

June 9, 2022

Dear City of La Crosse City Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed ordinance to ban conversion therapy in the city of La Crosse. Historically conversion therapy is based on the belief that homosexuality is a mental illness that needs to be cured, a belief that has been found to be scientifically invalid in the mental health professional community. This proposed ordinance would protect the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people from harmful and ineffective change efforts.

In 1973, the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, which is the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals. As a result, it is unethical for mental health practitioners to attempt to fix or cure LGBT people through the use of sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts. The practices that are used to "convert" or "repair" a LGBT person are based on theories with questionable scientific validity and which have not produced any rigorous scientific evidence to prove their claims of a cure.

By banning conversion therapy, the city of La Crosse would join more than 46 national and international organizations and thirteen other Wisconsin cities that have spoken out against this harmful form of therapy (see attached list).

As a licensed psychologist in Wisconsin since 2007 and as member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health since 2009, I offer my strongest support for this ordinance banning the practice of conversion therapy in the city of La Crosse.

Respectfully



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Attached list of national and international organizations

Alphabetical list of organizations (46)

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Nursing

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors and Therapists

American Counselling Association

American Group Psychotherapy Association

American Medical Association

American Medical Student Association

American Mental Health Counselors Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychoanalytic Association

American Psychological Association

American School Counsellor Association

Association of Christian Counsellors

Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Issues in Counseling

Australian and New Zealand Professional Association for Transgender Health

British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy

British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies

British Psychoanalytic Council

British Psychological Society

Canadian Association for Social Work Education

Canadian Association of Social Workers

Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health

Canadian Psychiatric Association

Clinical Social Work Association

College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario

College of Sex and Relationship Therapists

Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

GLADD (The Association of LGBT Doctors and Dentists)

International Federation of Social Workers

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of School Psychologists

National Association of Social Workers' National Committee on LGBT Issues

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery

National Counselling Society

NHS England

NHS Scotland

Pink Therapy Professional

Ordre des travailleurs sociaux et thérapeutes conjugaux et familiaux du Québec (Order of social workers and conjugal and family therapists of Quebec)

Ordre professionnel des sexologues du Québec (Professional order of sexologists of Quebec)

Royal College of General Practitioners

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

The Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Addiction Professionals and their Allies

The Association of LGBTQ Psychiatrists

UK Council for Psychotherapy

World Professional Association for Transgender Health

(Taken from <https://medium.com/@florence.ashley/list-of-professional-organisations-opposing-conversion-or-reparative-therapy-targeting-transgender-f700b4e02c4e>)

Wisconsin Cities

Appleton

Cudahy

Eau Claire

Glendale

Madison

West Allis

Milwaukee

Racine

Sheboygan

Shorewood

Superior

Kenosha

Sun Prairie