

Submitter: Max Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I stand in firm and solid support of bill HB 2458. As an Oregon based Licensed Professional Counselor Associate who is an LGBTQIA+ member myself, I see many clients who are queer, including families, teens, and couples. Conversion therapy is a harmful, oppressive and traumatizing approach to working with LGBTQIA+ members. It has long lasting effects that can impact people negatively for their entire lives. As children and teens are figuring out and stepping into their identity it is incredibly harmful to have a mental health care worker try to "fix" their gender or sexual identity, change them into something they are not, and deny their experience. Instead therapy that explores these topics with clients without bias or discrimination allows for people to understand themselves better without causing lasting harm. I have seen first hand the harmful and traumatizing impact of conversion therapy. It is an unethical approach to working with queer people of any age. Please support this bill and show your support for the LGBTQIA+ community. Thank you.