



March 2, 2021

Urban County Council  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Council Member,

I write to urge you to support the LGBT Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance.

I work directly with LGBTQ+ youth who are a highly vulnerable population for so many reasons. The threat of being sent to conversion therapy has caused three youth I have worked with to attempt suicide in the last four years. All were young students at the University of Kentucky.

Among high school students, more than 60% of the ones I work with are on anti-anxiety medication because they fear being themselves will have consequences that may result in conversion therapy or something similar. Almost all LGBTQ+ young people with whom I work have experienced some type of depression because they fear or have feared conversion therapy.

I assure you that the mental health of our youth and the lives of our youth are at stake as you discern whether to vote affirmatively to pass the LGBT Youth Mental health Protection Ordinance.

Our young people are precious, their lives are valuable, and their dignity is sacred; your leadership will support, defend, and safeguard our youth if you vote affirmatively to pass the LGBT Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance.

Please reach out if you have questions regarding this issue as it pertains to my ministry among LGBTQ+ persons here in Lexington and throughout the United States.

Thank you for your service to our community and thank you for helping me save lives and restore dignity to those on the peripheries.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' with a stylized flourish.

Stan "JR" Zerkowski

Pronouns: he/him/his

Diocese of Lexington LGBT Ministry, Director

Fortunate Families, Executive Director

<https://fortunatefamilies.com/executive-director-amp-board-1>

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