

Submitter: Sarah Howeth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am writing to urge you to pass HB2458 to ban conversion therapy. I am a Marriage and Family Therapist Associate working in private practice in Portland, Oregon. I often work with people who hold non-dominant identities, such as being queer, trans, ethically non-monogamous, etc. I am frankly horrified and embarrassed as a mental health professional that conversion therapy is still practiced. Shaming someone out of their identity is extremely harmful, traumatizing, and is a misuse of power for mental health professionals. It is unethical for us to continue to support this practice in anyway. Banning conversion therapy sends a strong message, and also helps to protect those who are marginalized in Oregon. I urge you to support the passage of HB2458.