

**From:** dannirakulenovic <dannirakulenovic@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:53 PM  
**To:** ZZ City Clerk External  
**Subject:** Regarding Conversion Therapy (aka Child Abuse)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Conversion therapy, also known as "reparative therapy", is a harmful practice that causes trauma and irreparable damage to children across the nation. The APA has stated that homosexuality is normal, and that there is no evidence that conversion therapy is a helpful practice (read more: <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/sexual-orientation>). 19 states have banned conversion therapy for minors along with many other municipalities due to the harm it causes children.

Conservatives like to argue that they are trying to "protect the children" by passing legislature that specifically harms the LGBTQ+ community. I would argue that allowing conversion or "reparative" therapy to continue in our community will harm children more than providing them with support, love, and resources that allow them to express themselves. LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide compared to their peers, with an attempt occurring every 45 seconds (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020). 45% of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered suicide in the last year, according to the Trevor Project 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health. The research clearly shows that LGBTQ+ youth are at risk and need protection and support.

I challenge the members of the city board to truly protect children by banning conversion therapy in the city of La Crosse.

Sincerely,

D. K.