

**CITY OF WEST ALLIS  
ORDINANCE O-2020-0028**

**ORDINANCE TO BAN CONVERSION THERAPY INVOLVING CHILDREN**

**CREATING SECTION 6.10**

**WHEREAS**, it is the well documented, prevailing opinion of the medical and psychological community that conversion therapy has not been shown to be effective and that it creates a potential risk of serious harm to those who experience it; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevailing opinion of the medical and psychological community is documented in position statements, articles and reports published by the following organizations: the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American School Counselor Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Pan American Health organization; and

**WHEREAS**, in particular, the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation of the American Psychological Association conducted a systematic review of peer reviewed journal literature on sexual orientation change efforts, and issued a report in 2009. The report concluded that conversion therapy has not been demonstrated to be effective and that there have been anecdotal reports of harm, including depression, suicidal thoughts or actions, and substance abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to protect the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of the City of West Allis, in particular the psychological and physical well being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming youth, and to protect them from the serious harm caused by exposure to conversion therapy;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the common council of City Of West Allis do ordain as follows:

**SECTION 1:**        **ADOPTION** “6.10 Conversion Therapy Prohibited” of the City Of West Allis Municipal Code is hereby *added* as follows:

A D O P T I O N

6.10 Conversion Therapy Prohibited(*Added*)

1. Definition. "Conversion therapy" means any practices or treatments offered or rendered to consumers for a fee, including psychological counseling, that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings

toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy does not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

2. Prohibition. No person may practice conversion therapy with anyone under 18 years of age.
3. Penalty. Any person convicted of violating this section shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 for each violation. For purposes of this section, each day a person is found to have practiced conversion therapy shall be considered a separate violation.

**SECTION 2: REPEALER CLAUSE** All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof, which are in conflict herewith, are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 3: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE** Should any part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinances a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

**SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after the required approval and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS COUNCIL

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	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>
Ald. Grisham	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Haass	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Kuehn	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Lajsic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Reinke	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Roadt	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Stefanski	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Tenorio	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Vitale	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Weigel	_____	_____	_____	_____

Presiding Officer

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Devine, Mayor, City Of West  
Allis

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Rebecca Grill, City  
Administrator/Clerk City Of West  
Allis