



**City of Kansas City, Missouri
LGBTQ Commission**



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 24, 2023

To: Jackson County, Missouri Government

The Kansas City LGBTQ Commission unequivocally supports the reintroduction of a county conversion therapy ban to ban the barbaric practice across our county community. We have been made aware by members of our community that there are two ordinances that have been introduced with the intent to ban conversion therapy, but both are very different policies.

We as a commission representing the region's LGBTQ+ community **support** ordinance 5726.

We as a commission representing the region's LGBTQ+ community **condemns** ordinance 5728.

County ordinance 5726 is the same ordinance that was introduced a week ago and is an ordinance that would eradicate this abusive practice from our community once and for all. This legislation is also being spearheaded by the only legislator who has been impacted by this policy. We as a commission stand firmly behind ordinance 5726 and its passage by the legislature.

When the commission was helping advocates on the ground in the City of Independence to ban this harmful practice, it took three votes and three different ordinances to get this done. The second vote had to fail because the ordinance introduced was a "dummy" ordinance that actually endorses harm and shields abusers like county ordinance 5728.

County ordinance 5728 is a dummy ordinance that is unenforceable and it protects abusers rather than those impacted by conversion therapy. Moreover, that's why we condemn ordinance 5728. It's disheartening to see members of the legislature introduce something like this because it's building on their legacy of harm that started last week with the failure to ban conversion therapy. We stand ready to assist with the passage of ordinance 5726 and only that ordinance.

Sincerely,

Kansas City LGBTQ Commission