

January 27, 2021

Mayor Linda Gorton
Lexington Urban County Council
200 E. Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Mayor Gorton and Urban County Council,

I am writing to express GLSEN Bluegrass's full support for the LGBT Youth Mental Health Protection ordinance. GLSEN is a national network of educators, students, and local GLSEN Chapters who believe that every student has the right to a safe, supportive, and LGBTQ-inclusive K-12 education. One of GLSEN's tenets is passing and implementing policies to ensure that LGBTQ students can learn and thrive in affirming and inclusive schools. GLSEN, along with the American School Counselor Association, the American School Health Association, and every major medical and psychological association in the country believe that it is imperative to ban conversion therapy for LGBTQ individuals. Conversion therapy is an ineffective psuedo-science that has disasterous mental health outcomes for those who are forced to endure it. It fuels a false narrative that sexual orientation and gender identity can and should be changed. Of people who have experienced conversion therapy, 57% of survivors have attempted or seriously considered suicide in the past year. While many LGBTQ issues are considered partisan issues, banning conversion therapy is a mental health issue. It has gained non-partisan support throughout Kentucky and the United States. We urge you, Mayor Gorton and Council to join the growing number of supporters who recognize the need to protect LGBTQ youth by enacting a ban on conversion therapy. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Lauren Sherrow
Chair, GLSEN Bluegrass
Lexington, KY

