

# 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Alan B...', written over a horizontal line.

PRESIDENT