A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
PROTECTING DC’S PUBLIC SERVANTS FROM DISCRIMINATION

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 1B strongly supports and affirms this important freedom.

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

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

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

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that the Council consider and pass 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.

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Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 9 Commissioners present at its April 7, 2016, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B voted, with 9 Yea, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.

James A. Turner  
Chair ANC 1B  
Commissioner SMD 1B09

LaKisha Brown  
Secretary ANC 1B  
Commissioner SMD 1B04

Robb Hudson  
Public Policy Advocate ANC 1B  
Commissioner SMD 1B11

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B serves the communities of Columbia Heights, LeDroit Park, Pleasant Plains, Shaw, U Street, University Heights, and lower Georgia Avenue.