

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY**

PROCLAMATION NO. _____

Declaring December 2011 Transgender Children Awareness Month in Multnomah County, Oregon

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners finds, whereas:

- a. TransActive Education & Advocacy, founded by Jenn Burleton, Hayley Klug and Kaig Lightner is based in Portland and is a national leader in providing counseling, case management, education, services, advocacy and research that benefits transgender and gender non-conforming children, youth and their families; and
- b. Transgender and gender non-conforming children and youth are among the least understood, most marginalized and underserved of populations despite constituting at least 1% of all children and youth; and
- c. Isolation, marginalization and rejection contribute to alarmingly high rates of depression, low self-esteem and suicidal ideation experienced by transgender and gender non-conforming children and youth; and
- d. Transgender children who receive the love and support of their families, friends, neighbors, communities, schools and culture have every opportunity to thrive and be successful; and
- e. Transgender children and youth experience their gender in ways that are as authentic, valid and natural as cisgender children and youth; and
- f. Transgender adolescents deserve access to pediatric medical care and healthcare coverage that affords them the opportunity to experience physical puberty in a way that is affordable and congruent with their gender identity; and
- g. All Oregon children and youth are guaranteed the right to express their gender identity as they experience it by the Oregon Equality Act, and they have the right to be educated in a safe, respectful and supportive school environment as required by the Oregon Safe School Act,

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners proclaims:

The month of December 2011 as Transgender Children Awareness Month, a month of special importance and worthy of recognition of the citizens of Multnomah County.

Adopted this 1st day of December, 2011

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY**