



Co-sponsorship Memorandum

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senators Carpenter, Dassler-Alfheim, Roys, Spreitzer, Ratcliff
Representatives Snodgrass, Cruz, Neubauer, Phelps, Rivera-Wagner,
Spaude, Stroud, Udell, Arney, Clancy

DATE: May 29, 2025

RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB 3040/1, relating to: prohibiting conversion therapy in Wisconsin.

DEADLINE: June 5 at 5:00PM

Conversion therapy is a harmful, pseudoscientific practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity using psychological or spiritual interventions. The medical and scientific community have strongly opposed the practice of conversion therapy and consider medical practitioners engaging in the practice to be unethical.

This legislation prohibits licensed mental health care providers from engaging in conversion therapy efforts with minors. Any provider who attempts to change an individual's gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation would be subject to professional discipline by the credentialing board which oversees their occupation.

[Twenty-seven](#) states as well as the District of Columbia and territory of Puerto Rico have taken action to prevent conversion therapy for minors. The Wisconsin municipalities of Appleton, Cudahy, Eau Claire, Glendale, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, Sheboygan,

Shorewood, Sun Prairie, Superior and West Allis have taken action to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy in their communities.

Please join us in supporting this legislation to protect young people across Wisconsin from the debunked and unethical practice of conversion therapy.

To be added as a co-sponsor of this legislation, please reply to this email or contact Sen. Carpenter's office at 6-8535 by June 5 at 5PM. Co-sponsors will be added to both Senate and Assembly versions, unless otherwise notified.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits certain mental health providers from engaging in conversion therapy with a minor. Conversion therapy is defined under the bill to mean any intervention or method that has the purpose of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including any intervention or method that attempts to change behaviors or expressions of self or to reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. However, under the bill, conversion therapy does not include counseling that assists an individual who is seeking to undergo a gender transition or who is in the process of undergoing a gender transition; counseling that provides a client with acceptance, support, understanding, or counseling that facilitates a client's coping, social support, and identity exploration or development; or counseling in the form of sexual orientation-neutral or gender identity-neutral interventions provided for the purpose of preventing or addressing unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, but only if the counseling is not provided for the purpose of attempting to change the client's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Under the bill, the Medical Examining Board, the Psychology Examining Board, and the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board are required to investigate any allegation that any person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to practice by the respective boards has violated the prohibition on performing conversion therapy. Upon a finding that the holder of a license, certificate, or other authorization has violated the prohibition on performing conversion therapy, the bill requires the applicable examining board to limit, suspend, or revoke the person's license, certificate, or other authorization, or any combination of the three.