



Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Legislation Text

File #: RS2022-1929, **Version:** 1

A resolution recognizing Hedy Weinberg's service as Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) of Tennessee is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to defending and advancing civil liberties and civil rights through advocacy, coalition-building, litigation, legislative lobbying, community mobilization, and public education; and

WHEREAS, at the end of June 2022, Hedy Weinberg stepped down as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee after more than 37 years in the position; and

WHEREAS, Weinberg was named Executive Director in 1984 and was tasked with relocating the state headquarters to Nashville after the organization's board voted to focus more on legislative affairs; and

WHEREAS, under her direction, the organization grew from a staff of two to twelve and added several departments. They expanded their geographic footprint across the state, grew in financial strength, and expanded their base to over 80,000 subscribers and followers, and 11,000 members and counting; and

WHEREAS, Weinberg drew inspiration for her work from the history of the Highlander Center's labor and civil rights organizing, the Nashville college-student lunch counter sit-ins, and the Memphis sanitation worker's strike; and

WHEREAS, during Weinberg's tenure, the ACLU of Tennessee became Tennessee's leading statewide organization in the fight for civil liberties and civil rights. Pivotal moments include:

- Leading the opposition to the privatization of the Tennessee prison system, in partnership with AFSCME (1985);
- Spearheading the successful defeat of legislation to chill the teaching of evolution in public schools (1993);
- Challenging the state abortion statute and establishing a Tennessee constitutional right to privacy (2000);
- Leading a legislative campaign to establish "sexual orientation" as a protected category in state law for the first time in Tennessee (2003);
- Co-founding the "Nashville for All of Us" coalition, which led to the defeat of the city's English-only ballot initiative (2009);
- Successfully challenging a law undermining voter registration (2019);
- Challenging laws excluding transgender athletes from school teams and requiring businesses to post anti-trans restroom signs (2021); and

WHEREAS, her most recent accomplishment before stepping down was establishing TRANScend Tennessee, a statewide transgender justice education and advocacy initiative; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognizes Hedy Weinberg's many years of dedicated service to the people of Nashville and Tennessee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Hedy Weinberg's service as Executive Director of the ACLU of Tennessee.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.