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CAVALIER JOHNSON
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Another state takes action on conversion therapy

Statement of Alderman Cavalier Johnson June 4, 2019

I applaud Colorado for becoming the 18th state to ban conversion therapy for minors and commend Gov. Jared Polis for his leadership (conversion therapy is a dangerous practice aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender expression).

Practitioners of conversion therapy have been shown to use electric shock and induced vomiting or nausea in an attempt to change the behavior of their patients, according to a 2018 study at the University of California, Los Angeles. Given that June represents Pride Month, political leaders should increase efforts to protect L.G.B.T. community members from this inhumane and discriminatory practice.

In March 2018, under legislation I sponsored, Milwaukee became the first city in Wisconsin to outlaw conversion therapy practices for anyone under 18. I am grateful that Madison, Eau Claire and Cudahy have followed suit since then. However, I continue to call for a statewide ban on conversion therapy, and strongly encourage action from municipalities in the interim.

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