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CAVALIER JOHNSON
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Superior the latest Wisconsin city to take action to ban conversion therapy

Statement of Alderman Cavalier Johnson August 23, 2019

I applaud the City of Superior for being the latest city in Wisconsin whose city council voted unanimously to ban conversion therapy. I especially commend Councilors Ruth Ludwig and Jenny Van Sickle who introduced the ordinance, and for all the community leaders and residents who advocated for this change (conversion therapy is a dangerous practice aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender expression).

Conversion therapy has been cited to increase the likelihood of someone experiencing depression, anxiety or attempting suicide. Superior Councilor Ludwig, whose daughter came out as a lesbian, said that love is thicker than anything else, and the conversion therapy ban she advocated for was in place to protect those who do not have support from family and friends.

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, Cudahy, Shorewood, Racine, and now Superior have followed suit since then. Again, I continue to call for a statewide ban on conversion therapy – as do my colleagues in Superior and elsewhere - and strongly encourage action from municipalities in the interim.

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