



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE CONVERSION THERAPY

WHEREAS, LULAC is our Nation’s oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, “Conversion therapy,” sometimes referred to as “sexual orientation change efforts” or “reparative therapy,” encompasses a range of harmful practices that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression¹; and

WHEREAS, these practices are based on the false premise that being LGBTQ is a mental illness – an idea rejected by major medical and mental health organizations²; and

WHEREAS, there is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or expression³; and

WHEREAS, research shows “Conversion therapy” poses health risks for LGBTQ youth, such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and suicidal behavior⁴; and

WHEREAS, ‘Conversion therapy’ is condemned by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Psychiatric Association⁵, American Psychological Association⁶, and American Medical Association⁷; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut, California, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New York, New Mexico, and Rhode Island all have laws or regulations protecting youth from this abusive practice, along with a growing number of municipalities which have also enacted similar protections, including cities and counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Florida, New York, and Arizona; and

WHEREAS, LULAC’s constitution (Article III, Section 4) calls for our membership to exert our united efforts to uphold the rights guaranteed to every individual by our state and national laws and to assure justice and equal treatment under these laws; and

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics. (2001). Gay, lesbian and bisexual teens: Facts for teens and their parents [Pamphlet]. Elk Grove, IL: Author.

² American Psychiatric Association. (2000). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, text revision (4th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

³ American Psychiatric Association. (1998). “Reparative” therapy [Position statement]. Washington, DC: Author.

⁴ American Psychiatric Association, (2000) Position Statement on Therapies Focused on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation (Reparative or Conversion Therapies).

⁵ American Psychiatric Association. (1998). “Reparative” therapy [Position statement]. Washington, DC: Author.

⁶ DeLeon, P.H. (1998). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the legislative year 1997: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives, August 14 and 17, Chicago, Illinois: and June, August and December 1997 meetings of the Board of Directors. American Psychologist, 53, 882-939.

⁷ American Medical Association, H-160.991 Health Care Needs of the Homosexual Population, (reaffirmed 2012)

WHEREAS, LULAC has publicly expressed its support for LGBTQ rights in the past because it is part of our organization's philosophy that the integrity and dignity of every individual and group constitute basic assets of the American way of Life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the League of United Latin American Citizens opposes any form of the dangerous and discredited practice of conversion therapy and believes lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) youth should be protected from these practices by local, state and federal law, and that this actions become part of our organization's policy platform.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President