

Craig, Sondra

From: Grace Deason <gracedeason3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:55 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Comment on agenda item for tonight's J&A meeting

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Dear members of the Judiciary and Administration committee,

I am writing to express my support of 22-0636: AN ORDINANCE to create Sec. 32-191 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse prohibiting Conversion Therapy introduced by Councilperson Kiel. This ordinance is an important step to protect the health and safety of members of the La Crosse community, particularly those who are young and/or vulnerable.

Although conversion therapy is still used, and may even be used by well-meaning practitioners, the use of such therapies has been thoroughly discredited by all of the major scientific and medical organizations with the knowledge and credibility to express an opinion on the matter. This includes the American Psychological Association which is the predominant authority in my own academic discipline.

Not only is conversion therapy ineffective according to the science, it also appears to harm those whom it purports to help. Harming patients is unacceptable anywhere, but particularly in La Crosse, where people from across the region expect to receive high-quality care from knowledgeable, competent providers.

Moreover, homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgender identities are not illnesses or mental disorders and therefore do not require treatment.

The city of La Crosse should pass this ordinance and protect the community from these unnecessary harms, particularly LGBTQ+ youth who may be subjected to such therapy without their consent.

Sincerely,
Grace Deason
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La Crosse, WI
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