



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE TO FILE 19-0832  
HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING 2/19/2019**

**Sponsored By:** KEVIN B. MORRISON, DENNIS DEER, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, County Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CONDEMNING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S TREATMENT OF TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, AND INTERSEX INDIVIDUALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Trump administration and the Department of Health and Human Services is considering narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump administration has banned transgender and gender non-conforming individuals from serving in the United States military; and

**WHEREAS**, the Departments of Justice and Education withdrew landmark 2016 guidance explaining how schools must protect transgender students under the federal Title IX law; and

**WHEREAS**, various other federal departments and agencies took direct action to weaken protections against transgender individuals that has been documented by the National Center for Transgender Equality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Board of Commissioners has been informed of this by Commissioner Kevin B. Morrison and LGBTQ advocates; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Kevin B. Morrison and LGBTQ advocates see this effort as a hateful attempt to roll back recognition and protections of transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex people; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed definition by the Department of Health and Human Services would essentially eradicate federal recognition of the estimated 1.4 million Americans who identify as a gender other than the one they were assigned at birth; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed definition would erase children who are born with intersex conditions, which is about 1.7 percent of the population, having been born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the typical definitions of female or male; and

**WHEREAS**, this position makes irrelevant and discounts what transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex people understand about themselves and discounts what medical providers know and understand about their transgender, gender

non-conforming, and intersex patients; and

**WHEREAS**, this redefining would force genetic testing to resolve any dispute, denying transgender and gender non-conforming individuals their autonomy and humanity; and

**WHEREAS**, children born with intersex traits are often subjected to harmful, non-consensual surgeries, in Chicago and around the United States, in an attempt to, make their natural sex characteristics conform to false binary notions of 'male' or 'female' bodies, which the Trump Administration's restrictive view of sex and gender would purport to validate; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump administration's ban on military service by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals does not recognize the incredible sacrifice and service of as many as 15,000 transgender and gender non-conforming troops that are already serving and would be forced to either conceal their gender identity or face discharge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trump administration's ban on military service by transgender and gender non-conforming individuals keeps talented and willing individuals out of the military based on a discriminatory policy; and

**WHEREAS**, all action necessary should be taken to make school a place where all students are affirmed and empowered and are provided with a safe environment to learn; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is affirming and welcoming of all individuals to self-identify; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County stands with the transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex community and affirms that intersex, gender non-conforming, and transgender people #WontBeErased; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Cook County Board President and Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby honor the identities of transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex people, celebrate them, affirm their lives and call on President Trump and the Department of Health and Human Services to stop any attempt to narrowly define gender as biological; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution are presented to President Donald J. Trump, Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar II, Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick M. Shanahan, and Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.