

**From:** Linda Eskridge [<mailto:db@molalla.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2015 11:28 AM

**To:** Sen Gelser

**Cc:** [db@molalla.net](mailto:db@molalla.net)

**Subject:** Vote No Hb 2307

### Testimony Opposing HB 2307 (Which Prohibits Reparative Therapy for Minors)

Dear Senator Sara Gelser,

Please vote No on HB 2307. This is the beginning of a very slippery slope and will remove parental rights in the medical care of their minor children. How do special interest groups know what future treatments can eventually come to help people through any crisis? This bill will put a stop to any research to anything new that may help, and special interest groups and the health authority has No right to dictate to parents how they can raise their children. The closest connection a child has is their parents. Children do much better when they are supported by and cared for by their parents. Government should not get in the way. It is already taking away religious freedom, telling people to bake cakes for something totally against their religious views.

Health care providers will also lose freedom to make treatment decisions for their clients.

Again, No special interest group should be allowed to dictate the treatment of choices of a health care provider, and no special interest group should be allowed to usurp the federal or state legal rights of parents to guide the health care and the education of their children.

Our children are going to schools at younger ages and are a captive audience in public schools. The common core education is pushing sex education from kindergarten up through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. These children are subjected to counseling, advising and convincing as young as 5 years old, to sexual identity and orientation confusion without the knowledge or permission of their parents or guardians. This is not age appropriate for minors.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB 2307. Protection for our children's physical and mental health begins with parents' rights to be the primary guide for their health and education. Please reinforce these rights and reject HB 2307—**our children deserve much better.**

Sincerely,

Linda J. Eskridge