

RESOLUTION NO. 83-2018

Moved by: Allott

A Resolution affirming the City of Harrisburg's public policy of fostering an inclusive and diverse community and opposing mental health professionals engaging in any counseling, practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression in persons under 18 years of age.

WHEREAS, the City of Harrisburg has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy encompasses a range of archaic and dangerous practices that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression; and/or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. These practices are based on the false premise that being LGBTQ is a mental illness that needs to be cured; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy does not include counseling or therapy that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of the individual or the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, or counseling for an individual seeking to transition from one gender to another; and

WHEREAS, major medical and mental health organizations, including the World Health Organization, American Medical Association, American Psychiatry Association, American Psychological Association, and the American Osteopathic Associations oppose the use of conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, research on conversion therapy has shown that these conversion therapy practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ youth, such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness and suicidal behavior; and

WHEREAS, the City hereby affirms that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and that research has demonstrated conversion therapy can pose critical health risks to those who are subjected to such practices; and

WHEREAS, the City urges all medical and mental health professionals to help remove the stigma of mental illness that has far too long been associated with homosexuality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISBURG that the City of Harrisburg opposes the use of conversion therapy practices on individuals under the age of 18 within the geographic boundaries of the City of Harrisburg.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Law Bureau shall draft legislation which provides for a complete ban of conversion therapy within the City of Harrisburg by the end of second quarter in 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate City officials are authorized to take all steps necessary to effectuate the purpose of this Resolution.

I second the Resolution: Majoris

Passed the City Council December 18, 2018
Wendell R. Williams
President of City Council
Attest [Signature]
City Clerk

YEAS	NAYS
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(AS AMENDED)

INTER

MEMO

OFFICE

To: HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL
From: Kirk Petroski, City Clerk
LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM

Date:

LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM/CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

BILL NO. -2018 RESOLUTION NO. B2018

THE ABOVE LISTED ITEM WAS WRITTEN AND PREPARED FOR FINAL INTRODUCTION AT THE HARRISBURG CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE ON:

Thomas E. Saldock
Deputy City Solicitor

12-18-2018
Date

Requested by Department/Bureau: City Council

Department/Bureau Contact Person: Ben Allat

For Action on or before:

The attached was received in the Office of the City Clerk for introduction on

Received by: _____

Date: _____