

INGHAM COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
COUNTY CONVENTION OF JANUARY 24, 2023  
SPARE TIME ENTERTAINMENT CENTER  
3101 E GRAND RIVER AVE  
LANSING, MICHIGAN

OFFICERS PRESENT: Brian Jackson  
Trisha Gerring  
Ted Lawson  
Robin Smith  
Sheila Nicholas  
Floresio Hernandez

OFFICERS ABSENT: Veronica Johnson

**Convention Called to Order**

Chairperson Jackson called the January 24, 2023 County Convention to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Election of Permanent Convention Chairperson**

Moved by Secretary Lawson to nominate Vice Chairperson Smith for Permanent Convention Chairperson. There were no other nominations and Vice Chairperson Smith was elected by acclamation.

**Appointment of Convention Secretary**

Moved by Chairperson Jackson, supported by Treasurer Gerring, to appoint Secretary Lawson to Convention Secretary.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Credentialing Report**

Convention Secretary Lawson reported that there were 27 credentialed delegates in attendance.

**Resolutions to be forwarded to the Michigan Democratic Party**

Moved by Kathleen Johnston-Calti, supported by Jim Deline, to forward the Resolution to Ban the Use of Conversion Therapy on Minors to the Michigan Democratic Party for consideration at the February State Convention.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention Committees**

Nicklas Zande was elected Male Delegate to the Rules Committee by acclamation.

Elena Greer was elected Female Alternate to the Rules Committee.

Heath Lowry was elected Male Delegate to the Resolutions Committee by acclamation.

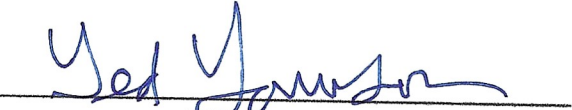
Robin Smith was elected Female Delegate to the Resolutions Committee by acclamation.

Jeffrey Brown was elected Male Delegate to the Credentials Committee.

Brenda Kopf was elected Female Alternate to the Credentials Committee.

**Adjournment**

Convention Chairperson Smith adjourned the Convention at 7:45 p.m.

  
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TED LAWSON, SECRETARY

## **RESOLUTION TO BAN THE USE OF CONVERSION THERAPY ON MINORS**

**WHEREAS** being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning is part of the natural spectrum of human identity, not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming and the major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact for nearly 40 years and

**WHEREAS** violence, bullying, discrimination and social stigmatization for being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning is widespread and a national crisis, and

**WHEREAS** a United Nations report found that practices of conversion therapy are degrading, inflict suffering and are rooted in the belief that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning individuals are inferior, and that they must modify their orientation or identity to remedy that supposed inferiority, and

**WHEREAS** conversion therapy pressures gender non-conforming children to view themselves and their sexual orientation or gender identity as pathological and inferior, the practice of conversion therapy represents a form of emotional violence and

**WHEREAS** bias against individuals based on actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression negatively affects mental health, contributing to an enduring sense of stigma and pervasive self-criticism through the internalization of such prejudice and

**WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association reports that sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts can pose critical health risks including depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, self-blame, hostility and blame toward parents, feelings of anger and betrayal, a feeling of being dehumanized and a loss of faith, and

**WHEREAS** all children have an equal right to health and well-being and in actions concerning children, the best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration, and

**WHEREAS** children are even more vulnerable than adults to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and require special measures of protection that take into account their particular vulnerability vis-a-vis the State, but also vis-a-vis their families and other individuals, and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, an estimated 20,000 youth ages 14 to 17 will be subjected to conversion therapy by licensed health care professionals annually and

**WHEREAS** there is no sound scientific evidence that innate sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed, the provision of any intervention purporting to “treat” something that is not a disorder is wholly unethical, and

**WHEREAS** at least 20 other states have banned conversion therapy for minors, bills were previously introduced but failed in both Michigan’s House and Senate, and ordinances banning the practice have been passed in at least seven Michigan cities, and

**WHEREAS** the Democratic Party has a compelling interest in upholding the human rights of all children to equality, health, and well-being, and in protecting them against the negative consequences of unethical professional practices to which they are especially vulnerable due to their minority, and therefore it is

**RESOLVED**, that the Ingham County Democratic Party asks the Michigan Democratic Party pass a resolution calling on the state legislature to adopt legislation banning the use of conversion therapy on minors within the state of Michigan.