

From: Louise Schmal <dschmal98@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:29 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Support of 22-0636: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191

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Good afternoon. I am emailing to express my deepest support of 22-0636: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse prohibiting Conversion Therapy.

I am of the position that conversion therapy is not just immoral on any grounds supporting a happy, healthy community, but inhuman.

Though conversion therapy can range from the mild of "just talk" and discussion over opinions of sexual and gender orientation, it has been proven over again that often times talk is not the only method used to "correct" orientations in this therapy. Regardless if the council agrees with one being apart of the queer community, I believe everyone can agree that being told a firmly held belief is incorrect can hurt. The further the belief runs, the deeper the hurt. At that point in development, children need to be nurtured, as opposed to subjected to a therapy that tells them their exploration is wrong (An exploration that often hurts very few - if any at all).

Though every person in this world hates to think of harm coming to a member of their community, it is doubled when it is from one's own community. This ordinance would enable a sense of security in one avenue of that concern. In fact, I would be more willing to move to La Crosse if I were considering a permanent residence if I knew that conversion therapy was banned.

However. To speak in a much more personal way, I will attest to the fear even the suggestion of conversion therapy holds. I was aware of my orientations when I was just a child, and due to the threat of conversion therapy, an area of my relationship with my parents has been irrevocably damaged. Even the threat of conversion therapy proves detrimental in even just the family. I would like to point to the argument offered continually by those in dissent of this ordinance, that this ordinance will hurt the family unit I am proof to the opposite.

I offer my very being as an example of the damage that allowing conversion therapy to persist in our community can do. It not just can, but conversion therapy DOES damage the core family. It already has, without even being truly utilized on me.

I beg of the council to approve this ordinance and save future relationships of family members.

Thank you for your time

Lou Schmal (they/them)