



STATE OF KANSAS
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July 23, 2026

Honorable Brad Finkeldei
Mayor
City of Lawrence
6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
bfinkeldei@lawrenceks.gov

RE: City's Conversion Therapy Ordinance

Dear Mayor Finkeldei,

It has come to my attention that the City of Lawrence has an ordinance that prohibits health professionals from engaging in so-called "conversion therapy," including therapy that involves only speech. Because the United States Supreme Court has recently ruled that such ordinances violate the First Amendment, I write to request that the City of Lawrence repeal its unconstitutional ordinance.

In the recent case of *Chiles v. Salazar*, 146 S. Ct. 1010 (2026), the Supreme Court struck down a Colorado law that purported to ban "conversion therapy," including mere counseling. Specifically, the Colorado law forbade "any practice or treatment that attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity." 146 S. Ct. at 1018 (quoting Colo. Rev. Stat. § 12-245-202(3.5)(a)). Moreover, the law forbade any "effort to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same sex." *Id.* However, that same law explicitly allowed "counselors to engage in practices that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's identity exploration and development." *Id.*

The Court held that the law violated the First Amendment because it proscribed what views a therapist may and may not express. Therapist speech is constitutionally-protected, regardless of any state licensing requirements. The Court found that the Colorado statute wrongly censored speech based upon viewpoint, stating that "the First Amendment stands as a shield against any effort to enforce orthodoxy in

thought or speech in this country. It instead reflects a judgment that every American possesses an inalienable right to think and speak freely.” *Id.* at 1029.

Lawrence’s ordinance seeks to control speech in a nearly identical way. It bans “conversion therapy,” which it defines as “any practice, counseling, or purported treatment that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings towards individuals of the same gender.” Lawrence City Code §§ 6-2003, 6-2004. Moreover, like the Colorado statute struck down by the Supreme Court, the prohibited “conversion therapy” does “not include counseling that provides assistance to an individual exploring identity and development or undergoing gender transition.” *Id.* § 6-2003. In other words, only one viewpoint is allowed to be expressed. Thus, the ordinance engages in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment.

Finally, and equally disturbing, the City’s ordinance bans outright the use of the words “conversion therapy” and other similar words by “any person or entity.” *Id.* § 6-2005. The outright prohibition of the use of the listed terms, including “any substantially similar wording,” is an obvious violation of the First Amendment. And it is so vague that it also likely violates the Fourteenth Amendment.

As Attorney General, it is my duty to protect the constitutional rights of all Kansans. Because the City’s ordinance violates the First Amendment rights of Kansans, I request that the City immediately repeal it and thereby bring the City back into compliance with the Constitution. Please inform my office within 60 days whether this has been done. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely,



Attorney General Kris Kobach

Copied by email:

Vice Mayor Mike Courtney
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Commissioner Kristine Polian
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July 23, 2026

Honorable Eric Mikkelsen
Mayor
City of Prairie Village
7700 Mission Road
Prairie Village, Kansas 66208
mayor@pvkansas.com

RE: City's Conversion Therapy Ordinance

Dear Mayor Mikkelsen,

It has come to my attention that the City of Prairie Village has an ordinance that prohibits health professionals from engaging in so-called "conversion therapy," including therapy that involves only speech. Because the United States Supreme Court has recently ruled that such ordinances violate the First Amendment, I write to request that the City of Prairie Village repeal this unconstitutional ordinance.

In the recent case of *Chiles v. Salazar*, 146 S. Ct. 1010 (2026), the Supreme Court struck down a Colorado law that purported to ban "conversion therapy," including mere counseling. Specifically, the Colorado law forbade "any practice or treatment that attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity." 146 S. Ct. at 1018 (quoting Colo. Rev. Stat. § 12-245-202(3.5)(a)). Moreover, the law forbade any "effort to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same sex." *Id.* However, that same law explicitly allowed "counselors to engage in practices that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's identity exploration and development." *Id.*

The Court held that the law violated the First Amendment because it proscribed what views a therapist may and may not express. Therapist speech is constitutionally-protected, regardless of any state licensing requirements. The Court found that the Colorado statute wrongly censored speech based upon viewpoint, stating that "the First Amendment stands as a shield against any effort to enforce orthodoxy in

thought or speech in this country. It instead reflects a judgment that every American possesses an inalienable right to think and speak freely.” *Id.* at 1029.

Prairie Village’s ordinance seeks to control speech in a nearly identical way. It bans “conversion therapy,” which it defines as “any practice, counseling, or purported treatment that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions.” Prairie Village City Code § 11-223(b)(1). Moreover, like the Colorado statute struck down by the Supreme Court, the prohibited “conversion therapy” does “not include counseling that provides support and assistance to an individual undergoing gender transition” or any counseling which “does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.” *Id.* In other words, only one viewpoint is allowed to be expressed. Thus, the ordinance engages in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment.

As Attorney General, it is my duty to protect the constitutional rights of all Kansans. Because the City’s ordinance violates the First Amendment rights of Kansans, I request that the City immediately repeal it and thereby bring the City back into compliance with the Constitution. Please inform my office within 60 days whether this has been done. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely,



Attorney General Kris Kobach

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July 23, 2026

Honorable Michael Poppa
Mayor
City of Roeland Park
4600 W 51st Street
Roeland Park, Kansas 66305
mpoppa@roelandpark.org

RE: City's Conversion Therapy Ordinance

Dear Mayor Poppa,

It has come to my attention that the City of Roeland Park has an ordinance that prohibits health professionals from engaging in so-called “conversion therapy,” including therapy that involves only speech. Because the United States Supreme Court has recently ruled that such ordinances violate the First Amendment, I write to request that the City of Roeland Park repeal this unconstitutional ordinance.

In the recent case of *Chiles v. Salazar*, 146 S. Ct. 1010 (2026), the Supreme Court struck down a Colorado law that purported to ban “conversion therapy,” including mere counseling. Specifically, the Colorado law forbade “any practice or treatment that attempts to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.” 146 S. Ct. at 1018 (quoting Colo. Rev. Stat. § 12-245-202(3.5)(a)). Moreover, the law forbade any “effort to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.” *Id.* However, that same law explicitly allowed “counselors to engage in practices that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual’s identity exploration and development.” *Id.*

The Court held that the law violated the First Amendment because it proscribed what views a therapist may and may not express. Therapist speech is constitutionally-protected, regardless of any state licensing requirements. The Court found that the Colorado statute wrongly censored speech based upon viewpoint, stating that “the First Amendment stands as a shield against any effort to enforce orthodoxy in

thought or speech in this country. It instead reflects a judgment that every American possesses an inalienable right to think and speak freely.” *Id.* at 1029.

Roeland Park’s ordinance seeks to control speech in a nearly identical way. It bans “conversion therapy,” which it defines as “any practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions.” Roeland Park City Code § 11-401(b)(1). Moreover, like the Colorado statute struck down by the Supreme Court, the prohibited “conversion therapy” does “not include counseling that provides support and assistance to a person undergoing gender transition” or any other counseling “as long as such counseling does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity.” *Id.* In other words, only one viewpoint is allowed to be expressed. Thus, the ordinance engages in viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment.

As Attorney General, it is my duty to protect the constitutional rights of all Kansans. Because the City’s ordinance violates the First Amendment rights of Kansans, I request that the City immediately repeal it and thereby bring the City back into compliance with the Constitution. Please inform my office within 60 days whether this has been done. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact my office.

Sincerely,



Attorney General Kris Kobach

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