

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:11 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: PMHNP in support of protecting youth

From: Monica Gorski <monica@conscious-practice.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 10:33 PM
To: ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: PMHNP in support of protecting youth

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Dear Common Council Members,

I am writing to express my endorsement of amending city law to prohibit the use of conversion therapy in La Crosse.

As a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, I understand the painful history of the field of psychiatry as agents of coercion and violence where there should only be respect and care. Much of my career is aimed at repairing the harm people in my role have done to people seeking help.

I am intimately familiar with how harmful mental health "treatment" can be when it is rooted in bigotry. I have seen the tremendous harm that mental health clinicians cause when they pathologize young people who are just trying to be themselves, exploring or describing their sexual identity or gender in ways that defy outdated norms.

Conversion therapy in particular is a systematically unfounded approach that is traumatizing, unscientific, and of course ineffective at its reprehensible goal. Like other abusive practices in mental health, it belongs nowhere but in history books.

The community of La Crosse should be clear in its rejection of dangerous pseudoscience and abusive interventions. I encourage the Common Council to support this ordinance to protect residents, especially youth who are queer or gender nonconforming, from abuse.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Monica Gorski, MSN, APNP, PMHNP, PMH-C
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Certified Perinatal Mental Health Professional
Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART) Certified Therapist
Creator & Sustainer of Conscious Practice - Holistic Psychiatric Services
www.conscious-practice.com
Pronouns: she/her/hers

