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From: cvm <cvanmaren@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 10:22 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External; ZZ Council Members; Reynolds, Mitch
Subject: [SPAM] Please support conversion therapy ban #

Importance: Low

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Dear Council Members and Mayor,

I am emailing in support of a city ban on so-called conversion therapy, #22-0636. As you know, this practice has been found to be dangerous to the health of young people.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, "... finds no evidence to support the application of any 'therapeutic intervention' operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression is pathological. Furthermore, based on the scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such 'conversion therapies' (or other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular sexual orientation and/or gender as a preferred outcome) lack scientific credibility and clinical utility. Additionally, there is evidence that such interventions are harmful. As a result, 'conversion therapies' should not be part of any behavioral health treatment of children and adolescents."

According to the Human Rights Campaign, "California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico all have laws or regulations protecting youth from this harmful practice. Eight of these state laws or regulations were enacted under Republican governors. A growing number of municipalities have also enacted similar protections, including at least 70 cities and counties in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington and Wisconsin."

In an [issue brief on conversion therapy](#), the American Medical Association notes, "The American Medical Association and GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality (GLMA) oppose the use of reparative or conversion therapy for sexual orientation or gender identity. Other medical societies have policies or statements similarly opposing these policies, including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Other health care associations have similar policies, including the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American School Counselor Association, the American School Health Association, the World Psychiatric Association and the Pan American Health Organization: Regional Office of the World Health Organization."

This practice is harmful. Since our gerrymandered state legislature has blocked attempts to ban the practice at the state level, it is up to municipalities to protect our residents. This is an issue affecting many La Crosse residents and their families, as we know from the many brave souls who have spoken about their experiences. It is in your power to help them. I hope that you will.

I understand there may be a lawsuit, but that must not deter you from doing the right thing. We cannot negotiate the lives and safety of our young people with bullies.

Thank you.

Cathy Van Maren
2815 Highland Street
La Crosse