

Submitter: M Reid

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

On behalf of vulnerable youth, I support and defend their right to express and bring their whole self and identity into the therapy process. It is a fair and essential expectation that they be met with unwavering respect for their bodily and emotional self-determination. This means they must not be confronted by a therapist who is leading with their own agenda, values, or bias projected onto clients.

Support of this bill is a documented commitment to the protection of our young people from coercion and guards against weaponizing the personal values of professional mental health providers. Support of this bill creates an explicit ethical standard that professionals be accountable to meeting clients with non-judgment and inherent respect for their whole personhood, without agenda to shift or change who they are.