

Elsen, Nikki

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Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2022 4:54 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Opposition of ban on conversion therapy

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Dear Council Members:

Please reconsider and ultimately rescind this ordinance banning so-called conversion therapy.

Reconsideration of this ordinance is an admission on the part of the city council and the city attorney that this ordinance is a violation of the rights of the citizens of La Crosse.

The city of La Crosse has no authority to make a law that targets persons or institutions for their ideology or for their firmly held religious beliefs.

Even if the council puts back in "for a fee" so that pastors and school counselors are exempt, the ordinance will still violate constitutionally protected rights of private business owners to run their business according to their sincerely held beliefs. Even state licensing requirements have to submit to the United States Constitution.

You also have to consider that the reason this speech is protected is so that everyone is allowed to practice their beliefs and to raise their children according to those beliefs. Our society ceases to be free when one segment of the population tells the other segment how to think and then sets up a police state to enforce those beliefs. This is essentially what the city council has done. They are prudent to reconsider, but until the ordinance is gone, La Crosse will not be free.