

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Reaffirming Multnomah County's Commitment to Preventing and Remedying Discrimination; Supporting the Civil Rights of All Citizens; and Opposing Ballot Measure 9)
)
) RESOLUTION
) 92-187
)

WHEREAS the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners believes in the personal dignity of all human beings and is committed to fostering mutual understanding and an environment free of bigotry, discrimination and physical threat; and

WHEREAS Multnomah County through prior resolutions has assumed moral responsibility for encouraging the provision of civil rights for all citizens of Multnomah County, without regard to personal factors which have no bearing on an individual's value as a productive member of the community; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Citizens Alliance is sponsoring a ballot measure that would amend the Oregon Constitution to label homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse"; and

WHEREAS both the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association have stated that homosexuality is not abnormal and implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability or general social or vocational capabilities; and

WHEREAS Ballot Measure 9 would officially link homosexuality with severe mental disorders such as pedophilia, masochism and sadism despite the profound disagreement of mainstream medical and psychiatric experts; and

WHEREAS the vagueness of Ballot Measure 9 will result in extensive litigation to clarify its meaning and effect; and

WHEREAS Multnomah County health, mental health and social service programs may be subject to modification that is inconsistent with mainstream medical and psychiatric research and practices; and

WHEREAS the proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution would pose a threat of censorship to the library collections of Multnomah County; and

WHEREAS Multnomah County values a qualified and diverse workforce and recognizes that Ballot Measure 9 may adversely impact employees who feel they must conceal information about their personal lives in order to avoid discrimination; and

WHEREAS Ballot Measure 9 could require any level of government - state, regional and local - to deny services or access to any group thought to promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality including use of facilities such as the Exposition Center; and

WHEREAS Ballot Measure 9 would remove "sexual orientation" from Oregon's malicious hate-crime statute.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners denounces Ballot Measure 9 as purposefully misleading, hateful toward gay and lesbian people, and an attempt to limit government efforts to prevent discrimination.

ADOPTED this 29th day of October, 1992.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



By

Gladys McCoy
Gladys McCoy
Multnomah County Chair

REVIEWED:

LAURENCE KRESSEL, COUNTY COUNSEL
for Multnomah County, Oregon

By

Peter Livingston
Peter Livingston