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Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:39 AM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: CONCERN Ord # 32-191

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La Crosse City Council,

I write to address a concern with the proposed ordinance 32-191. Namely, that it does not expressly provide the mental health provider the latitude to determine whether the child suffers from a mental health condition (e.g. bipolar disorder, PTSD) that may be unduly influencing the child's determination that s/he wants to change their gender identity. I believe a licensed, experienced mental health professional is in a better position to determine the patient's needs than the La Crosse City Council. S/he should not feel forced by this ordinance to support a gender transition if s/he in their professional opinion feels that underlying issues should be addressed first.

I believe gender dysphoria is real, but rare. The skyrocketing numbers of children identifying as transgender in the last 10 years is a phenomenon that should be carefully studied before we enact sweeping rules that limit a professional's ability to treat their patients. I have read dozens of accounts of children regretting gender transition and wishing the adults in their lives would've lovingly sat with them for a time to figure out what was going on before (often permanently) altering their body.

Some children do not regret the transition, and that is great, but please allow mental health professionals and parents the ability to sit with these children to ensure that more deeply rooted issues are first addressed without the fear of a lawsuit, citation, loss of license, loss of custody, etc.

I request that you alter the ordinance's language to clearly provide parents and mental health professionals the ability to consider all the child's needs and not just rubber stamping gender transition. I understand that there is a segment of our community that may loudly protest this approach, but they must not be allowed to push our children into a corner. With our votes, we have entrusted you with the ability to lead La Crosse, not them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brittney Cornillaud