

Submitter: Maryssa Reynoso

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Hello,

My name is Maryssa Reynoso, I am the Diversity & Inclusion Director for the Associated Students of Oregon State University, a member of the LGBTQ+ & Ally Professionals of the Mid-Willamette Valley, and a student majoring in psychology at Oregon State University. In my position & field of study, I often work in higher education among many young adults who are in the process of discovering their identities. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2458, which would completely ban the unethical and harmful practice of conversion therapy in Oregon. Currently the practice is illegal to practice on minors, but not adults. It is my goal to protect adults from biased and misguided mental health practice. Conversion therapy is defined by the Human Rights Organization as "a range of dangerous practices and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression". Research shows that this practice leads to significantly damaging mental health outcomes, including anxiety, depression, PTSD, and sadly, sometimes attempted or completed suicides. I believe that passing this bill could save lives and again urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you.