

**From:** Ty Cooper <ty.cooper@crosswaylacrosse.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:22 AM  
**To:** ZZ City Clerk External  
**Subject:** AGAINST Ordinance #Sec.32-191 / File #22-0636 / Conversion Therapy

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Attention: La Crosse City Council Members

Regarding: City Ordinance Concerning "Conversion Therapy" File #22-0636

Dear Council,

I am Sr Pastor of Crossway Church, meeting at the Footwear Building in La Crosse. It was just this week I was introduced to this ordinance being presented for a vote at tonight's council meeting, and would like to voice my strong opposition to adopting it as it is written.

### Religious Rights

While we all want to protect children / teens from what we know is abusive therapies for any situations, this proposed ordinance goes beyond the goal and actually can be used to try to control religious organizations conversation and pastoral or Christian care. Probably without realizing the full impact of this ordinance, if the city implements it, the city will be imposing regulations which would infringe on both religious and free speech rights.

Please, this must not happen.

## The Right To Choose

Children and their families must be protected in their right to choose. For instance: if a 14 year old boy wants to get Pastoral and spiritual counseling to help him in his journey concerning gender and sexual identity, then he should be free to do this. Even if he wants to get away from homosexuality. Then, at any time, this same boy could walk away and choose someone else who would give different council. His right to choose must be protected.

I personally know, as a Pastor, many who have experienced mental healing and peace from spiritual counseling and Christian reparative therapies. Mental healing seems to be the goal. Pastors are here to help in the spiritual aspects of people.

There are a number of other reasons to NOT ADOPT this ordinance. I would be more than willing to discuss these with all the city council members.

I ask that the City Council vote no on this ordinance and if protection from abuses is needed, write a new ordinance with wording that focuses on those abuses.

Sincerely,

Ty Cooper

Sr Pastor

Crossway Church, La Crosse, WI

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