

Submitter: Shannon Gentry

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a student of Clinical Mental Health Counseling, every textbook I have read has indicated that Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) cause harm and have not been shown to be effective. The ethical guidelines for the practice of counseling are very clear about not causing harm to clients (American Counseling Association, 2014). Banning the practice of conversion therapy, which is known to cause low self-esteem, self-hatred, and suicidality among clients (Przeworski et al., 2021) is critical to protecting the safety and wellbeing of Oregonians. It is especially critical that unproven SOCE not be forced on minors. To knowingly and deliberately enforce harmful change on an adult is unconscionable; to do so with minors would be criminal. Please support the banning of all conversion therapy or SOCE in Oregon.

References

American Counseling Association. (2014). 2014 ACA code of ethics.

<https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/2014-code-of-ethics-finaladdress.pdf>

Przeworski, A., Peterson, E., & Piedra, A. (2021). A systematic review of the efficacy, harmful effects, and ethical issues related to sexual orientation change efforts.

Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice, 28(1), 81–100.

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