

CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION

R21 – 2022

*Introduced by the City Council and the Administration on February 2, 2022*

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Resolution supports Senator Pat Browne’s Senate Bill 313, noting protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination is fundamental to our community.

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**Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown,**

**WHEREAS;** Allentown passed a municipal ordinance making it illegal to discriminate against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

**WHEREAS;** Allentown City Council believes equal rights should be addressed at the Federal and State level; and

**WHEREAS;** legislation has been passed by the United States House of Representatives but not the Senate; and

**WHEREAS;** Sen. Pat Browne, a Republican from Allentown, has been a champion on this issue, even though the initiative has been thwarted in the Senate; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Browne has introduced Senate Bill 313 which adds the following prohibitions to the state’s discrimination statutes:

‘Prohibiting certain practices of discrimination because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age or national origin by employers, employment agencies, labor organizations and others as herein defined; creating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in the Governor’s Office; defining its functions, powers and duties; providing for procedure and enforcement; providing for formulation of an educational program to prevent prejudice; providing for judicial review and enforcement and imposing penalties.’

**WHEREAS**, the bill continues:

“Public policies, reflecting an open and welcoming environment and ensuring equal opportunity, foster economic growth and prosperity which benefit the inhabitants of this Commonwealth.

“Conversely, the absence of nondiscrimination protections hinders efforts to recruit and retain the diversity of talented individuals and successful enterprises required for a thriving economy and strong public sector on which the inhabitants of this Commonwealth depend.”

**WHEREAS**, Allentown City Council is astonished that the legislative bodies of our state and federal governments have not guaranteed such fundamental human rights.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY ADMINISTRATION** hereby go on record supporting Senator Browne’s Senate Bill 313.

**BE IT FURTHER, IT BE RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Browne; and Representatives Schweyer and Schlossberg.