

PETITION CALLING FOR MILWAUKEE COMMON COUNCIL TO RESCIND “CONVERSION” THERAPY/COUNSELING BAN

We as citizens of the City of Milwaukee oppose the recent ordinance that the Milwaukee Common Council passed and the mayor signed which denies families the freedom to access professional or pastoral counseling or any other resources if their child experiences questions or confusion over their gender identity or sexual orientation. Under the guise of banning so-called “conversion” or reparative therapy for minors, the law imposes fines of up to \$1,000 per day against anyone who provides such fee-based services to families who desire them.

At a minimum, this ordinance is inappropriate government overreach, is unnecessary, is an infringement of the freedom of speech, religion, and association and robs parents of the right to do what is in the best interest of their children as it relates to getting help with significant issues.

At no time did the full Public Health and Safety Committee or the full Milwaukee Common Council hear from members of the public who have deep concerns about this ordinance or from experts in this area who believe the ban is inconsistent with the freedom of clients (including minors) to set their own counseling goals. While individual council members heard from constituents privately, the public was shut out from making appearances before the committee and the council. This is a disservice to the Council members and certainly to the public.

We call on the Common Council to immediately rescind this ill-advised and unconstitutional law. If the Common Council does not take immediate steps to do so, then we, through our ministry and community leaders, will pursue any and all legal means available to us to challenge this onerous ordinance. Our children and our community deserve better.

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