

Submitter: Erin FrazierMaskeill

On Behalf Of: humans

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Hello and thank you for hearing my testimony in support of banning conversion therapy. As a member of the LGBT+ community, I grew up in an environment that made every effort to dehumanize and delegitimize my very existence. My parents tried to force me into Exodus, a gay conversion program and I remember feeling like I would rather die than have my humanity taken away from me. This is the result of conversion therapy, that people would choose death over living a life that someone decides is acceptable or not.

I am a therapist living in Lane County, where the Public Health department just released a report that our suicide rate is 65% higher than the national average. It is well documented that LGBTQ+ individuals are a higher risk of suicide due to factors such as isolation, rejection from family, depression and anxiety. It is our ethical and moral obligation to protect our citizens, regardless of one's opinions of their life choices.

I support HB 2458 and would be so proud for Oregon to lead the country in banning this damaging and harmful unfounded practice of conversion therapy.