



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BANNING THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION THERAPY ON YOUTHS IN MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, a diverse population is the natural outgrowth and expression of human development, which enriches all aspects of society within the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, an individual has a fundamental right to explore and name their sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, ongoing efforts exist to challenge this right by subjecting LGBTQ+ individuals, especially youth, to the practice of conversion therapy which treats LGBTQ+ individuals as afflicted, and seeks to change their sexual or gender identity through methods that include aversion therapy, shaming, talk therapy, hypnosis and other means; and

WHEREAS, there is a consensus of opposition among the leading medical and mental health organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Counseling Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association,

and Nation Association of Social Workers to the practice of conversion therapy on minors due to the medically and scientifically unsupported assumptions underlying this dangerous, discredited, and harmful practice; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ youth who have undergone conversion therapy are more than twice as likely to attempt suicide, and more than 2.5 times as likely to report multiple suicide attempts in the past year, compared to their LGBTQ+ peers who have not experienced conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, twenty States and the District of Columbia have instituted bans against conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission has previously acknowledged that the people of the State of Michigan have recognized the inherent value and dignity of its citizens and the need to protect the diversity of our citizenry through adoption of Article I, Section 2 and Article V, Section 29 of the Michigan Constitution, and enactment of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Right Act; and

WHEREAS, our three branches of state government have acknowledged the right of an individual to be protected from discrimination based on their gender identity and sexual orientation, in that the Michigan State Legislature has enacted an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Right Act, which supports the inherent right of citizens to name and express their sexual orientation and gender identity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based on these protected classifications; and in *Rouch World, LLC v Department of Civil Rights*, the Michigan Supreme Court affirmed the conclusions reached by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in interpretive statement 2018-1, finding that “Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation necessarily constitutes discrimination because of sex” and is a violation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act; and Governor Gretchen Whitmer has issued Executive Directive 2021-3, directing the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to “take actions necessary to prohibit the use of state and federal funds for the practice of conversion therapy on minors” and requiring all departments and autonomous agencies under executive branch supervision that “regulate, provide, procure, or pay for medical or mental health services” to “explore what further actions they can take to protect minors from the practice of conversion therapy as permitted by law”; and

WHEREAS, these emphatic expressions and declarations recognizing the dignity of LGBTQ+ people are strong statements against attempts to alter the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ+ youth by subjecting them to the unscientific and demonstrably harmful practice of conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, the lives of LGBTQ+ Michiganders have value, and they are deserving of support and continued protection from assaults on their dignity, humanity and freedom of identity expression; and

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports the right of LGBTQ+ youth to explore and express their gender identity and sexual orientation without the threat of conversion therapy; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Civil Rights Commission supports and encourages all efforts by the Michigan Legislature and Governor of the State of Michigan to take all appropriate actions to ban the practice of conversion therapy on minors within the State of Michigan, including subjecting mental health professionals who violate such a ban to disciplinary actions and licensing sanctions for unprofessional conduct, and educate citizens about the dangers of this therapy.



Passed on Monday the 24th day of April 2023, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Commissioner Portia Roberson, Chair

Commissioner Zenna Faraj Elhasan, Vice Chair

Commissioner Gloria E. Lara, Secretary

Commissioner Richard Corriveau

Commissioner David Worthams

Commissioner Luke Londo

Commissioner Rosann Barker