



Conversion Therapy Survivors

www.conversiontherapysurvivors.org

April 27, 2015

The Honorable Sara Gelser
Chair, Senate Committee On Human Services and Early Childhood
900 Court St. NE, S-405
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: EXHIBIT IN SUPPORT OF HB 2307 — CONVERSION THERAPY SURVIVORS' STATEMENT

To Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

In support of HB 2307, I submit a copy of the following statement for the record on behalf of Conversion Therapy Survivors:

CONVERSION THERAPY SURVIVORS' STATEMENT

As survivors of Conversion Therapy we sought to understand or change our sexual orientation or gender identity through professional therapy, religious counseling, 'ex-gay' programs, self-help books, and other methods that promoted the idea we were broken and needed to be fixed.

Long after homosexuality was declassified as a disorder by major health professions in 1973, we were diagnosed or counseled by professional therapists, religious leaders, and authors that we were intrinsically broken. We were advised that our natural attractions were caused by something bad ... bad parenting, childhood abuse, spiritual attack or some other trauma.

We trusted claims that Conversion Therapy programs, techniques, or prayers could "repair" our sexual orientation or gender identity in a way that would lead to "sexual wholeness," heterosexual desires, and/or gender conformity.

In some cases, these programs and techniques were imposed upon us by parents, educational or religious institutions, or concerned friends and family members. We were often left defenseless in the presence of trusted leaders who claimed to be experts but were mostly untrained and ideologically-motivated.

Many of us sacrificed loving same-sex relationships, risked opposite-sex marriages, and/or remained alone in hopelessness. These toxic messages led many of us down a path of self-destructive behaviors, substance abuse, depression, anxiety, and in some cases, attempted suicide.

Those of us who survived are no longer confused or afraid, nor do we resist our sexual orientation or gender identity. We are no longer ignorant of how mental health professionals, 'ex-gay' program leaders, and/or clergy can undermine what is natural by teaching and encouraging a belief system that revolves around isolation, rejection of parents, family or friends, self-loathing, and/or shame. We unite with former Conversion Therapy leaders, who acknowledge their own lack of education on the topics of sexuality, by affirming that we were not born with a sexuality and/or gender defect and therefore never needed to repair our sexuality and/or gender identity.

We ask for what a mindful and accountable society should demand. When a product or service is proven to be disingenuous, deceptive, harmful, or even life-threatening, this product or service is no longer deemed acceptable by a responsible and compassionate society. Therefore:

We support legislative efforts to ban licensed professionals from administering conversion therapy — especially to minors.

We advocate that professional health and scientific organizations set and enforce clearer policies that ban their members from administering or advocating conversion therapy.

We encourage religious-affiliated organizations to ensure their clergy, staff, and lay leaders stop promoting and practicing conversion therapy.

As survivors of conversion therapy, each of us has experienced harm from these practices. To prevent increased victimization and to empower ourselves in our recovery process, we join together in calling for a ban on conversion therapy.

SIGNED BY CONVERSION THERAPY SURVIVORS

(SURVIVOR'S NAME) / (LOCATION OF CONVERSION THERAPY)

Michael Airhart / MARYLAND	Daniel Fee CRC / CALIFORNIA	Shawn ODonnell / ILLINOIS
Brad Allen / COLORADO	Leon Fisher / MISSOURI	Hayden Pannell / AUSTRALIA
Christopher Anderson / CALIFORNIA	Adam Frey / CANADA	Joel Payne
Tim Arends / CALIFORNIA	A.L. Genaro / MINNESOTA	Bill Prickett / TEXAS
CJ Barker / CALIFORNIA	Angelo Gomez / TEXAS	Apryl Prentiss/
Scott Bean / CALIFORNIA	Daniel Gonzales / COLORADO	Jerry Reiter / NEW YORK
Bob Beer / WASHINGTON	Kurt Granzow / OREGON	Dr. Jallen Rix / CALIFORNIA
Norman Birthmark / OREGON	James Guay / CALIFORNIA	Katharine Royal / CALIFORNIA
Andrew Blackwell / CALIFORNIA	Brian Hager / FLORIDA	Tim Rymel / CALIFORNIA
Darlene Bogle / CALIFORNIA	Brian Hagar-Mckee/	Adele Sakler / CALIFORNIA
Peter Brinkman / NETHERLANDS	Warren Hartley / AUSTRALIA	Mathew Shurka / NEW YORK
Danael Broussard / TEXAS	Beth Harvey / VIRGINIA	Keith Sliter / ARKANSAS
Michael Bussee / CALIFORNIA	Jeffrey Harwood / TENNESSEE	Ron Smith
Rhett O. Butler / OREGON	Chris Hyde / CALIFORNIA	Tony Street / LOUISIANA
Robert Cangelose / TEXAS	Jason Ingram / ALASKA/KENTUCKY	Whittier Strong / INDIANA
Kent Carlson / CALIFORNIA	Richard James / COLORADO	Kevin R. Tengesdal / MARYLAND/WASHINGTON
Catherine Chapman / OREGON	Jay Krenek / TEXAS	Kevin Thompson / MINNESOTA
Tara Church / OREGON	Mordechai Levovitz	Rachel Turner / TENNESSEE
Deb Cuny / ARKANSAS	Christopher N* / CALIFORNIA	Doug Upchurch / TEXAS
Alan Davis / COLORADO	James Matson / COLORADO	Elena V* / OREGON
Joshua Davis / MISSOURI	Theo Mckinney / CALIFORNIA	Drew VanDyche / CALIFORNIA
Johann De Joodt / AUSTRALIA	Julie Melin / MINNESOTA	Anthony Venn-Brown / AUSTRALIA
Gail Dickert / OHIO	Gregg Moreland / OREGON	Tad Williams / MAINE
Murray Downie / AUSTRALIA	Scott Morrison / TEXAS	John Wood / FLORIDA
David Farrell / WEST VIRGINIA	Pat Murray / VERMONT	Jason Zenobia / OREGON

*—ALIAS

SIGNED BY FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND ALLIES

Samantha Ames / CALIFORNIA	Chelsea Lewis / ILLINOIS	Vera Raneri / AUSTRALIA
Whitney Baskins / OREGON	Phil Luckscheider	Scott Reader
Dean Brodi / AUSTRALIA	Marlene Lund / CALIFORNIA	Daniel L. Scott / NORTH DAKOTA
Amy Cannanva / VIRGINIA	Jennifer Kent / CALIFORNIA	Yanina Seltzer / DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Susan Cottrell / TEXAS	Ben Mattson / MINNESOTA	David W. Shelton / TENNESSEE
Tim Daly / AUSTRALIA	Anna Murray / UNITED KINGDOM	Beverley Smith / CALIFORNIA
Tamara Dick / NEW MEXICO	Debby McCrary / FLORIDA	Iain Stuart / OREGON
Liz Dyer / TEXAS	Cheri Nill / MICHIGAN	Rev. Abbey Tennis / CALIFORNIA
Pamela Ferguson / TEXAS	Machelle Pacion / ARIZONA	Lauren Way / CALIFORNIA
Marta Garcia / MARYLAND	Nancy Dowling Persons / NEW YORK	Christine Weston / AUSTRALIA
Andreena Harriman / VIRGINIA	Shelly Peters / CALIFORNIA	Matthew Winkel / COLORADO
Del. Patrick Hope / VIRGINIA	Bill Prentiss	

Sincerely,

Kurt Granzow | 5629 NE Alberta St | Portland, Oregon 97218