

**A RESOLUTION**

expressing support for HB 516 to prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with a person under the age of 18; authorizing the City Manager to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected officials.

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 (AACAP), 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, fifteen states, including Washington, DC, have enacted laws or regulations to ban conversion therapy against minors by licensed medical providers, and many bills have been filed in similar states, including Missouri’s Youth Mental Health Preservation Act; 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has declared its’ desire to ensure Columbia is a city that is open and affirming to all, including LGBTQ individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, as a city that strives to respect and celebrate its diversity, the City Council affirms that being LGBTQ is not a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency or shortcoming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby expresses its support for House Bill No. 516 to prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy in an effort to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person under the age of 18.

SECTION 2. The City Manager is hereby authorized to send copies of this resolution to appropriate elected or appointed officials and communicate the support of the City Council for passage of HB 516 or similar legislation.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor and Presiding Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Counselor