

Resolution #15-R-19
Youth Mental Health Protection

Date: October 16, 2019

Submitted By: Alderperson Meltzer – District 2, Alderperson Firkus – District 3, Alderperson VanZeeland – District 5

Referred To: Board of Health

Whereas, Conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, is the practice of trying to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity; and

Whereas, Science recognizes that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human identity and is not a disease, disorder, or illness; and

Whereas, The practice of conversion therapy is based on scientifically unfounded approaches not subject to peer review and is often conducted in a violent and damaging manner; and

Whereas, The American Psychological Association issued a report in 2009 that concluded that conversion therapy can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people including depression, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, and disconnection with family and friends; and

Whereas, the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) revealed alarming levels of attempted suicide among transgender youth because of society’s oppression and lack of acceptance; and

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics emphasize the urgency of building welcoming and safe communities for LGBTQ young people, particularly for transgender youth; and

Whereas, Several states and municipalities have banned the practice; and

Whereas, A bill to ban conversion therapy was introduced at the federal level, which stalled in U.S. Congress in 2016; and

Whereas, The Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, which is based in consumer fraud and focuses on banning any conversion therapy that charges money, was filed in the U.S. Senate in April 2017;

Now, Therefore, let it be resolved that the City of Appleton seeks to protect LGBTQ youth by adopting a Youth Mental Health Protection ordinance which prohibits any licensed medical or mental health professional from engaging in conversion therapy with any person under 18 years of age;

Furthermore, “Conversion therapy” will be defined as any practices or treatments offered or rendered to consumers for a fee, including psychological counseling, that seeks to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. “Conversion therapy” does not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person’s coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual-

orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity;

Furthermore, "medical or mental health professional" means any individual who is licensed by the City or State to engage in a profession related to physical or mental health, including any interns, trainees, or apprentices who provide medical or mental health services under the supervision of a licensed medical or mental health professional;

Furthermore, anyone found in violation to the ban will be subject to a forfeiture of \$1000, each day a person is found to have practiced conversion therapy shall be considered a separate violation.