



Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Resolution

To All Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS,** Since 1960, when the Kentucky General Assembly first adopted policies of nondiscrimination and formed the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, the Commonwealth has repeatedly stood at the forefront of Southern states in its efforts to safeguard its citizens from the individual and societal harms of insidious acts of discrimination, and;
- WHEREAS,** With the hard fought passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act in 1966, Kentucky became the first state in the South to have enforcement powers over civil rights violations, prompting Dr. Martin Luther King to deem the act, "the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a Southern state," and;
- WHEREAS,** On March 15, 1968, Kentucky became the first state in the South to enact a statewide fair housing law, creating a model of legal civil rights leadership for others to follow, and;
- WHEREAS,** On June 2, 2008, Governor Steven L. Beshear courageously adopted Executive Order 2008-473, which states a broad and inclusive policy of nondiscrimination in state government employment, including an expansion of the equal employment opportunity policy to include the protected classes of sexual orientation and gender identity, and;
- WHEREAS,** Jefferson County, Fayette County, and the City of Covington have each led the Commonwealth in protecting citizens from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in these jurisdictions, and;
- WHEREAS,** Seventeen sister states and Washington, D.C. have passed laws that prohibit sexual orientation discrimination in both public and private jobs, and twelve sister states and Washington, D.C. have passed laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in housing, and;
- WHEREAS,** Discriminatory acts of all kinds assault the health of our democracy, the stability and safety of our communities, and the integrity of the fundamental principles of equality and fairness that form the foundation of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights calls upon the Commonwealth of Kentucky to continue its legacy of human rights leadership by supporting policies and laws that make clear that Kentucky will not sanction discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in any person's pursuit of employment, housing, and the goods and services of public accommodations because these are fundamental freedoms that are essential to Kentuckians' human dignity and the prosperity and integrity of our democracy.

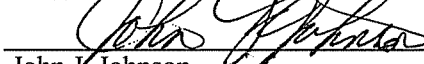
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That a copy of this Resolution will be spread upon the Minute Book of this Commission; and dated in Louisville, Kentucky this the 19th day of June, in the year of Two Thousand and Eight and in the 216th year of the Commonwealth.

On Behalf of the Commission:


Henry Curtis
Commission Chair

Attest:


John J. Johnson
Executive Director