for-trans-youth-new-survey-spotlights-suicide-spike---and-hope/?sh=6ed853ca716e>

(6) KDRV (May 2021): <https://www.kdrv.com/content/news/Oregon-legislature-passes-bill-banning-gay-panic-defense-in-criminal-cases-574415851.html>

(7) OPB (September 2021): <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/09/02/newberg-school-board-puts-off-vote-to-rescind-flag-ban/>

(8) KTVL (March 2021): <https://ktvl.com/station/facebook-comment-prompts-backlash-against-talent-teaching-assistant>

(9) OPB (April 2021): <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/04/12/grants-pass-educators-on-leave-after-calling-for-anatomical-bathrooms/>

(10) KTVL (June 2021): <https://ktvl.com/news/local/josephine-county-commissioners-throw-support-behind-anti-lgbtq-legislation-movement>

Resolution submitted by the Platform and Resolutions Committee.

ADOPTED by the Jackson County Democratic Party Central Committee on the
23 day of August, 2021.



Tonia Moro,
Chair, Jackson County Democratic Party