

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 12.06.008 OF THE INDEPENDENCE CITY CODE  
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CONVERSION THERAPY OF MINORS.

WHEREAS, conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, ex-gay therapy, or sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts, is a range of discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation or gender identity; and,

WHEREAS, a national community of professionals in education, social work, health, mental health and counseling, including the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry have determined that there is no scientifically valid evidence that supports the practice of conversion therapy; and,

WHEREAS, such professionals have determined that there is no evidence that conversion therapy is effective or that an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity can be changed by conversion therapy; and,

WHEREAS, such professionals have also determined that conversion therapy is not only ineffective, but is substantially dangerous to an individual's mental and physical well-being and has also been shown to contribute to depression, self-harm, low self-esteem, family rejection and suicide; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Independence has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all people in our community, especially the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including LGBTQ+ youth; and,

WHEREAS, as a city that strives to respect and celebrate its diversity, the City Council affirms that being LGBTQ+ is not a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 12.06.008 of the Independence City Code is hereby created to read as follows:

**SEC. 12.06.008 – Conversion therapy of minors prohibited**

**A. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated in this subsection.**

- 1. Conversion therapy or reparative therapy means any practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy shall not include counseling that provides support and assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support and understanding of a**

person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and development, including sexual orientation-neutral treatment interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices if such counseling does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.

2. *Gender identity* means the gender-related identity, appearance, expression, behavior or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, with or without regard to the individual's designated sex at birth.
  3. *Minor* means a person less than 18 years old.
  4. *Provider* means any licensed medical or mental health professional including, but not limited to, licensed professional counselors, licensed psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, provisional licensed professional counselors, provisional and temporary licensed psychologists, licensed and provisional licensed marital and family therapists, psychiatrists, certified substance abuse counselors, certified school counselors, behavior analysts and any professional licensed under Chapters 334 and 337 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.
  5. *Sexual orientation* means the preference or practice of homosexuality, heterosexuality, asexuality, and bisexuality, or some combination thereof, by consenting adults, or as perceived by others, but not including sexual preference or practice between an adult and a minor.
- B. *Prohibited practice.* It shall be unlawful for any provider to provide conversion therapy or reparative therapy to a minor if the provider receives compensation in exchange for such services.
- C. *Penalty.* Any person in violation of subsection B above shall be subject to a fine of up to Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

SECTION 2. That all other parts and provisions of the City Code remain in full force and effect unless previously or subsequently amended or repealed.

PASSED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI.

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Presiding Officer of the City Council  
of the City of Independence, Missouri

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

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Acting City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

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City Manager

**NOTE: Words struck through and bolded are being removed by this ordinance and words underscored and bolded are being added by this ordinance.**