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 and/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 and/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,

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* means any practice or treatment claiming that such therapy will result in a permanent reversal of a patient or client's sexual orientation; asserts that a permanent reversal of a patient or client's sexual orientation is necessary, subjects a patient or client to physical discomfort through aversive treatment including, but not limited to, nausea, vomiting, electric shock, or other electric therapy including electroconvulsive therapy or

transcranial stimulation. Conversion therapy does not mean a practice or treatment that is neutral to sexual orientation and/or gender identity; provides assistance to a patient or client undergoing gender transition; provides support of a patient or client's sexual orientation and/or gender identity; addresses unlawful, unsafe, sexual activities in a manner that is neutral with respect to sexual orientation and/or gender identity; discusses and/or provides support of a patient or client's moral or religious beliefs and/or practices.

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, and any professional licensed under Chapters 334 and 337 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri. Provider does not mean a member of the clergy or a religious counselor acting in a pastoral or religious capacity and not acting as a provider as defined in this Section.

5. *Sexual orientation* means homosexuality, heterosexuality, asexuality, and bisexuality, or some combination thereof, by consenting adults, or as perceived by others, but not including between an adult and a minor.

B. *Prohibited practice.* It shall be unlawful for any provider to provide conversion therapy to a minor.

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.

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

ATTEST:

_____
City Clerk

APPROVED - FORM AND LEGALITY:

_____
City Counselor

REVIEWED BY:

_____
City Manager