

March 6th 2017

Letter to Hamilton City Council

I am writing in support of the "Transgender Protocol" that is currently before Council for consideration .

I came to Hamilton in 1986 to study Science at McMaster, where I also earned my Medical Degree. I left to do my internship in another city but found myself longing for the vitality and diversity I had come to enjoy in Hamilton. I returned to finish my Family Medicine Residency in the North End. Now, I have worked in this region for over twenty years, serving some of our most marginalized populations.

Unfortunately, one of those populations is the Trans community. It is now well recognized that Trans men and women are disproportionately represented among the homeless, the poor, and those who attempt, or worse, complete suicide. These outcomes are due in large part to widespread systemic discrimination. By not having a Protocol for Trans citizens, the City of Hamilton is complicit in this persistent marginalization.

You, *WE*, have an opportunity to reduce and even remove some of the obstacles that contribute to this group's oppression locally.

Like any of the critical segments of our diverse city, when Trans people thrive, we all thrive.

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