

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the California Community Facilities Care Act is existing law that requires licensing and regulation of community care and residential facilities by the State Department of Social Services, and a violation of any provision under the act is punishable as a misdemeanor; and

WHEREAS, there are several private facilities which are often owned and operated by nonprofit organizations that advertise services for youth with behavioral issues to families who may feel as though they have no other options that are currently not regulated by the California Community Facilities Care Act;

WHEREAS, former students have exposed the trauma and abuse they have experienced at some of these facilities including illegal programs, designed to “fix” gay children from gay to straight, which were outlawed in 2012;

WHEREAS, SB 524 (Lara) would define the portion of the act that states “private alternative treatment and education facility for youth” as any residential facility or program operated by a private entity with a focus on serving children with emotional, behavioral, or mental health issues or disorders, and will include: (1) wilderness or outdoor experience, expedition, or intervention; (2) a boot camp experience designed to simulate basic military training or correctional regimes; (3) a therapeutic boarding school; or (4) a behavior modification program; and

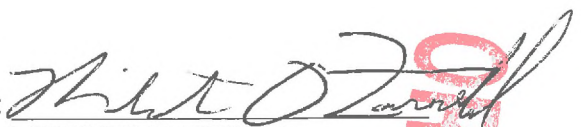
WHEREAS, SB 524’s clarifying definition will require all facilities focused on alternative treatments and education for youth to be State licensed and regulated thereby assisting to diminish any abusive treatments and punishing those facilities that do not adhere to the law; and

WHEREAS, there are dozens of private treatment facilities in the City of Los Angeles, many of which provide life-saving services for troubled youth, and SB 524 would provide further support to Los Angeles families to ensure that their children are receiving lawful care; and


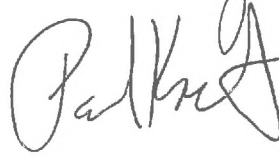

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles LGBT Center has launched a national campaign to protect all youth from institutional abuse by mobilizing communities, raising awareness and changing state and federal laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles, hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program to SUPPORT SB 524 (Lara) which would define “private alternative treatment and education facility for youth” to ensure that these programs are licensed by the State Department of Social Services so that violations of State provisions in the California Community Facilities Care Act can be made punishable as a misdemeanor.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:

APR 22 2015

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