

STATE OF MICHIGAN



GRETCHEN WHITMER, Governor

## MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

# RESOLUTION

### RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE STATE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS IN MICHIGAN AND THE MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION'S COMMITMENT TO THEIR CONTINUED PRESERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Civil Rights Commission is a public body established under Article V, Section 29 of the Michigan constitution, which vests the commission with the power "to investigate alleged discrimination against any person because of religion, race, color or national origin in the enjoyment of the civil rights guaranteed by law and by [the] constitution, and to secure the equal protection of such civil rights without such discrimination"; and

**WHEREAS** the Elliott Larsen Civil Right Act since its passage in 1976 has seen an expansion of its protected classifications, as citizens of Michigan have evolved in their understanding and appreciation of the diversity of our citizenry and the importance of extending civil rights protections to vulnerable and marginalized citizens; and

**WHEREAS** the expansion of protected classifications for residents, in employment, housing, public accommodations, educational facilities and public services, has included sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, age, marital status, familial status, height, weight, arrest record, physical and mental disability, and source of income; and

**WHEREAS** this same expansion of protections has occurred at the federal level since passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, American With Disabilities Act of 1990 and a host of other federal laws and judicial decisions intended to secure, protect and advance the civil rights of Americans; and

**WHEREAS** despite this positive arc of civil rights progress there has recently been a concerted and persistent effort by the executive branch of the federal government, through executive orders and departmental actions, to limit, redefine and otherwise impair the recognition, application and enforcement of civil rights, civil rights principles and related activities and actions previously secured by and for Americans who were historically and systematically denied such rights, principles, activities and action; and

**WHEREAS** despite decisions and orders by some of the federal judiciary seeking to curtail this aggressive and ostensibly unconstitutional conduct by the executive branch, the executive branch shows no signs of adhering to the foundational democratic principle of checks-and-balance, choosing instead defiance over deference to the rule of law when found to be in violation, thereby creating and deepening a crisis and climate of uncertainty around the continued enjoyment of basic human and civil rights; and

**WHEREAS** these federal efforts and actions have not eliminated or diminished the civil rights guarantees and protections contained in the Michigan Constitution, Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act and Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, laws that remain a vital and essential part of the personal protections afforded those residing in the State of Michigan; and

**WHEREAS** all Michiganders can rely on and enjoy the full resolve of support and vigilant enforcement of civil rights by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and Michigan Department of Civil Rights; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Civil Rights Commission will continue to defend, advocate for and enforce the civil rights of Michigan residents, including the receipt and investigation of complaints alleging discrimination or retaliation against all groups that enjoy the protections of our civil rights laws as heretofore mentioned; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission take measures it deems necessary to protect our residents from federal actions aiming to undermine state protections and guarantees afforded by the state civil rights laws; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission reminds all organizations, governmental units, corporations, individuals, and all others who provide employment, housing, public accommodations, educational facilities and public services of their obligations and duties under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, and the Michigan Constitution; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be provided to the Speaker of the House, Speaker Pro Tempore, Minority Leader of the Michigan House of Representatives, Senate President, President Pro Tempore, Majority and Minority Leaders of the Michigan Senate, and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.



Passed on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025, by the  
**MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Commissioner David Worthams, Chair

Commissioner Gloria E. Lara, Secretary

Commissioner Zenna Faraj Elhasan

Commissioner Rosann Barker

Commissioner Luke Londo, Vice-Chair

Commissioner Portia Roberson

Commissioner Regina Gasco

Commissioner Richard White III