



February 6, 2021

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government  
200 East Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Mayor Linda Gorton and members of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council:

I write to offer AVOL Kentucky's full support for any possible measures and initiatives that eliminate the practice of "conversion" or "reparative" therapy in our community that is targeted against LGBT individuals, young and old, from becoming their full potential.

AVOL Kentucky has been working to END HIV in Lexington, Central and Eastern Kentucky for more than 30 years. During this time, we have seen first-hand the destructive influence certain attitudes and beliefs have on people living with HIV. Reparative therapy approaches not only have a negative and shaming impact on LGBT individuals, but also has historically included a false narrative that contracting HIV/AIDS would be the result if LGBT individuals lived their lives fully as they are naturally inclined. This duality has been a huge source for the reinforcement of HIV stigma in our society, and it continues to escalate.

Reparative therapy practices are based on a myriad of unsubstantiated and unproven beliefs about causation and practices the purport to change a person's sexual orientation. There is absolutely zero evidence, after many years of practice, that this type of approach is at all successful. Many of the practices utilized are frankly emotionally abusive. What we do know to be successful is a world where LGBT individuals are accepted and deemed worthy of being full citizens of our communities, who may stand side by side with everyone else and make significant contributions and reach their full potential.

There is no room for the continuation of reparative therapy practices in our community and Kentucky.

AVOL Kentucky was created in 1987 by the LGBT community to serve everyone living with HIV, not just LGBT people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jon Parker, Executive Director  
AVOL Kentucky

[AVOLKY.ORG](http://AVOLKY.ORG)