



# Cia Siab, Inc.

1825 Sunset Ln., La Crosse, WI 54601

Office: (608) 615-7117, M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

24/7 WI Hmong Family Strengthening Helpline (877) 740-4292

May 27, 2022

Dear Council Members,

Cia Siab, Inc. was founded in 2016 with the goal of building a vibrant Hmoob community in La Crosse and its surrounding area. We are a racial and gender justice organization that deeply values the contributions of LGBTQ+ members of our community and offers comprehensive bilingual, bicultural support to Hmoob members of the queer community. As such, we are in full support of the proposed city-wide ban on conversion therapy.

One of the stated goals of the common council and the city is keeping people in the city to live and work. Ordinances like this signal that we are a place that wants to attract and keep LGBTQ+ workers and families (and their allies) here, rather than encouraging them to move to larger cities through a combination of indifference and inaction. To suggest that this isn't a city issue ignores the influence that our local elected officials can and do have on larger discussions affecting our entire state and nation. We hope you won't shy away from this responsibility.

Recent events have reminded us all of the need to protect our young people from those who mean them harm. Conversion therapy is well-documented as a harmful and dangerous practice and we look forward to the day when it can no longer be practiced in our city. We fully support the ordinance proposed by Council Member Kiel and thank her for bringing this issue to the attention of the common council.

Support. Advocate. Revitalize.