

CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO
RESOLUTION NO. R25-12 CMS

A RESOLUTION DECLARING OPPOSITION TO CONVERSION THERAPY IN THE CITY OF OBERLIN

WHEREAS, the City of Oberlin has a long history of advancing social justice, equity, and inclusion, including its commitment to racial and LGBTQIA+ equity through its Social Equity Plan, and;

WHEREAS, conversion therapy—defined as practices or treatments by licensed mental health professionals that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity—has been widely discredited by every major medical and psychological organization in the United States, including the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Medical Association, and;

WHEREAS, studies show that LGBTQIA+ youth subjected to conversion therapy face significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide attempts, with nearly half of youth undergoing such practices reporting a suicide attempt within the past year;

WHEREAS, over twenty states and numerous Ohio municipalities—including Cincinnati, Columbus, Toledo, Athens, Lorain, and Lakewood—have already taken action to prohibit conversion therapy on minors by licensed providers;

WHEREAS, Oberlin’s Social Equity Plan calls for the city to “cultivate a community of belonging, protection, and full participation for historically marginalized residents,” and recognizes LGBTQIA+ residents as a group requiring deliberate equity efforts;

WHEREAS, Oberlin has a long-standing legacy of courageously pursuing local human rights protections—even when such efforts precede or challenge broader legal consensus, as demonstrated by past action in housing rights, civil disobedience against slavery, and non-discrimination measures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO:

SECTION 1: That the Council for the City of Oberlin formally opposes the practice of conversion therapy on minors and acknowledges its harmful, discredited, and unethical nature.

SECTION 2: That this Council affirms its commitment to LGBTQIA+, equity, and inclusion, and the right of all youth to grow up without being subjected to practices that attempt to change or suppress their identity.

SECTION 3: That the City supports ongoing efforts to research, develop, and consider future legislation regulating conversion therapy by licensed professionals within city limits, in alignment with Oberlin's Social Equity Plan and legal best practices.

SECTION 4: That this Council hereby opposes to the practice of conversion therapy, and calls upon all Oberlin residents to stand with our LGBTQIA+ youth in building a community grounded in safety, belonging, and dignity for all and urges our community to continue fostering a culture of inclusion, evidence-based mental health care, and support for policies that protect all Oberlin residents, especially the most vulnerable from harm.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution will go into effect on the earliest date allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading: July 7, 2025
 2nd Reading: _____
 3rd Reading: _____

ATTEST:



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL



EBONI A. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 07/08/2025

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/06/2025