

State of Michigan
State Board of Education

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE ELLIOTT-LARSEN CIVIL
RIGHTS ACT OF 1976**

WHEREAS, Michigan's State Board of Education values a student-centered approach to education through personalized learning, of which the first principle is building a learner profile; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education understands that being one's authentic self is paramount in building said learner profile and believes that all students deserve the right to receive an adequate education as their full authentic self; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education supports efforts aimed at ending discrimination through legislation; and

WHEREAS, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1976 stands as the chief civil rights statute for the State of Michigan and protects individuals from discrimination on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, and marital status; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 4688 of 2019 would expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act by including the following as protected classes: sexual orientation and gender identity or expression; and

WHEREAS, the efforts by the State Board of Education, educators, and school officials to shape the lives of young people in this community are severely undermined when LGBTQ+ students can legally be denied healthcare, evicted, lose their job, etc. based on their identity; and

WHEREAS, not expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act puts all Michiganders at risk as the perception of LGBTQ+ status is sufficient for the denial of civil rights and heterosexual Michiganders are at risk for having their rights denied if they are perceived to be LGBTQ+;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education calls upon the Michigan Legislature to expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act for the benefit of all Michiganders; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to every member of the Michigan Legislature.

Adopted August 13, 2019