

Submitter: Erica Barton

On Behalf Of: Oregon Citizens

Committee: Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am an LPC in the state of Oregon, and I specialize in anxiety, depression, body image, and trauma in women and LGBTQIA+ individuals. I support a ban of conversion therapy by healthcare providers in the state of Oregon. It is well known to cause harm to individuals subjected to it, and this is supported by primary medical organizations. On the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) website, it states: "Conversion therapy is a discredited practice focused on changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. It is not an evidence-based treatment and is opposed by all major medical organizations. In fact, research continues to support that conversion therapy is harmful, especially for LGBTQ youth." This same stance in support of banning conversion therapy is supported by the AMA, the APA, and the ACA.

There is no viable reason, other than discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals, to support the practice of conversion therapy. LGBTQ+ youth are already at a disproportionate risk of mental illness and suicide. Conversion therapy has no place in health care or mental health care. Banning conversion therapy could save lives.

NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness. "Conversion therapy, where we stand." <https://www.nami.org/Advocacy/Policy-Priorities/Stopping-Harmful-Practices/Conversion-Therapy>.

American Medical Association. "Sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts (so-called "conversion therapy")." <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf>