

Keri O'Brien

From: Loretta DiTocco <lorettamdt@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 4:51 PM
To: City Clerk External E-Mail; District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; Mayor E-Mail
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pass resolution to oppose SB 1134 and HB 1001

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Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Members of the Key West City Commission:

I urge you to pass the resolution opposing Senate Bill 1134 and House Bill 1001 and to send a clear message to Tallahassee that Key West will not quietly accept legislation that undermines our ability to govern ourselves.

These bills pose a direct challenge to Florida's long-standing home rule tradition. Their broad and vague language would restrict what our City can fund, promote, or recognize if it relates in any way to diversity, equity, or inclusion. That scope is so sweeping it could touch cultural festivals, heritage celebrations, tourism marketing, arts programming, and even translated emergency communications that help protect non-English-speaking residents during hurricanes. These are not fringe activities. They are core functions of a community like ours.

Beyond the policy concerns, both bills create a private right of action. That means anyone could sue the City over routine municipal decisions. Even meritless lawsuits cost money to defend. Those are taxpayer dollars that should be going to public safety, infrastructure, and storm preparedness — not to courtroom battles over unclear statutory language. The added contracting restrictions could also increase procurement costs and slow important projects.

Key West's diversity is not a political slogan. It is our economy. It is our culture. It is our identity. Visitors come here because of our history, our arts, and our welcoming spirit. Residents stay because we value community and inclusion. Legislation that chills that spirit risks real economic harm and creates unnecessary legal and financial exposure for our City.

This resolution is not about partisanship. It is about protecting local decision-making and ensuring that our elected officials can respond to the unique needs of this community without fear of liability for routine governance.

I respectfully ask you to vote yes on this resolution and to stand up for Key West's home rule authority, fiscal responsibility, and cultural vitality.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Respectfully,
Loretta M Di Tocco
Key West, Florida