

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Communication - Hudson Byblow - Conversion Therapy - CK 100-26  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2020 3:13:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

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Submitted on Monday, April 20, 2020 - 03:12

Submitted by user: hudsonbyblow

Submitted values are:

Date Monday, April 20, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Hudson

Last Name Byblow

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] 2nd Avenue South

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7K [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Submitting a Letter for the Monday Apr 20 meeting

Meeting (if known) Administrative report regarding Conversion Therapy

Comments

Hi there, I am writing this for hopeful inclusion for the aforementioned meeting (Administrative report regarding Conversion Therapy).

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter during the meeting. It is an honor to participate in the matters of our beautiful city in this way.

I want to start with the idea that all stories matter. I think it is a safe place to start. However, I hope that it might encourage people to consider my story too. Here is why:

My story isn't to do with changing attractions or gender identity. Nor is it about trying to make sure people can engage in these ridiculous "change therapy" attempts (that are barbaric and ought to be wholeheartedly denounced and which I disavow). Rather, my story is essentially this: as an LGBTQ person, I was unhappy and despairing. I was searching for a way out of that mindset (and there are many others with a story like mine as well, though most I have met are not ready to speak on this for fear of backlash – as am I, to some degree).

A law like this would make it virtually impossible for professionals to share ideas like the ones I was exposed to which allowed me to move past the despair and hopelessness. Those ideas could be perceived, rather, as a means of "conversion therapy" according to the current wording of the proposed law because those ideas are not affirmative towards an LGBTQ type of mindset (being gay is "who I am") - even though they are very affirmative of the things that the LGBTQ movement seems to value very much, such as the truth that one's attractions are not chosen, the truth

that we should not feel shame or guilt for experiencing them, and the truth that we need to chart our own course as best as we know how and as we see fit. To that end, I am sure everyone can agree that people all deserve to be able to exercise the right to self-determination in that way.

However, that same good principle of self-determination is countered when we make it impossible (or illegal) for people to find professionals to talk to in order to help them navigate their course in the way they see fit – which perhaps might be in ways that are not affirmative of an LGBTQ identity. To deprive them of the ability to encounter others who can walk with them as they see fit seems to reflect to me a lack of compassion for those persons. That may be because I shudder to think about where I would have ended up, had I not been exposed to those ideas.

Finally, I just hope that people might open their hearts to our stories and know that we do exist, and that we love our city, and that we love those who are also walking a path towards their truth. We have simply found peace, joy, and hope in a way that is outside of the mainstream narrative. But it has brought us out of the hopelessness and despair, and into peace, hope, and joy.

To that end, my request is that the City of Saskatoon, which I love dearly, chooses to leave that door to peace, joy, and hope wide open for all people by not imposing a law of this nature. And in not passing a law like this, with “conversion therapy” so broadly defined (for I do disavow any “technique” aimed at changing a person’s attractions), everyone wins. That is, those who are already happy where they are can remain happy where they are, and those who are unhappy where they are will be retain the gift of hope in knowing that they have at least some options instead of none.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,  
Hudson Byblow

[REDACTED]

Attachments

cofs.docx [REDACTED]

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/384943>