

Submitter: Alison Agnew

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I support this measure to end conversion therapy.

According to The Trevor Project's 2020 National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health, 10% of LGBTQ+ youth reported undergoing conversion therapy, with 78% reporting it occurred when they were under age 18. Youth who reported undergoing conversion therapy reported more than twice the rate of attempting suicide in the past year compared to those who did not.

Furthermore, a peer-reviewed study published by The Trevor Project in the American Journal of Public Health found that LGBTQ+ youth who underwent conversion therapy were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide and more than 2.5 times as likely to report multiple suicide attempts in the past year.

That's why conversion therapy is widely opposed by professional medical associations including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Rates of attempted suicide by LGBTQ+ young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation were more than double (48%) the rate of LGBTQ+ young adults who reported no conversion experiences (22%).

Suicide attempts nearly tripled for LGBTQ+ young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation (63%).

High levels of depression more than doubled (33%) for LGBTQ+ young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation compared with those who reported no conversion experiences (16%) and more than tripled (52%) for LGBTQ+ young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation.

Sexual orientation change experiences during adolescence by both parents/caregivers and externally by therapists and religious leaders were associated with lower young adult socioeconomic status, less educational attainment, and lower weekly income.

No one should ever go through the above. The legislature can make it safer to be LGBTQIA+, especially for young people with this change.