



Board of Directors
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley
1702-L Meridian Ave #205
San Jose, CA 95125

October 30, 2018

Honorable Mayor and City Council
San Jose City Hall
200 E. Santa Clara Street,
San Jose, CA

RE: Legal Definition of Sex and Gender Under Title IX

Established in 1999, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley represents over 100 LGBT and ally owned businesses, business owners, and professionals in the great San Jose-Silicon Valley area. Our mission is to create a vibrant LGBT-supportive business community through development, education, promotion and advocacy.

The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce was born of the need to protect, educate, and advocate for our local LGBT-owned businesses and LGBT professionals in Silicon Valley. Today, transgender Americans face special hardships, including dramatically higher levels of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and harassment because of their gender identity and/or expression.

Despite this, the Trump administration in Washington has maliciously singled out these vulnerable members of our community for further indignities by trying to erase their public presence, legalize harassment against them, and force them back into the closet. Since taking office, President Trump has tried to purge them from the armed forces, deny them access to health care, deny them employment protections, and deny them equal access to educational benefits under Title IX. In the face of the New York Times' explosive revelations that DHS is leading yet another anti-trans campaign within the federal government, action is necessary.

Given these developments, we are heartened to see that our local officials are taking a stand to support us. We whole-heartedly endorse and support Vice Mayor Magdalena Carrasco's October 25th Memo calling for the City Council to pass a resolution opposing any changes that would erase transgender people. We encourage the City Council to act on this Memo without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "RDG".

Ron Gardner, President
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley
Email: RonG@GridleyCompany.com