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May 26, 2022

Dear City of La Crosse Common Council,

I write in support of the proposed ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy.

The Just the Facts Coalition published a document called, Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators, and School Personnel in 1999, available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/just-the-facts.pdf>. In this primer, it states,

The most important fact about 'reparative therapy,' also sometimes known as 'conversion' therapy, is that it is based on an understanding of homosexuality that has been rejected by all the major health and mental health professions. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Association of Social Workers, together representing more than 477,000 health and mental health professionals, have all taken the position that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and thus there is no need for a 'cure.'

The Just the Facts Coalition includes representation from the following educational, medical, and religious organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association of School Administrators, American Counseling Association, American Federation of Teachers, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, American School Health Association, Interfaith Alliance Foundation, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Social Workers, National Education Association, and School Social Work Association of America.

This ordinance will support our LGBTQIA+ community and protect and safeguard our children. Please amend City of La Crosse ordinances to prohibit conversion therapy.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. J. Engel, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRANSGENDER,  
NONBINARY, AND ALL LGBTQ+ STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the School District of La Crosse is [committed](#) to a learning environment that is physically, socially and emotionally safe for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the School District of La Crosse is committed to cultivating a climate in all our schools that is welcoming, safe, and inclusive for all students; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District are committed to honoring, valuing, and affirming our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students, staff, and families through our policies, practices, and curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, [Title VII](#) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and [Title IX](#) of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex; and,

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020 the U.S. Supreme Court [held](#) that discrimination on the basis of an individual's status as gay or transgender constitutes sex discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and,

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden [issued](#) an Executive Order on January 20, 2021 affirming that discrimination against transgender individuals is discrimination on the basis of sex and that, "Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports;" and,

WHEREAS, in 1985, the Wisconsin Legislature [enacted](#) section 118.13, Wis. Stats., which prohibits discrimination in public schools on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) [affirm](#) that denying a student the opportunity to participate on a sports team consistent with their gender identity is likely prohibited sex discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, the WIAA [supports](#) transgender students participation in athletics based on their gender identity/expression, not the sex they were assigned at birth;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the School District of La Crosse Board of Education affirms, supports, and values the gender identities and gender expressions of all our students and will continue to further efforts in our schools to create a welcoming, safe,

and inclusive learning environment for our transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District of La Crosse Board of Education supports human rights and equitable educational opportunities and practices for all LGBTQ+ students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District of La Crosse Board of Education rejects any legislation or action that dehumanizes, marginalizes, or violates the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ+ students.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this resolution was adopted by the Board of Education of the School District of La Crosse on a unanimous vote on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 2021.



Laurie Cooper Stoll, President



Dawn Comeau, Clerk