

RESOLUTION NO. RS2020-_____

A Resolution requesting Governor Bill Lee to veto HB836/SB1304 pertaining to the discrimination of adoption agencies against LGBTQ prospective parents.

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2020, the Tennessee Senate approved SB1304 by a 20-6 vote to allow adoption agencies to refuse to work with families if they claim that working with those families would "violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies"; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Senate's action, Tennessee would join a list of nine other states that specifically allow adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ prospective parents; and

WHEREAS, when public funds are involved, all people should have a reasonable expectation that they will be served and treated equally; and

WHEREAS, HB836/SB1304 may result in a boycott of Tennessee by businesses, sports leagues, and other event organizers, which would have a tremendous negative effect on the finances of Nashville and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Nashville is a welcoming place, and same-sex parents can and should reach out to the many adoption agencies that are happy to help same-sex couples adopt and start a loving family; and

WHEREAS, signing HB836/SB1304 would send a message to residents and prospective businesses that Tennessee is not a welcoming place, which would be detrimental to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as requesting Governor Bill Lee to veto HB836/SB1304 pertaining to the discrimination of adoption agencies against LGBTQ prospective parents.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to Governor Bill Lee.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Nancy VanReece
Member of Council