

PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. 18-0676 In Support of Banning Conversion Therapy

WHEREAS, contemporary science recognizes that being LGBTQ is part of the natural spectrum of human identity and is not a mental illness that needs to be cured; and

WHEREAS, all people have the freedom to pursue happiness according to their self-determined identity; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy uses rejection, shame, and psychological abuse to force young people to change who they are; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American School Counselor Association, and other professional organizations conclude that conversion therapy poses critical health threats to LGBTQ people; and

WHEREAS, the dehumanizing effects of conversion therapy can inflict long lasting and life-threatening harm, including depression, suicide, addiction, self-hatred; and

WHEREAS, the City of Denver recognizes that conversion therapy to change sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression inflicts a harmful abuse on individuals and contributes to societal prejudice; and

WHEREAS, our community has an obligation to protect the physical and psychological well-being of LGBTQ minors from the serious harms caused by conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, not one more young person in Colorado should be targeted and hurt by these dangerous and discredited practices.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:

Section 1. That the Council of the City and County of Denver supports a ban on conversion therapy and recognizes that being LGBTQ is neither a disease, disorder, deficiency, or shortcoming. Instead, it is part of our diverse community that should be celebrated with pride.

Section 2. That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to One Colorado, Brianna Titone, Bob Dorhsimer, Morgan Waters, Apryl Alexander, the Colorado Psychiatric Association, and Interfaith Alliance.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL June 18, 2018

_____ PRESIDENT