

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: FW: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse prohibiting Conversion Therapy Support

From: Lindsey Strzyzewski <strzyzewski3701@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:53 AM
To: Elsen, Nikki <Elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse prohibiting Conversion Therapy Support

*** **CAUTION:** This email originated from an external sender. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

Good morning,

I am attaching a statement that I would like read tonight at the meeting for 22-0636: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse prohibiting Conversion Therapy:

To those on the La Crosse City council, residents of the La Crosse City, and those who are interested in this ordinance

I was not able to make it today, but my name is Lindsey Strzyzewski and I am in support of this ordinance. I am a recent graduate of UWL, the former Senator representing the School of Education for UWL Student Association for 2 years, and a future 6th grade teacher starting the next school year. I was also one of the authors of the Resolution Supporting a La Crosse Conversion Therapy Ban from Student Association, and a firm believer in supporting all individuals. As a future educator I need to reach all of my students, and after finding out that Conversion Therapy is still legal here, I was not able to sit idly by and not do something.

To those who were not able to read the resolution we wrote, we state that this is not a dead practice. Over 600,000 United States citizens have received conversion therapy, and over half of those were minors. You can still see the relevance today. We also found that there is a low percentage of people in the Midwest (19%) who support conversion therapy, so a ban would mean that most people see why it is important for a ban. Also, every mainstream medical and mental health organization discredited the practice of conversion therapy.

Allowing for Conversion Therapy for minors to stay legal in La Crosse displays a lack of community if certain individuals can still undergo such a harmful practice. We need to support our students and the minors who may not feel that support in their personal life.

La Crosse can influence other cities to also ban this practice, just like the other 13 communities in Wisconsin who influenced the authors of the resolution in UWL Student Association to work towards banning it.

I hope that you all take the time to see the dangers of Conversion Therapy and the harm if we do not move forward with this ban, and also really question why it has been legal for this long.

Lindsey Strzyzewski
She/her(s)
Education Major and Mathematics Minor
UWL School of Education Senator