

As a mental health therapist in Oregon, I am in full support of HB2458. I am bound by my governing board to do no harm and to act in the best interest of my clients no matter my personal views, Conversion Therapy centers itself on biased principles of prejudice and bigotry, it has been used for decades to invalidate, discount and do mental and psychological harm on a vulnerable population. We as professional counselors should not convert anyone from their journey, but rather explore with them their inner workings to allow them to actualize their full potential, without holding an agenda of what that must be. Conversion therapy is born out of fear and judgment not out of care and curiosity, two fundamental ingredients in the healing profession. We must lead the way and take a stance for a standard of care that respects our clients whole selves. The healthcare I advocate for is one where folks are not manipulated out of their explorative state with unethical aims, one where no one is tricked into an exercise of social control and mental health professional are bound by rigorous criteria that center on unbiased care for all. Ban Conversion therapy now and join us in the present day, where unethical and barbaric practices are not validated by our governing law.