

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate approved the addition of gender identity to the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law (M.G.L c. 272, §§ 92A, 98 and 98A) on July 7, 2016; and

WHEREAS: Governor Charlie Baker signed this legislation, An Act relative to transgender anti-discrimination (S. 2407), into law on July 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS: The updated Public Accommodations Law has been in full effect since October 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS: In April 2016, prior to enactment of these protections statewide, the Town of Arlington demonstrated leadership on this issue when Town Meeting unanimously passed an amendment to the Town Bylaw, Title II, Article 9, Section 2, thereafter including gender identity or expression in this policy, ensuring equal opportunity and protection from discrimination in employment, housing, education, recreation, services, public accommodation and public area in Arlington, thereby making Arlington one of under twenty municipalities in the Commonwealth to enact such legislation by that time; and

WHEREAS: Arlington Town Meeting in 2017 created the LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission to promote equality-affirming policies regarding the full spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities; and

WHEREAS: On May 21, 2018, the Select Board issued a Pride Proclamation that included a reaffirmation of its commitment to inclusive antidiscrimination protections; and

WHEREAS: The Select Board also voted on May 21, 2018 to join the Freedom For All Massachusetts Coalition to show the broad support within the Town of Arlington for these inclusive antidiscrimination protections; and

WHEREAS: The School Committee voted policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination because of gender identity on April 10, 2014; and

WHEREAS: Through actions like these, the School Committee, the Arlington Public Schools and Town of Arlington have demonstrated a deep commitment to the goal that “We will be known for the warm welcome and respect we extend to all”; and

WHEREAS: The November 6, 2018 statewide election includes ballot question 3, considering whether to uphold or repeal the provision in the Massachusetts Public Accommodations Law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation; and

WHEREAS: Repeal of this law would have a devastating effect for transgender and gender non-conforming members of our students, staff, families, friends, and community as a whole, and which would be against principles we as a school district uphold and reaffirm; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, We, the members of the Arlington School Committee, do hereby express again our commitment to continue to defend transgender equality in Arlington and hereby publicly endorse the Freedom For All Massachusetts Yes on 3 effort to uphold the current law and say clearly: Discrimination has no place in Massachusetts and no place in Arlington.

_____ **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**
_____ **OF THE**
_____ **TOWN**
_____ **OF**
_____ **ARLINGTON**

A true record.
ATTEST:

By: _____
Administrative Assistant to School Committee