

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ISABELLA COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Resolution 14-12-01**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan’s Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Public Act 453 of 1976, prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and educational facilities based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, or marital status; and,

**WHEREAS**, Representative Jim Dressel (R-Holland) first introduced legislation in 1983 to extend the protection of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community; and,

**WHEREAS**, thirty-one years later neither state nor federal law prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As a result, it remains legal to not hire or terminate someone solely for being gay or transgender, to deny someone housing based only on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to refuse to serve someone based only on their sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

**WHEREAS**, Michigan’s own Department of Civil Rights has concluded that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Michigan “exists and is significant” and “has direct negative economic effects on Michigan” and has recommended that the Michigan Legislature expand the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include both sexual orientation and gender identity; and,

**WHEREAS**, thirty-six Michigan cities and townships have passed local civil rights ordinances banning discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity, starting with the City of East Lansing forty-two years ago in 1972; and,

**WHEREAS**, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have already adopted legislation prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and,

**WHEREAS**, both the City of Mt. Pleasant and the Charter Township of Union, local governing bodies, have recently both similar resolutions; and,

**WHEREAS**, all hardworking people in our state, including those who are gay and transgender, should have the opportunity to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families. No one should have to live in fear that they could be legally terminated for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, on this day December 16, 2014, that the Isabella County Board of Commissioners Commission hereby calls upon the Michigan Legislature to enact legislation to amend the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity without further delay and send them copies of this resolution.

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George A, Green, Chairman  
Isabella County Board of Commissioners

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Minde` Lux, County Clerk  
Isabella County