

Submitter: Breanna Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

My name is Breanna Smith and I currently advocate for youth in foster care--many of whom identify as LGBTQIA2S+. Prior to this, I spent 8 years working as a Recreational Therapist in various settings, where I worked with youth--many of whom identified as LGBTQIA2S+.

I am writing to you in strong support of passing HB2458.

Conversion therapy harms the mental health, physical health, and safety of LGBTQIA2S+ people. We as a society must come together and put an end to this harmful and archaic practice which leaves feelings of shame and self-hatred in the lives of those impacted. Banning conversion therapy is an important and powerful step in telling LGBTQIA2S+ people in Oregon that we see them, we value them, and we intend to protect them from the harms of conversion therapy. Banning conversion therapy in Oregon will aid in creating an affirming state where all LGBTQIA2S+ people are protected and seen as valuable community members.

I support this bill both as a former recreational therapist and as as a queer person myself.

Thank you for supporting and passing HB2458.