

Wilmington, Delaware
January 18, 2018

#4468

Sponsor:

Council President Shabazz

Co-Sponsors:

Council Members Chukwuocha McCoy

WHEREAS, City Council supports efforts to create an educational environment in which all students can learn, grow and thrive without experiencing unlawful discrimination based on their gender, race and/or ethnicity, gender identity, appearance or expression, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2017, Governor John Carney issued a memorandum asking the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) to develop a regulation prohibiting discrimination in Delaware's public-school districts and charter schools and to provide a model anti-discrimination policy these schools could use to address potential discrimination against students; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2017, DDOE released a draft of Regulation 225, which provides guidelines to help public school districts and charter schools create consistent policies statewide that prohibit discrimination based on gender, race and/or ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic; and

WHEREAS, Regulation 225 includes language specifically prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression, language which was not previously included in Title 14 of the Delaware Code, but is consistent with Delaware's Gender Identity Nondiscrimination Act of 2013; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that 41 percent of transgender individuals have reported attempting suicide, compared to 4.6 percent of the general population; and

WHEREAS, further research has shown that reports of attempted suicide among transgender individuals are higher in certain circumstances, including among those who have been rejected by family members (57 percent), those who have experienced harassment or bullying in school (50 to 54 percent), and those who have experienced physical or sexual violence at school (63 to 78 percent); and

WHEREAS, guaranteeing the equal rights of transgender students within Delaware public school districts and charter schools is vital to ensuring the security and well-being of this vulnerable population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that the Council strongly supports the Delaware Department of Education's proposed Regulation 225 and all related efforts to foster an educational environment in which all students can learn, grow and thrive without experiencing unlawful discrimination based on their gender, race and/or ethnicity, gender identity, appearance or expression, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to form this 16th
day of January 2018.

Elizabeth D. Lower
Senior Assistant City Solicitor

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution supports the Delaware Department of Education's proposed Regulation 225 and all related efforts to foster an educational environment in which all students can learn, grow and thrive without experiencing unlawful discrimination based on their gender, race and/or ethnicity, gender identity, appearance or expression, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic.