

Craig, Sondra

From: Elsen, Nikki
Sent: Sunday, June 12, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Craig, Sondra
Subject: Fw: Emperor's new clothes and conversion therapy ban

From: Van Wyk, Andrea J [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 12:43:19 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Emperor's new clothes and conversion therapy ban

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Dear council members,

Late last week, I wrote to you all encouraging you to say no to the ban on conversion therapy because I think it is too broad. See prior email for details.

This past week, I have been humbled and somewhat blown away at the number of people who have responded to an article I had previously written for the La Crosse Tribune about my reflections on transgender care. It was published this past Sunday and I would encourage you all to read it before the meeting:

https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/andrea-van-wyk-reflections-on-transgender-care---more-transparency-needed/article_8dbb56e2-e5d1-11ec-a7b6-4785903c6065.html

My goal in writing this is to promote honest dialogue locally. I have received SO many emails from people that I didn't expect: from pediatricians, family medicine physicians, etc, thanking me for being willing to put words to the questions they too were struggling with as physicians.

I am going to share one comment I received from someone with a doctorate who works at Gundersen:
"Thank you for writing the thought provoking and stop me in my tracks article in the Tribune. I had not previously questioned our efforts with providing transgender care, enough. Frighteningly following the herd without enough critical thought."

I think we can all relate to this author. It is easy to "frighteningly follow the herd."

In closing, I would encourage you all to read the children's story "The emperor's new clothes" before the town-hall meeting. Sometimes a story is better at getting a point across than preaching.

Thank you,

Andrea Van Wyk, MD
Pediatric hospitalist
[REDACTED]