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To: ZZ City Clerk External
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If you are unaware, BRF is in a "War of the Genders". Why?? Because of a SUPPORT plan for OUR children. There is an ALT-right Christian group that is spreading hate. There is a school board MEMBER, YES MEMBER, who posts almost daily about his dislike for the LGBTQ+ community. There is such a HUGE. DIVIDE. in our county, our country, and who do you think is hurting? Our children.

The children that are trying to figure themselves out. The children who feel that their brain does not match their body. LGBTQ+ youth are 3.5 times as likely to attempt suicide as their heterosexual peers. The suicide rate among trans teens are 5.87 times higher than the average among all teens. Gay and lesbian youth are 3.71 times more likely to attempt suicide. Bisexual youth are 3.69 times more likely to attempt suicide than teens who identified as heterosexual (Newport Academy, 2022).

Why do they not matter? Because a book? A book of stories? Stories that have been passed down, rewritten, parts removed, parts added as scare tactics? Say that again, but say, "These children do not matter because *I* believe in a book."

That makes sense to you? Please explain. I PROMISE I WILL LISTEN, but do not give me scripture. I know the bible. I studied the bible as a Catholic, as a Penicostal, studied with Jehovah's Witnesses, and Muslims. Every religion has their own interpretation of what the bible "really means". So, which religion is right?

Science says there are only 2 genders. Mr. Board Member likes to point that out when he cannot use God as his reason. There are hundreds, upon thousands of scholarly articles stating the bible, Jesus, Noah's Ark, the splitting of the Red Sea, immaculate conception does not and never did exist. Again I ask, who is right? Science or your beliefs?

I rarely watch the news. It's too much. Yesterday I found out LaCrosse is trying to BAN conversion therapy. CONVERSION. THERAPY. You cannot "pray the gay away". The Lord makes no mistakes, correct? Maybe this IS His path He chose for this child! Instead of accepting your own flesh and blood, you sink their souls deeper into that dark, scary hole. You TELL them their brains are wrong. You TELL them you do not validate their feelings. And you TELL them nobody will love them for being who they really are. Is it because of the book again? Say it out loud. "I cannot and will not love my child because of a book."

If my child said they felt their body had betrayed their heart, their brain, their soul...yes, I would get them into therapy. Not because of a book. For extra support, to learn extra coping skills, to have another person to talk to about all they hate they get for living their truth. Do you see the difference?

The LGBTQ+ youth matter. Their existence matter. Their identity matter. Put down your book. Embrace the child. They deserve to be supported, to be loved, and to live!

I support the ban on conversion therapy.

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