

Submitter: Molly Cowan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I propose that the consequences of this bill would be disastrous, not only for therapists, but for vulnerable youth seeking nonjudgmental guidance from helping professionals who care for them. This bill would prevent therapists from having frank conversations with children/adolescents and their parents surrounding the real, dangerous consequences of "gender-affirming" surgery and medications and would penalize therapists for thinking critically, a hallmark of our profession. As a member of the helping profession, we know that there is no "cookie cutter" or "one-size-fits-all" approach to therapy, and this bill supports the draconian belief that there is but one approach for every client, which could not be further from the truth. Additionally, therapists would be penalized for exploring past trauma, current family dynamics, or current ongoing abuse, as their efforts to do so may quickly be labeled as attempting to engage in "conversion therapy." It is our job as helping professionals to provide nonjudgmental support, and at the same time explore ALL facets of the client's life and ask the appropriate questions as is our ethical and moral obligation. This bill threatens children's lives and I strongly oppose it in all its implications.