

Submitter: Karen Neri

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I support the house bill prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy by certain professionals. Conversion therapy intended to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity to conform to heteronormative or gender binary standards is extremely oppressive and harmful. It is dehumanizing, reflect an abuse of power held by the mental health care professional and eliminates agency for the person engaging in identity exploration and development. Furthermore, it is contrary to multiple code of ethics guiding the practice of counseling and therapy that prohibit harm and abuse of power in therapeutic relationships, including the code of ethics for the American Counseling Association, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and National Board for Certified Counselors.