

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
for MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

PROCLAMATION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Proclaiming March 28 – April 1, 2016 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Awareness Week in Multnomah County, Oregon.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people in Oregon face documented structural, financial and cultural barriers to accessing health care. These barriers translate into disparities for LGBTQ people when receiving preventative health care services and decreased health care utilization.
- B. LGBTQ people are often reluctant to seek care or to “come out” to health providers leading to under-screening and a lack of early intervention, likely to result in a range of health disparities relative to the general population including increased mental health issues, tobacco use, alcohol and drug use, chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancers, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.
- C. HIV/AIDS continues to devastate LGBTQ populations, particularly men who have sex with men, men of color, transgender women and youth.
- D. LGBTQ youth are much more likely to be victimized in school and to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth.
- E. Cultural competency training is a proven means to mitigate health disparities in the LGBTQ population.
- F. In recognition of National LGBT Health Awareness Week, we are committed to promoting the 2016 LGBTQ Meaningful Care Conference in Portland, OR to provide cultural competency training to over 400 health and social service providers in our region.
- G. This key step in local efforts will address social determinants of health to improve health care utilization, patient satisfaction and outcomes for LGBTQ consumers through expanding access to culturally competent care.
- H. In building these skills, providers are better equipped to address health care needs of our LGBTQ community, thus improving the lifelong health of all Oregonians.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Proclaim:

March 28 – April 1, 2016 is Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Awareness Week. We call upon our community to address inequities and promote the health and well being of all citizens regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**ADOPTED this 24th day of March, 2016.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

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**Deborah Kafoury, County Chair**

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**Jules Bailey  
Commissioner District 1**

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**Loretta Smith  
Commissioner District 2**

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**Judy Shiprack  
Commissioner District 3**

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**Diane McKeel  
Commissioner District 4**

Submitted by: Commissioner Shiprack