



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Peter Burgelis - District 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 23, 2023

Contact: Eddie Cullen, 414-793-0347

Milwaukee County Board Declares Official Opposition to Conversion "Therapy"

MILWAUKEE – Today, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted a [resolution](#), authored by Supervisor Peter Burgelis, which officially declares Milwaukee County's opposition to conversion "therapy." Supervisor Burgelis made the following statement:

*"Milwaukee County has finally taken action to protect the rights and well-being of its LGBTQ+ community by adopting a ban on conversion 'therapy.' My thanks goes out to my colleagues who supported the resolution. This abusive practice has no place in our society, and it is our responsibility to protect Milwaukee County's LGBTQ+ community. Studies show that conversion 'therapy' leads to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and even suicide, and we must take a stand against it. Lives depend on it." **said Supervisor Burgelis.***

"Milwaukee County has a responsibility to promote the mental health and well-being of all its residents. Today Milwaukee County sends a strong message that our community is one where hate isn't tolerated. Milwaukee County is a safe and welcoming place for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. I was disappointed to watch Supervisors Alexander, Logsdon, and Steve Taylor vote against the LGBTQ+ community and against the ban. However, this does not detract from today's victory. It only serves to highlight the ongoing need for education and advocacy surrounding LGBTQ+ issues and the harmful effects of conversion 'therapy.'"

Conversion "therapy" is a harmful and discredited practice that aims to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. The American Psychological Association has condemned conversion "therapy" as ineffective, unethical, and potentially harmful.

The resolution also calls on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board to adopt a formal policy to condemn conversion "therapy" that would prevent any County funds from being allocated towards the practice.

The resolution was adopted by the Board [14-3] during their March meeting and will now head to the desk of County Executive David Crowley.

###