



February 14, 2023

Delivered orally

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Again, for the record, my name is Jonathan Frochtzwajg; I'm the Public Policy & Grants Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, or CAP. CAP operates Prism Health, an LGBTQ+ health center providing gender-affirming behavioral healthcare, as well as primary care.

I'm testifying this evening, on behalf of CAP and Prism Health, in support of House Bill 2458. This bill only does one thing: It extends Oregon's existing prohibition on conversion therapy for minors to patients of all ages. It does not affect, one way or the other, our state's ban on conversion therapy for people under 18. It also does not change the finding implicit in that ban, which is that conversion therapy is both ineffective and harmful. This bill simply prohibits state-licensed healthcare professionals from providing an ineffective and harmful treatment to any patient, regardless of the patient's age.

Furthermore, HB 2458 does not prevent behavioral-health professionals from having neutral discussions with their patients. It merely prohibits "providing services *for the purpose* of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity." The bill makes clear that "counseling that facilitates a client's coping, social support and identity exploration or development" is *not* conversation therapy. That's why mainstream behavioral-health associations such as the American Counseling Association are not only not concerned about bans like the one proposed here, but actively support them.

We encourage you to advance HB 2458. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jonathan Frochtzwajg

Public Policy & Grants Manager, Cascade AIDS Project