

Submitter: Andrew Hoffmann

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a queer man, I support HB 2458 to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy, due to the lack of empirical data supporting the short term and long term success of conversion therapy, as well as my lived experience.

Throughout both my youth and adulthood I would have fought through far fewer long term mental health crises had I received support and skills for finding my own identity, rather than being forced into the identity that society had given me.

Affirming mental health professionals have supported me along my constant journey of defining and redefining my identity as I grow and change. Only damage and strife was dealt by those forcing me into identities that were not my own.

To have a mental health professional refuse to acknowledge that my identity is what I say it is would be everything but healthy.