



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

April 21, 2016

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: DC Council Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016”

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on April 13, 2016, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-1):

WHEREAS, Washington DC’s Human Rights Act of 1977 (amended on March 14, 2007) sought to secure an end to discrimination for any reason other than that of individual merit, including, but not limited to, discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, and place of residence or business,

WHEREAS, existing law provides for officers and employees of the District of Columbia, when away from their headquarters for official business, to receive travel expenses,

WHEREAS, when compared to other states, the District of Columbia has the highest percentage of adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to a Gallup study from 2012. At 10 percent, which is double the percentage of the second place state, and nearly triple the overall national average of 3.5 percent,

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census data shows that 5,146 District of Columbia households declared themselves as being headed by same-sex couples, representing a rate of 19 same-sex couples per 1,000 households,

WHEREAS, since March 2015, Indiana, South Dakota, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and numerous municipalities have either passed, or passed and signed into law, bills that allow for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity,

WHEREAS, religious freedom is a cornerstone of law and public policy in the United States, and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B strongly supports and affirms this important freedom,

WHEREAS, the exercise of religious freedom should not be a justification for discrimination,

WHEREAS, while Mayoral Orders are well intentioned, piecemeal efforts to address discrimination, the residents and public servants of the District of Columbia need a permanent solution, and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC must take permanent action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B urges the DC Council to consider and pass Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016”. This important law protects the District of Columbia’s public servants from discrimination and harassment and prohibits the use of DC funds to support activities in any state that affirmatively sanctions or requires discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Commissioner Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Mann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair