

# Roseville Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission

## Agenda Item

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**DATE:** October 20, 2021

**ITEM:** 7.C.

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**ITEM DESCRIPTION:** Discussion on Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Conversion Therapy

### Background

Overwhelming research has proven conversion therapy or similar treatments to “cure” youth of thoughts and feelings associated with sexual orientation, gender identity or expression is a dangerous practice causing both short and long-term harm. Conversion therapy is also referred to as reparative therapy, ex-gay therapy, or sexual orientation change methods. LGBTQIA+ people are at a significant risk of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide, only to be further heightened by conversion therapy practices. Related to an increased risk of suicide, a study published by the UCLA Williams Institute in 2019 found 92% greater odds of lifetime suicidal ideation, 75% greater odds of planning to attempt suicide, and 88% greater odds of attempting suicide resulting in no or minor injury.

Between the Trevor Project and UCLA Williams Institute Studies released in 2019, approximately 5-7% of LGBTQ+ youth have experienced conversion therapy. So far, 19 states across the U.S. have prohibited the practice of conversion therapy to protect LGBTQIA+ youth.

In the absence of state legislation, cities across Minnesota are passing ordinances to protect vulnerable LGBTQIA+ youth in their jurisdictions. In addition to protecting youth from this human rights violation, an ordinance prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy sends a message of inclusion and equity to the LGBTQIA+ community who live, work, and visit the city of Roseville. Governor Walz in 2021 signed an executive order restricting conversion therapy through restricted use of Medicaid reimbursement for this type of treatment and directing state agencies to manage conversion therapy complaints based on their jurisdiction, which would include state medical and mental health licensing boards.

**The following Minnesota cities have already passed ordinances or proclamations denouncing conversion therapy practices within city limits:** Bloomington, Duluth, Minneapolis, Red Wing,

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Robbinsdale, Saint Paul, West Saint Paul, and Winona. Golden Valley passed a resolution in 2020 in support of a statewide ban at the Minnesota Legislature.

**The following medical and mental health professional organizations have all made statements denouncing the practice of conversion therapy in support of research:**

National Association of Social Workers - Minnesota  
American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Association of Pediatrics  
American Association for Marriage/Family Therapy  
American College of Physicians American Counseling  
Association American Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychoanalytic Association  
American Psychological Association  
American School Counselors  
Association American School Health Association National  
Association of Social Workers Pan  
American Health Organization  
American Counseling Association

## Recommendation

Following the City Council's LGBTQIA+ Pride Month Proclamation in June 2021, HRIEC is recommending adoption of an ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy treatment of minors and vulnerable adults.

Staff recommends following the findings of HRIEC's research and recommendation to adopt the ordinance prohibiting conversation therapy treatment for minors and vulnerable adults. In addition, staff is recommending City Council add support of statewide ban of conversion therapy to the city's legislative agenda.

## Attachments