

Submitter: Sequoia Gartnerway

On Behalf Of: LGBTQIA Community

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I am in support of HB 2458. Conversion therapy is a fraudulent and harmful practice that has been proven to cause additional risk for increased mental illness, substance abuse, and suicide. Forcing someone to act the way you want them to by hiding the parts of themselves that make them who they are is entirely unacceptable... we trust ourselves enough to know who we are, and that should be enough for everyone involved. It is a tremendous feat to reveal intimate parts of your identity to those who are supposed to love and accept you for who you are, and to have them turn on you and try to force you into being someone else is devastating. The LGBTQ community already struggles to survive against religious intolerance, societal and familial pressures, and systemic oppression. Conversion therapy is not backed by scientific research, it is based entirely on prejudice. Getting rid of the abhorrent, traumatizing practice of conversion therapy would help improve and save lives.

Please show your support for this bill and help your fellow human beings take a step towards living in safety and peace.