

Submitter: Margot Standeven

On Behalf Of: My son and many others

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As an Oregon based Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I fully support Bill HB2458.

Conversion therapy aims to change an individual's sexual orientation to heterosexual, change an individual's gender identity to cisgender, change their gender expression to match the sex they were assigned at birth. Conversion therapy is extremely oppressive and is based on the false premise that sexual orientation and gender identity can or should be "cured".

The practice of conversion therapy has been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades, but due to continuing discrimination and societal bias against LGBTQ people, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and conversion therapy can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide.

This practice has been widely discredited and banned in several countries, including Canada.

I strongly urge you to support Bill HB2458 and put an end to this debunked, dehumanizing treatment.