

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 Trump administration has granted a federally funded foster care agency in South Carolina a waiver allowing it to turn away potential foster parents who are LGBTQ or non-Protestant; and

WHEREAS, this particular agency, which was in danger of losing federal funding due to anti-discrimination laws, requires all staff, mentors and foster parents to sign a statement agreeing to its evangelical values and expects all of its foster parents to raise their children in a Christian environment; and

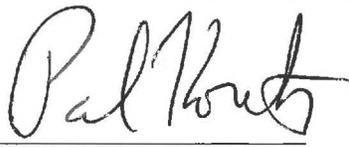
WHEREAS, the administration's waiver, made under the guise of promoting "religious freedom", actually undermines the First Amendment by allowing a federally funded agency to value its religious beliefs over the civil rights of other groups, including non-Protestants and the LGBTQ community; and

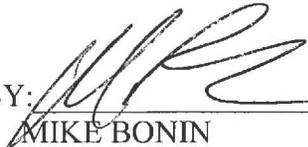
WHEREAS, the waiver in particular diminishes the chances of LGBTQ youth already woefully overrepresented in the foster care system, of finding a safe and loving foster home; and

WHEREAS, the precedent set in South Carolina raises the possibility of other foster care agencies throughout the country, including here in Los Angeles, requiring potential foster parents to pass a religious litmus test to adopt at-risk youth who need a stable home; and

WHEREAS, the administration should be condemned for enabling this kind of religious and sexual orientation discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program opposition to any legislative or administrative action which would grant a waiver allowing a federally funded foster care agency to discriminate on the basis of religion and sexual orientation.

PRESENTED BY:   
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5th District

PRESENTED BY:   
MIKE BONIN  
Councilmember, 11th District

PRESENTED BY:   
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

cc

FEB 01 2019

