

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

For Immediate Release

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YWCA La Crosse statement of solidarity: A Call for the End of Conversion Therapy for Minors in the La Crosse Community.

LA CROSSE, Wisconsin - YWCA La Crosse stands in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ community, the Student Association of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, our partners at The Center: 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection, and Cia Siab, Inc., in support of a resolution banning conversion therapy in La Crosse.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, conversion therapy, also referred to as reparative therapy, has been found to be "harmful to LGBTQ people" and many medical and professional organizations have discredited it as being ineffective, including the American Psychiatric Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Most importantly, the LGBTQIA+ community have courageously shared countless stories of the trauma that this harmful practice has caused and we seek to raise these voices in support of their testimony and in support of this local effort to protect our community from further harm.

LGBTQIA+ youth face high level of discrimination and are six times more likely to experience depression and eight times more likely to attempt suicide, according to the Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing. Banning this harmful practice will better support youth and families in our community by communicating clearly that La Crosse welcomes our LGBTQIA+ family and will not tolerate abusive practices masquerading as healthcare.

As we celebrate pride month in June, we look forward to celebrating proudly when our Common Council passes this ordinance and affirms the human rights of our local LGBTQIA+ family.

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