

Oregon's Leading Health Professionals Support HB 2307: The Youth Mental Health Protection Act



American Psychological Association, Resolution on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts (2009), available at <http://www.apa.org/about/policy/sexualorientation.pdf>.

"Be it further resolved that the American Psychological Association advises parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder."



The Oregon School Psychologists Association (OSPA), which represents the profession of school psychology and the hundreds of school psychologists who work with children, youth and families in Oregon, supports House Bill 2307. We encourage prohibiting mental health professionals from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a patient under the age of eighteen years.



Efforts to change sexual orientation have been shown to cause harm and do not adhere to National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) policies regarding supporting youth in developing their identity (NASP, 2011, 2014). Additionally, the American Psychological Association (APA) and NASP's 1993 joint resolution on lesbian, gay and bisexual youths in schools specifically states the practice of psychology *"promotes the individual's development of personal identity including the sexual orientation of all individuals."*



American Medical Association, Health Care Needs of Gay Men and Lesbians in the United States, 275 J. Am. Med. Ass'n 1354 (1996), available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/programs/barriers/jama96.pdf>.



"Aversion therapy (a behavioral or medical intervention which pairs unwanted behavior, in this case, homosexual behavior, with unpleasant sensations or aversive consequences) is no longer recommended for gay men and lesbians."