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Subject: Oakland’s Commitment to Protecting Gender Affirming Care

Dear Members of the Public and Fellow City Councilmembers,

Gender-affirming care is essential, life-saving healthcare. Gender-affirming care ranges from hormone replacement therapy, appearance-affirming surgeries, medications, counseling services, and other treatments that support and affirm a person’s identity. Research consistently shows that when LGBTQ+ individuals have access to affirming healthcare, their mental health outcomes and quality of life improve.

Healthcare and bodily autonomy are fundamental human rights, and gender-affirming medical services must be included within that right. **Individuals, families, and their healthcare providers—not politicians—should be the ones involved in making these deeply personal medical decisions.**

Trump's Administration has advanced discriminatory policies, including [Executive Order 14168](#) and [14187](#), that aim to eliminate federal funding for hospitals that provide gender-affirming care and restrict access to treatments, particularly for transgender and gender non-conforming youth under the age of 19. These policies will undoubtedly have a disproportionate impact on the youth of low-income families, who rely the most on Medicare, Medicaid, and the Child Healthcare Insurance Program (CHIP).

Oakland is home to several major healthcare providers, such as Kaiser, Sutter Health, UCSF, and Alameda Health Systems, that serve thousands of residents across the region. **I urge our healthcare institutions not to be pressured into restricting access to this medically necessary and life-saving care.**

California has taken meaningful strides to safeguard human rights and constitutional protections of the LGBTQ+ community. [SB 107](#) established CA as a “sanctuary state” for transgender youth and “shields” families and healthcare providers from out-of-state investigations related to obtaining and providing gender-affirming care. Attorney General Bonta has challenged the unjust capitulation of [Rady Children’s Hospital](#) and the [US DHHS](#) in respective lawsuits earlier this year, and the [California LGBTQ Caucus](#) has continued to advance crucial legislation statewide. I commend their efforts to protect LGBTQ+ rights in Oakland and beyond.

It is more important than ever that we restate our commitment to protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. **This resolution affirms the City’s commitment to safeguarding access to gender-affirming healthcare, defending bodily autonomy, and standing firmly with the LGBTQ+ community against efforts that seek to undermine their existence.**

Sincerely,

Rowena Brown
City of Oakland, Councilmember At Large