

Submitter: Adrienne Diers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am writing regarding House bill 2458. I am an LPC associate here in Oregon who will be finishing up my required hours in the next few months. I will keep it simple, but I have to raise my voice of advocacy for those who are being taken advantage of by the power differential in therapeutic relationships in regard to conversion therapy. No therapist should abuse that position of influence with ANY personal agenda- religious or not. If there is separation of church and state- why shouldn't there be separation of church and therapy? To take advantage of any client in the vulnerable place of receiving therapy is atrocious and unacceptable. Is it appropriate for vegan therapists to convert clients to veganism? Or immigrant cultural practices to be converted to "American practices"? Or a therapist of one religious organization to try to evangelize a client to another religion? Is it okay for therapists to coerce clients to donate to charities/causes they believe in or shame clients for shopping big box stores because the therapist strongly supports local and small owned businesses? Is it acceptable for a therapist to sway a client away from a doctor recommended medical treatment because of a personal dislike for Western medicine, etc.? Of course not! I could go on and on. It is no different in the case of conversion therapy. Therapists coerce clients to be straight based on the therapist's agenda of eradicating queer inclinations. Abominable! That violates all codes of ethics and safety in the therapeutic relationship!

Thank you