

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EQUAL BENEFITS & OPPOSING HB 4770 AND 4771

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 6, 2011

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County has always been a leader in human rights; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan House recently passed House Bill 4770 and 4771 which prohibits public employers from providing certain benefits to public employees and will eliminate benefits for Other Qualified Adults; and

WHEREAS, employees at over 30 Michigan corporations and 30 national corporations with a major presence in Michigan can extend benefits to partners of either gender; and

WHEREAS, many public entities provide health care benefits for domestic partners of either gender, including the State of Michigan, at least 10 public universities, at least five city and county governments, and numerous public school districts; and

WHEREAS, major employers in Michigan and across the country recognize that extending health care benefit eligibility to domestic partners is crucial to attracting and keeping talent; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County and other public employers in our state must be able to compete with the private sector and with public employers in other states to attract the best and brightest talent to our workforce; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber have already joined voices in opposition to HB 4770 and HB 4771.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners affirms its ongoing commitment to a diverse and accepting workplace.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners urges the rejection of HB 4770, HB 4771 and any legislation that codifies discrimination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Snyder, the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives.