



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR WILLIAM PEDUTO

July 2, 2020

To Homelessness and Human Service Partners in the City of Pittsburgh:

We would like to acknowledge and thank you and the community of service providers who provide a continuum of support to our neighbors, particularly those experiencing homelessness. We appreciate your continued commitment to providing respect and accommodation to all participants in your programs regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.


We are writing to condemn a rule proposed by the Trump Administration that would allow homeless shelters and service providers to deny critical services based on an individual's gender identity and gender expression. This proposed rule represents yet another attack on our transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming neighbors based on misguided and hateful fear mongering, and the rule would threaten our residents' safety and limit access to critical care.

We are committed to providing critical services to and upholding the rights of our transgender and non-binary neighbors who are already subjected to disproportionately high rates of discrimination in all aspects of their lives. At a moment in our history when the senseless murder of trans women of color is at all-time high, it is imperative that we continue to offer life-saving services to our transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming residents.

Locally, the City of Pittsburgh prohibits housing providers from discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression and investigates allegations of discrimination through the City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations. These protections will continue to be upheld in order to safeguard our residents' rights to live a life free from discrimination. We will also continue to speak out against this proposed federal rule change and related rule changes that harm our community.

Through the leadership and expertise of the City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations, we are committed to providing gender awareness training to the staff and board of any homeless shelter and service provider willing to participate and learn.

We urge all homeless shelters and service providers to reject the Trump Administration's proposed rule and continue to provide vital services for our transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming neighbors. Thank you for the important work you do for all of the Pittsburgh region's residents.

Sincerely,

William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh

Co-Signed:

Majestic Lane, Chief Equity Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Megan Stanley, Executive Director, City of Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations
Laura Drogowski, Office of Equity Critical Communities Manager
City of Pittsburgh LGBTQIA+ Advisory Council