

Submitter: Kylee Brandt
On Behalf Of: All Oregonians
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care
Measure: HB2458

I am a licensed therapist primarily working with trauma and eating disorders in adolescents and adults across the state of Oregon, with a significant percentage of my cases involving individuals who are just beginning to explore their gender and sexual identity, those seeking or already in transition, and those who have fully transitioned into their authentic selves. As a mental health professional and member of the LGBTQ2IA+ community, I have witnessed firsthand the complex psychological harm caused by Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Change Efforts (SOGIECE). I hereby support this measure to prohibit conversion therapy by mental health care or social health professionals in Oregon.

SOGIECE are a set of practices that aim to deny, suppress, or change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression, primarily seen enacted against sexual and gender minorities; these practices are also known as "conversion therapy" or "reparative therapy" (Kinitz, et al, 2021; Fish and Russell, 2020). Conversion therapy violates the ethical principles set forth by major professional organizations representing healthcare providers, including the American Psychological Association (APA, 2018), American Medical Association (AMA, 2019), and the American Counseling Association (ACA, 2017). Banning the inhumane and unethical practice of conversion therapy is critical to preserving all individuals' safety and well-being. Please avow through this legislation that ALL Oregonians are deserving of ethically competent healthcare practices. Thank you.

References:

American Counseling Association. Resolution on reparative therapy/conversion therapy/sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) as a significant and serious violation of the ACA code of ethics. Published 2017. Accessed February 8, 2023. https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/resolutions/reparative-therapy-resolution-letter--final.pdf?sfvrsn=d7ad512c_4

American Medical Association. Issue brief: LGBTQ change efforts (so-called "conversion therapy"). Published 2019. Accessed February 8, 2023. <https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-12/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf>

American Psychological Association. Position Statement on Conversion Therapy and LGBTQ Patients. Published 2018. Accessed February 9, 2023. <https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/3d23f2f4-1497-4537-b4de-fe32fe8761bf/Position-Conversion-Therapy.pdf>

Fish, J. N., & Russell, S. T. (2020). Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts are Unethical and Harmful. *American journal of public health*, 110(8), 1113–1114. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.305765>

Kinitz, D. J., Salway, T., Dromer, E., Giustini, D., Ashley, F., Goodyear, T., Ferlatte, O., Kia, H., & Abramovich, A. (2021). The scope and nature of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression change efforts: a systematic review protocol. *Systematic reviews*, 10(1), 14. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13643-020-01563-8>