

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 10:27 AM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: Fw: Conversion therapy ban

From: Amanda Strosahl <strosdell@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 8:34:27 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Conversion therapy ban

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Greetings,

I am writing to you in support of banning conversion therapy. I am a recently retired Internal Medicine physician from Gundersen Health Systems. During my 36 years of practicing medicine, I provided hormone therapy for many patients undergoing hormonal gender transition, so I speak from years of experience. Many of my patients spoke of "knowing" they were in the wrong body for many years and for some from ages as young as 3 years old. Conversion therapy would be very harmful for these patients. The government has NO role in deciding when hormone therapy is or is not indicated for transgender patients or for what kind of supportive psychotherapy is indicated for people who identify as LGBT+. These decisions should be left in the hands of medical professionals in conjunction with their patients..

The practice of conversion therapy has been disavowed by major medical associations including the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association. All major mental health organizations have deemed conversion therapy as unethical, ineffective and dangerous to the wellbeing of patients. I am especially concerned about an increase in risk of suicide in LGBT youth if conversion therapy was not banned. According to a 2019 USA Article, "suicide attempts nearly tripled for LGBT young people who reported both home-based efforts to change their sexual orientation by parents and formal intervention efforts by external

parties, such as therapist and religious leaders." And data from the Pew Research Center notes that LGB youth are five-times more likely to have attempted suicide than their heterosexual peers, and that 40% of transgender adults have attempted suicide (92% of those before the age of 25). Societal "norms" and pressures have an immense impact on our youth. It is the responsibility of our leaders to fight against adversity, protect our citizens, and create a brighter future for our children. We must do everything in our power to ensure those pressures don't include government sanctioned emotional and mental abuse, such as conversion therapy.

Thank you for your consideration in this important issue.

Amanda Strosahl, M.D.

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