



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Anthony P. Monaco, *President*

September 4, 2015

The Honorable Charles Baker
Office of the Governor
Massachusetts State House, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I write to you on behalf of Tufts University to express support for the passage of H. 1577 and S. 735: An Act Relative to Gender Identity and Non-discrimination.

Tufts is proud of its history of advancing equity and inclusion for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of its university community, who have found a welcoming home at Tufts thanks to intentional efforts to create safe spaces and policies that address their needs. We have just been named to the Top 25 Campus Pride "Best of the Best" LGBTQ-Friendly Colleges and Universities list.

We are committed to ensuring that transgender persons are full members of our university community, and amended our non-discrimination policy in 2005 to protect all faculty, staff, and students on the basis of gender identity and expression. We recognize, however, that transgender persons at Tufts do not yet have the same protections when they are not on our campus. We urge the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to do its part in protecting all members of the Tufts community through this important legislation.

Further, quick passage of H. 1577 and S. 735 will send an important message of welcome and unity to everyone who calls the Bay State home. This new law would signal the fact that Massachusetts is a progressive state with forward-thinking leaders. At this time, we would also find ourselves in the good company of 17 other states and the District of Columbia that provide full protections under the law to transgender persons.

It is my sincere hope and belief that the leaders of Massachusetts will once again illustrate, as Dr. Martin Luther King suggests, that the arc of the moral universe does indeed bend toward justice. At Tufts, we support the passage of this history-making bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Monaco".

Anthony P. Monaco
President