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5 **A RESOLUTION**
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7 In opposition of conversion therapy and the use of private or public funding for
8 conversion therapy and calling on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board to adopt
9 a formal policy to condemn conversion therapy in Milwaukee County
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11 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County is committed to becoming the healthiest county in
12 Wisconsin for all residents, regardless of race or ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, conversion therapy is defined as any practices or treatments offered
16 or rendered to consumers for a fee, including psychological counseling, that seeks to
17 change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change
18 behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions
19 or feelings toward individuals of the same gender; and
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21 WHEREAS, expert medical associations and organizations such as the American
22 Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American College of
23 Physicians, and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry reject the use
24 conversion therapy due to its harmful nature and negative consequences for those that
25 experience it; and
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27 WHEREAS, research conducted by the Family Acceptance Project indicates that
28 conversion therapy efforts contribute to higher risks of depression and suicide for
29 LGBTQ+ youth; and
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31 WHEREAS, "Conversion therapy" does not include any of the following:
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- 33 1. Counseling or therapy that provides acceptance, support, and
34 understanding of the individual or the facilitation of an individual's coping,
35 social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual
36 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or
37 unsafe sexual practices, or
- 38 2. Counseling for an individual seeking to transition from one gender to
39 another

40 ; and

41 WHEREAS, in 2021, Governor Evers signed Executive Order 122, to prohibit
42 government funding of conversion therapy practices; and

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44 WHEREAS, although Milwaukee County, including the Behavioral Health
45 Services (BHS) Division as overseen by the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board,
46 are not providing or funding conversion therapy services, it is important to formally
47 condemn the practice and end its use anywhere in our community; and

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49 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic
50 Planning, at its meeting of March 8, 2023, recommended adoption of File No. 23-354
51 (vote 4-1); now, therefore,

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53 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors condemns the
54 use of conversion therapy to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity,
55 including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce
56 sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender,
57 whether funded by public or private monies; and

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59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Director of the Department of Health and
60 Human Services is requested to present this resolution to the Milwaukee County Mental
61 Health Board for the purposes of adopting a similar policy opposing the use of
62 conversion therapy in Milwaukee County.

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03/08/23

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