

Submitter: Sabrina Sheehy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I emphatically and whole-heartedly support the ban of conversion therapy in the state of Oregon. We KNOW that conversion therapy (defined as the practice of trying to change a person's sexual identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression) is abusive, coercive, and is DEFINITELY NOT HEALTHCARE. Research shows that those subjected to conversion therapy experience significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Victims of this practice have been, and still are, dying.

Everyone I speak to about this issue is shocked to learn that conversion therapy is currently banned for minors, but not yet for adults. Please stop and think about how many vulnerable adults we have in Oregon. There are many adults worth protecting, for example, young college students trying to find their way and their identities after leaving the influence of their families of origin, and adults with differently-abled bodies or minds who depend on other adults and healthcare workers for their care and support. Every Oregonian deserves equal protection from faulty, biased, misleading healthcare practices. Would you trust your surgeon to perform a surgery on your physical body that was not evidence-based and, in fact, there was mounting evidence that it caused harm? No, you would not. Please make sure mental health care has the same parity. At last we can finally do away with the unethical and horrendous practice of conversion therapy. Passing this bill will literally save lives. All that is needed is your belief that every single human being deserves access to ethical, evidence-based healthcare. Please pass this bill to protect every single Oregonian. Thank you!