

ORDINANCE NO. 071618-01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF BELLEFONTE PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION OR REPARATIVE THERAPY GIVEN TO THOSE INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS

The Borough Council of Bellefonte has recognized the general medical and psychiatric opinion that conversion or reparative therapy as applied or practiced on individuals under the age of eighteen (18) has the potential to do serious harm to those individuals. The Borough recognizes that it has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors from therapies, practices or treatments designed to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough of Bellefonte hereby enacts the following:

Section 1. – Definitions

(a) Conversion Therapy or Reparative Therapy – Any treatment that aims to convert ones sexual orientation or gender expression, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expression or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or appeal towards individuals of the same sex. The term does not include treatment or therapies designed to provide acceptance, support and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support and identity exploration and development including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices without seeking to change sexual orientation or gender identity or to provide assistance to those individuals undergoing gender transition.

(b) Mental health provider – An individual who is licensed, registered or certified under Pennsylvania law to provide mental health services, including but not limited to, a medical, doctorial or osteopathic physician, including one who specializes in psychiatry; nurse, psychologists, social workers, marriage and family therapy or professional counselor or any other person who provides counseling, mental health or behavioral health services as a part of the persons professional training or practice under Pennsylvania law or rule or any student, intern volunteer or any other person assisting or acting under the direction or guidance of any of these professionals, as well as any unlicensed individual or those licensed in other jurisdictions.

(c) Minor – Means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 2. – Prohibition

Sexual orientation, gender identity or expression conversion or reparative theory is prohibited. No mental health professional, licensed or unlicensed as described in Section 1(b) above shall engage in the Borough of Bellefonte in sexual orientation or gender conversion or reparative therapy involving a minor.

Section3. – Penalty

Any person violating the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction before a District Judge of appropriate jurisdiction, be liable to pay costs of prosecution and a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

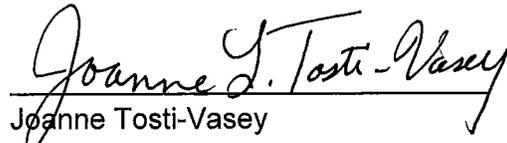
ENACTED AND ORDAINED, into an Ordinance this 16th day of July, 2018, by the Council of the Borough of Bellefonte in lawful session assembled.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF BELLEFONTE:

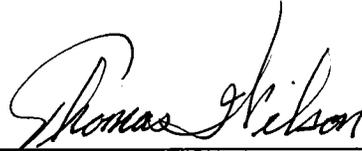


Ralph W. Stewart
Secretary



Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Council President

AND NOW, to wit, this 16th day of July, 2018, the within and above Ordinance is approved.



Thomas Wilson, Mayor