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

Mayor Gorton and the Urban County Council:

Lexington Fairness would like to offer its unwavering support for Lexington's Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance, which would ban conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy is a dangerous, non-therapeutic and discredited practice that puts LGBTQ+ minors at risk for severe mental health complications, substance abuse, as well as suicide attempts and completed suicides. Further, there is no scientific basis or evidence that exists showing that conversion therapy works to accomplish its mission, which is steeped in homophobic and transphobic beliefs.

This ban on conversion therapy has bipartisan support in Kentucky and will protect LGBTQ+ minors and their families from these practitioners who do harm by shaming and inflicting psychological damage on these LGBTQ+ young people. While there is no evidence supporting the efficacy of conversion therapy, there are many national organizations who have shown data and evidence to support the damage inflicted by conversion therapy. These include: American Psychological Association (APA), the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association (AMA), National Association of Social Workers, American Counseling Association, American School Counselor Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Pan American Health Organization (regional office of the World Health Organization), American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapist, American College of Physicians, and the Trevor Project.

Thank you,

Lexington Fairness Board



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