

From: James Reling, MS, NCC, CRC, Professional Counselor Associate

February 13, 2023

RE: Support of HB2458

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

I am writing on behalf of LGBTQAI+ people in Oregon requesting that you support banning the practice of conversion therapy. As a mental health therapist, I work with many LGBTQAI+ clients and so I have become intimately familiar with the long-lasting harm and traumatic effects of conversion therapy, which has been deemed unethical by the professional organizations that oversee mental health professionals.

LGBTQAI+ are not mental health disorders to be cured or changed, these identities are intrinsic to who we are and should be celebrated as part of the rich diversity of human. These communities need access to affirming care that respects our identities and gives people access to resources to live meaningful lives and thrive as productive members of our society.

Please support the passage of HB 2458.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Reling".

James Reling, MS, NCC, CRC, Professional Counselor Associate