

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA  
HUMAN RELATIONS ACT THAT WOULD ADD SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND  
GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION AS PROTECTED CLASSES**

**WHEREAS**, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community frequently experience discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression which discrimination interferes with the ability to obtain employment, housing and services;

**WHEREAS**, the direct negative and secondary effects of discriminatory practices involving the personal characteristics described above in matters of employment, housing and public accommodation are well known and have been extensively studied and demonstrated;

**WHEREAS**, currently 13 Pennsylvania political subdivisions have enacted legislation that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 2003-10 protects all Commonwealth employees under the Governor's jurisdiction against employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;

**WHEREAS**, The Commonwealth has amended the Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism Act to impose enhanced penalties for committing certain crimes involving threats or violence toward a person because of that person's sexual orientation or gender identity;

**WHEREAS**, piecemeal enforcement of such basic civil rights in the areas of employment, public accommodations and housing and commercial property leads to confusion and misunderstanding and results in the continued occurrence of discriminatory treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has long been on record as supporting legislation that would add sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression to the list of protected classes found within the Human Relations Act, including Commission support offered for companion bills (HB 3000, P.N. 4854 and SB 912, P.N. 1559) that were introduced during the last legislative session;

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission continues to support amending the Human Relations Act to add sexual orientation, gender identity or expression to the list of protected classes found within the Human Relations Act, as evidenced most recently, by a Commission vote on April 23, 2007 to support SB 761, P.N. 838 that was introduced on April 12, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 1400 similarly amending the Human Relations Act was introduced on June 13, 2007.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pennsylvania Bar Association supports an amendment that would add sexual orientation, and gender identity or expression to the list of protected classes found within the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the PBA authorizes its president and officers to communicate the content of this resolution to the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Bar's membership, to the press, the general public, and to whomsoever it deems appropriate.

**Approved by the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association June 22, 2007**