

1 **RESOLUTION #18-07**

2 **ENTITLED:** Conversion Therapy

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Juan Carlos Venis, MD, MPH

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5 WHEREAS, sexual orientation and gender identity are innate characteristics of an individual that  
6 cannot be changed with psychotherapy or other psychologic or medical methods, and  
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8 WHEREAS, the various forms of “conversion” therapy have been deemed unscientific and felt to cause  
9 significant psychologic and medical harm to their recipients, especially sexual and gender minority  
10 youth, and  
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12 WHEREAS, a “conversion” therapy ban is one of many protections which are lacking in Indiana which  
13 would protect sexual and gender minority youth from rejection, stigma and victimization, and  
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15 WHEREAS, rejection, stigma and victimization put youth at significant risk for experiencing trauma,  
16 violence and poor mental health outcomes including suicide, and  
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18 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American  
19 Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy,  
20 American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association,  
21 American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, and many others have taken  
22 positions opposing the practice of “conversion” therapy, and  
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24 WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommends that member  
25 states ban conversion therapy when forced, or otherwise involuntary, due to breach of the prohibition  
26 on torture and ill-treatment, and  
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28 WHEREAS, several states including California, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont  
29 as well as Washington, D.C., have passed laws banning the practice of such therapy with minors,  
30 therefore be it  
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32 **RESOLVED,** That the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians advocate for legislation banning the use  
33 of any and all forms of therapy aimed at changing a minor’s sexual orientation or gender identity in  
34 accordance with the readily available #BornPerfect Campaign advocacy guidelines devised by the  
35 National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Trevor Project.