

Submitter: Leah Hutchinson Sanchez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am a graduate student studying Clinical Mental Health Counseling and as a future therapist who is queer and a part of queer communities myself, I strongly support the banning of conversion therapy. It is pseudoscientific, in fact with strong evidence detailing its harm on both queer youth and adults. With the rising attacks on and violence toward LGBTQIA+ people in this country, this would send a strong message of hope that a better, kinder future is possible. The people of Oregon and the rest of America deserve to feel safe and supported. Banning conversion therapy is effectively banning non evidence-based care. Evidence-based care is the standard of care that this state and our country should strive to meet. Banning conversion therapy would not create more queer children and adults — it would create less traumatized or dead queer children and adults. It is imperative we send a strong message against pseudoscientific, traumatic care in this state.