



County of Monterey

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 26-176

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey Designating the County as a Sanctuary)
for Transgender, Gender Queer, Non-Binary, Gender Fluid, and Intersex Individuals.....)

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey is committed to the values of equality, human rights, and the protection of its diverse community members, recognizing that the health and safety of all residents are paramount to a thriving society; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has led the nation in protecting LGBTQ+ rights, notably through the passage of SB 107 (2022), which safeguards individuals seeking or providing gender-affirming healthcare from out-of-state legal repercussions and interference; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors acknowledges that major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recognize gender-affirming care as essential, evidence-based, and lifesaving; and

WHEREAS, despite California’s protections, an unprecedented increase in legislative attacks on gender-affirming care in other jurisdictions poses a direct threat to the mental health and safety of transgender and gender-diverse individuals, many of whom may seek refuge within the **County of Monterey**; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth in Monterey County and beyond report significantly higher rates of distress and suicidality when faced with hostile political climates, making local affirmations of safety a public health necessity; and

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey **Health Department’s Behavioral Health Bureau** has established the Rainbow Connections Network of Affirming Care, a growing collaboration of local providers and community-based organizations dedicated to expanding access to welcoming, affirming resources and services, building provider capacity, reducing barriers to care and ensuring that services are visible and available to the residents who need them; and

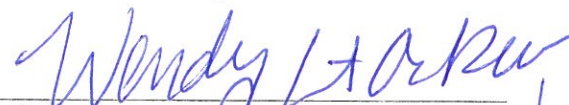
WHEREAS, local community advocates and organizations—such as **The Epicenter**, **The Diversity Center**, **Salinas Valley Pride**, and **Monterey Peninsula Pride**—have identified these gaps as urgent priorities for the well-being of our residents; and


WHEREAS, the County of Monterey is committed to fostering a workplace where all employees, including those who are transgender, genderqueer, non-binary, gender fluid, and intersex, are treated with dignity and respect, are free from discrimination and harassment, and are empowered to bring their full, authentic selves to their work in service of the public;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, that:

1. **Sanctuary Designation:** The County of Monterey is hereby declared a **Sanctuary County** for transgender, gender queer, non-binary, gender fluid, and intersex individuals, affirming their right to live authentically and safely.
2. **Protection of Care:** The County shall support the principles of SB 107, ensuring that County resources are not used to facilitate out-of-state investigations or prosecutions related to legally protected gender-affirming healthcare.
3. **Commitment to Access to Services:** The County Health Department will continue to ensure our patients and clients have access to gender affirming care within our system and through referrals to our extended network and will partner with the Central California Alliance for Health to evaluate any gaps and identify strategies to close them within our County-managed care provider network to expand the availability of gender-affirming care.
4. **Solidarity:** The County of Monterey stands in firm solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, reinforcing its position as a beacon of safety, dignity, and support for all people, regardless of gender identity or expression.
5. **Collaboration and Network Expansion.** Continue to bolster the Rainbow Connections Network of Affirming Care, comprised of local providers and community-based organizations dedicated to ensuring access to welcoming, affirming resources and services; building provider capacity; reducing barriers to care and ensuring that services are visible and available to the residents who need them.

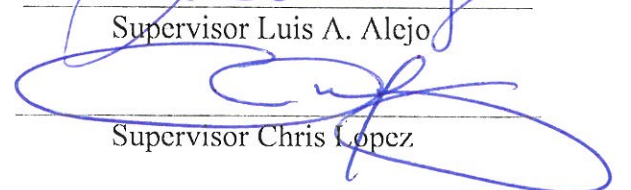
PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 16th day of June 2026


Chair Supervisor Wendy Root Askew


Vice Chair Supervisor Kate Daniels


Supervisor Luis A. Alejo


Supervisor Glenn Church


Supervisor Chris Lopez

