
Support for Sanctuary City resolution before City Council 3/5/26

From Robin Knauerhase <robin@knauerhase.com>

Date Wed 3/4/2026 4:05 PM

To Info <info@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from robin@knauerhase.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening. I was hoping to offer input over Zoom, but had an inescapable conflict, so I'm submitting a written statement.

My name is Robin Knauerhase. I am "out" as a woman of trans experience. However, I am writing on behalf of the Community Advisory Board of the Transgender Health Program of Oregon Health Science University (OHSU), and I know the THP has many current and former patients who have benefitted from our world-class trans-specific healthcare in southwest Washington, definitely including Stevenson proper.

For the THP board, and personally as well, I would like to strongly support the resolution proposing that Stevenson be a Sanctuary City for transgender people. As you may know, trans people are under literal attack throughout the country. States in the middle of the country are denying healthcare, driver licenses, and psychological therapy, as well as sports participation and bathroom use, for children and adults. Worse, these states are beginning to attempt enforcement of their laws *across state lines* with "litigation bounties" and requests for information about private matters within our state boundaries. No matter one's position on transgender equality, this sort of cross-state enforcement is dangerous and unconstitutional.

I served for many years on the board of the Living Room, a hangout center and support structure for LGBT youth in Oregon City. People were sometimes surprised that there would be a need outside "downtown Portland", but there **absolutely** was. I assure you -- there are transgender people and youth in Stevenson, as well as children, grandchildren, and friends/relatives of the city's citizens. These people need, and **deserve**, protection.

Sanctuary, outside of church definition, means "a secure, designated area providing safety and refuge for people." Everyone deserves to feel safe. Whether or not every individual in town supports trans equality, passing this resolution would provide safety and refuge to transgender people and those who love and/or support them.

I ask you to **please** have the courage and compassion to designate Stevenson as a Trans Sanctuary City with both tangible and intangible support for these vulnerable people as spelled out in the resolution before the Council this evening.

Sincerely,

Robin Knauerhase

Member, Community Advisory Board for Trans Health at OHSU