

From: Mindel, Mackenzie
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:47 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Fwd: Vote Regarding Conversion Therapy

From: Shannon Delphey <delphey8404@uwlax.edu>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 4:37:47 PM
To: zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org <zzcouncilmembers@cityoflacrosse.org>
Subject: Vote Regarding Conversion Therapy

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Hello City Council,

As you all are aware of, today is a very important vote regarding the safety and well-being of members of the LGBTQ community. I am not part of the community but know and love many who are. When I think of conversion therapy, torture, misunderstanding, and disgust come to mind. This is why many countries, in as early as 1999, began to ban the practice. If countries such as Samoa, Fiji, Taiwan, Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador, Malta, and others can ban the practice, so can the City of La Crosse. As a community, we need to create an environment that makes all its inhabitants feel safe and welcome, an environment where children can be themselves without the fear of medical torture. Many argue that banning this practice violates the right of parents and their 1st amendment rights to speech and religion, but I disagree. Although I am no expert, I have studied and analyzed the constitution as well as the mental health implications of being LGBTQ (I am a senior at UWL studying Psychology). Although parents have the right to disagree with their child's sexual orientation or sexuality, they cannot impose harm on their child for this. There are no diagnoses regarding being in transgender, gay, bisexual, etc. so, imposing a treatment for these things is illogical and cruel. It would be like giving a non-cancer patient chemotherapy and radiation, it will do far more harm than any good. This discussion really is not a matter of personal opinion regarding the morality of being LGBTQ+, but a matter of human rights and protecting children. I'm implore you to quickly Google deaths surrounding conversion therapy before making a decision. No child should die or suffer because their parents are unable of loving them for who

they are, and no adult should undergo this either. This decision not only impacts children, but those in our community who have varying disabilities and have legal guardians. If you love a child or any other individual who cannot advocate for themselves, please consider them in your decision.

Thank you,

Shannon Delphey