Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SONOMA COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO NONDISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO MEDICALLY NECESSARY CARE, INCLUDING GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE

WHEREAS, Sonoma County residents receive healthcare services through a range of public and private coverage systems and provider networks; and

WHEREAS, access to medically necessary healthcare services, including gender-affirming care, is essential to the health and well-being of transgender, gender-nonconforming, intersex, and two-spirit (TGNCI2S) individuals; and

WHEREAS, recent federal actions and proposed policies have sought to restrict access to gender-affirming care, including through attempts to limit participation in federally funded healthcare programs and to disqualify providers offering such care; and

WHEREAS, a federal district court has enjoined enforcement of certain federal actions targeting gender-affirming care, finding such actions unlawful and without legal effect; and

WHEREAS, the California Attorney General has issued formal guidance affirming that gender-affirming care remains legal in California and that providers may continue to deliver such care consistent with state law;

WHEREAS, the California Attorney General has further stated that, notwithstanding federal proposals, healthcare providers in California "can and should continue to provide the care their patients count on without fear of unjust retaliation";

WHEREAS, the California Attorney General has taken affirmative legal action, including filing and joining multistate litigation and submitting formal comments opposing federal efforts to restrict gender-affirming care, in order to protect access to such care and uphold state authority over medical practice standards;

WHEREAS, the State of California has affirmed that gender-affirming healthcare services are protected under the Constitution and laws of the State of California;

WHEREAS, California law, including the Unruh Civil Rights Act (Civil Code Section 51) and Government Code Section 11135, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, including in the provision of healthcare services;

WHEREAS, California law further requires that individuals be provided access to medically necessary healthcare services, including gender-affirming care, without unlawful discrimination; and

WHEREAS, *continuity of care is critically important for those receiving gender affirming care, and delays, stoppages, and uncertainty are already causing lasting harm to TGNCI2S youth and their families;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all residents and County employees have access to medically necessary healthcare services, including gender-affirming care, consistent with applicable law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors recognizes and supports the State of California's ongoing efforts, including those led by the Attorney General, to defend access to gender-affirming care and to challenge unlawful federal actions that seek to restrict such care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors affirms that healthcare providers and insurance carriers operating within Sonoma County are required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws governing nondiscrimination and access to care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors *does not support complying in advance with proposed federal policy changes,* opposes actions that would *preemptively and* unlawfully restrict access to medically necessary healthcare services, including gender-affirming care, and supports continued lawful provision of such care within the state of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors will continue to coordinate with state agencies, community members, and other partners, as appropriate, to support lawful access to healthcare services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to the Governor of California, the California Attorney General, members of the California State Legislature, *administrators of major local healthcare institutions,* and other appropriate entities.