

From: [M.UhIP](#)
To: [Public Testimony](#)
Subject: Ordinance 231032
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 11:15:50 AM

Good morning Council,

I am grateful to live and work in a place where the City Council values all people, no matter their identity. Thank you for hearing this ordinance today.

I have been a primary care physician in the heart of Kansas City for over 14 years. I am also the co Medical Director for our LGBT+ Specialty Clinic and the Health Commissioner for the Kansas City LGBT Commission. My patient panel is extremely diverse. Many have shared stories, intimate and painful recollections of their daily life experiences. Too many have been targets of hateful words, bullying/aggression, and hate crimes because of their identities. This should not be the norm and must not be accepted. Hate crimes are a public health emergency and are damaging in numerous ways. Being the victim of a hate crime can result in severe physical and mental health problems. Hate crimes negate community and democracy. We must work in the opposite direction, building affirming, inclusive, and welcoming cities. Such cities are healthier places to live and work.

Passing ordinance 231032 places a firm stance, concretely saying there is no place for hate in our city. It tells some of our most marginalized and underrepresented citizens that they are indeed welcomed, valued, and most importantly safe in Kansas City. Safety is a basic human right. Human beings are the most productive, healthiest, and happiest when they feel safe.

I am in clinic all day or I would be there in person to discuss.
Please reach out with questions or further discussion.

Sincerely,

Dr. Molly Uhlenhake