

Resolve 12-16/17

Passage: 9-0 on 6/19/2017

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)  
BELINDA S. RAY (1)  
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)  
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**CITY OF PORTLAND  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

Effective 6/29/2017

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
PIOUS ALI (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN AMICUS BRIEF  
RE: VETERANS' TRANSGENDER SURGICAL MEDICAL BENEFITS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Portland, Maine, recognizes that transgender people are valuable and vital members of the City's population who nevertheless can suffer from discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, according to research from The Williams Institute at the University of California in Los Angeles, fewer transgender people have a regular doctor and dentist and more suffer from poor health, with rates of suicide, drug addiction and mental illness higher than in the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Portland, Maine, unanimously supported the inclusion of transgender medical services including surgery in the City's own health care plan when it approved Resolve 9-15/16 on June 20, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Portland has covered charges for medically necessary transgender reassignment surgery with precertification from the healthcare benefits administrator to transgender employees through its employee health plan since January 1, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, providing healthcare that includes needed benefits for everyone and that discriminates against no one helps create a society of responsible citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Human Rights Campaign is appealing *Fulcher v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs* in Federal Court in an attempt to end the Veterans Benefits Administration blanket ban on surgical care for transgender veterans of the American armed forces; and

**WHEREAS**, to bolster its appeal, the Human Rights Campaign is gathering friends around the country, including cities that, like Portland, Maine, support the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people to enjoy the same healthcare benefits offered to other people, in order to argue that the United States Veterans Benefits Administration must offer surgical benefits to its United States Veterans who are transgender;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Portland City Council hereby authorizes Corporation Counsel to join and/or sign the amicus brief of the Human Rights Campaign appeal in *Fulcher v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs* in support of its goal that the United States provide surgical benefits to its armed forces veterans.

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