



For Young LGBTQ Lives

March 27, 2023

Jackson County Council
415 E 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

RE: Ordinance 5726, Protecting Youth from Conversion Therapy

Dear Esteemed Council Members,

The Trevor Project writes in support of County Ordinance 5726 to protect LGBTQ youth from the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy, also known as sexual orientation/gender identity change efforts.

The Trevor Project is the world's largest suicide prevention and mental health organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) young people. We work to save young lives by providing free and confidential crisis services via a 24/7 phone lifeline, chat, and text. We also operate TrevorSpace, the largest safe space social networking site for LGBTQ youth, as well as innovative education, research, and advocacy programs.

According to a 2020 peer-reviewed article published in the American Journal of Public Health, youth who reported undergoing conversion therapy were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide and more than 2.5 times as likely to report multiple suicide attempts in the past year. Further, according to The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, 17% of LGBTQ youth reported either being subjected to conversion therapy, or threatened with this practice. This legislation will prevent licensed mental health providers from engaging in the practice of conversion therapy for patients under age 18 and take away this threat, ultimately saving lives. It is vital that Jackson County prohibit conversion therapy by licensed professionals on minors.

If we can be of assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at Tanner.Mobley@thetrevorproject.org.

Sincerely,

Tanner Mobley

Tanner Mobley
Advocacy Campaign Associate for Advocacy & Government Affairs