



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Commission on Human Relations

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

PITTSBURGH, PA – A report published by The New York Times on October 21st, describes how the Trump administration is planning to deprive transgender people of their most basic human right, by narrowly re-defining gender and sex. According to the article, this effort is being led by officials with the US Department of Health and Human Services, who want to define sex as either female or male, and determined by the individual's genitals at the time of birth.

This is an unambiguous, vicious, and premeditated strategy meant to target the very existence of transgender persons while placating certain segments of conservative circles. It is driven by fear and hate. The City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations (PghCHR) opposes any efforts to diminish the rights of transgender persons. *Transgender rights are human rights!* If successful, this redefinition of gender and sex will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the lives of transgender persons by limiting their access to and protections in employment, housing, education, healthcare, and the legal/judicial systems, just to mention a few. Locally, the PghCHR stands with, and will continue to vigorously protect the rights of, all transgender persons. As we have done since our creation, the PghCHR will continue to protect the rights of every person who lives in, works in or visits our city.

The Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations is the city agency responsible for enforcing fair practices which prohibit housing, employment and public accommodations discrimination based on age (40 or over), ancestry, color, disability, gender identity/expression, place of birth, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation. In addition to the protected classes listed above, the Commission also enforces fair housing practices which prohibit discrimination because of familial status and status as survivor of domestic violence.

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