

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2021-069

Supporting Statewide Legislation Prohibiting the Use of Conversion Therapy on Minors

WHEREAS, conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, ex-gay therapy, or sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts, is a range of discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, a national community of professionals in education, social work, health, mental health and counseling including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have determined that there is no scientifically valid evidence that supports the practice of conversion therapy; and,

WHEREAS, such professionals have determined that there is no evidence that conversion therapy is effective or that an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed by conversion therapy; and,

WHEREAS, such professionals have also determined that conversion therapy is not only ineffective, but is substantially dangerous to an individual's mental and physical well-being and has also been shown to contribute to depression, self-harm, low self- esteem, family rejection, and suicide; and,

WHEREAS, all minors in the City of Columbia, including LGBTQ individuals under the age of 18 that reside within City limits, that seek therapy or treatment to assist them in understanding their individual development of gender identity or their sexual orientation should be free from exposure to the serious harms and risks caused by conversion therapy or reparative therapy; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Columbia has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all people in our community, especially the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including LGBTQ youth; NOW, THEREFORE,


BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Columbia this 15th day of June, 2021, that being lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or short coming, and that research has demonstrated conversion therapy poses critical health risks to lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender minor persons; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, City Council of the City of Columbia opposes the use of conversion therapy on minors within the City of Columbia; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Columbia supports statewide legislation prohibiting the use of conversion therapy on minors, including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and questioning youth.

Requested by:

Mayor Benjamin



Mayor

Approved by:



City Manager

Approved as to form:

ATTEST:



City Attorney



City Clerk

Introduced: 6/15/2021
Final Reading: 6/15/2021