



1213 N. Sherman Avenue, Suite 322, Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 576-5437 ● [www.stewartforassembly.com](http://www.stewartforassembly.com)

June 29, 2020

## **Republicans on the JCRAR Support Child Abuse**

Last Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, I registered in support of a proposed administrative rule that would prevent child abuse by subjecting LGBTQ+ children to “conversion therapy.” The proposed rule was before the Joint Committee on the Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR), the committee for which I formerly staffed.

“Conversion therapy” undeniably causes psychological and physiological harm to those children subjected to this abuse. The practice has been unambiguously rejected by mental health experts.

Let’s be clear, any practice that leads to the psychological and physiological harm of children is abuse.

Every Republican on the committee voted against the rule after blocking public testimony. These same legislators failed to support similar legislation last session.

In tragic irony, this all happened in the middle of Pride Month, as a Rainbow flag flew above the State Capitol, and weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled discrimination based upon a person’s sexuality is un-Constitutional. But no matter. This was a sobering reminder that despite so much progress, there is still a long road ahead in the fight against ignorance, prejudice, and hate.

The cold indifference exhibited by the Republicans on the JCRAR by their inaction does not approach the cruelty of the men who last week lit a young bi-racial woman on fire. The ideology that facilitates these behaviors festers in the shadows and, unfortunately, neither our streets nor the halls of our State Capitol are devoid of these shadows. We must illuminate these shadows – wherever we find them. We all have a duty to confront such hatred and respond with compassion. None of us can escape that responsibility. We owe that to each other.