

Submitter: Brynna Sibilla

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker I work with LGBTQ2S+ clients. A person's sexuality and gender identity is a core aspect of their identity. It is not the role of mental health providers to attempt to alter people's identities or inflict indoctrination, and doing so has been deeply traumatic to people who have been subjected to such conversion practices. Mental health providers have an ethical responsibility to do no harm to our clients/patients. Conversion therapy is not supported by scientific research and has led to greater incidence of suicidality. Legislation across the country that targets the LGBTQ2S+ population has contributed to higher levels of anxiety, depression, and gender dysphoria in my clients. Oregon has an opportunity to show the LGBTQ2S+ population that we will continue to protect and advocate on their behalf. Please continue to prohibit conversion "therapy" which is a traumatic practice, and demonstrate commitment to the safety of sexual and gender minorities. Let the law governing mental health care in the state of Oregon reflect the ethics and values of all the mental health professional organizations. Please support passage of HB2458.