

1 2019 RES -038
2 CONDEMNING THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION THERAPY
3 IN DANE COUNTY
4

5 As defined by the Human Rights Campaign, "...'conversion therapy', sometimes
6 known as 'reparative therapy,' is a range of dangerous and discredited practices that
7 falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or
8 expression."
9

10 The residents of Dane County and their duly elected representatives seek to protect
11 the safety, health, and welfare of their neighbors from harmful, exploitative, and
12 dangerous therapy that targets LGBTQ+ individuals.
13

14 In 2007, the American Psychological Association undertook a review of the existing
15 in-depth research of conversion therapy. The report showed that conversion therapy
16 failed to have little research and methodology. The 2007 APA report also noted that
17 there is no proven way to counter-influence an individual's sexual orientation or
18 preference.
19

20 There is ample research to support that societal prejudice derived from conversion
21 therapy is a dangerous and harmful practice. There is significant support in studying
22 this societal prejudice with a merit of professional backgrounds including scientific,
23 academic, ethics, and human rights. Research and findings on the topic comes from
24 the following organizations: the American Psychological Association, the American
25 Psychiatric Association, the American School Counselor Association, the American
26 Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the National Association
27 of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association, the American
28 Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent
29 Psychiatry and the Pan American Health Organization.
30

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
32 recognizes the harm that conversion therapy poses to the community and condemns
33 any and all practice of conversion therapy.
34

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges
36 Wisconsin state Representatives and Senators to update state statutes in
37 accordance with this resolution and implement a ban on the use of conversion
38 therapy on individuals under the age of 18.
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges
41 other counties in Wisconsin to pass similar resolutions echoing the language of this
42 resolution and for municipalities to follow suit of Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire
43 in banning the use of conversion therapy in their jurisdiction.
44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Dane County Board of Supervisors that it
46 directs a copy be forwarded to the Dane County legislative delegation, Wisconsin
47 Governor, Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor, and to the Wisconsin Counties
48 Association to include in their legislative agenda.