

As a Counselor Educator I am in full support of HB2458

As Counselor Educators we train our students to first and foremost do no harm. There are studies dating back to 2001 that clearly demonstrate conversion therapy is ineffective and/or harmful, finding links to depression, suicidality, anxiety, social isolation and decreased capacity for intimacy and cannot alter sexual orientation. Section A.4.b. of the ACA code specifically outlines that “Counselors are aware of—and avoid imposing—their own values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Counselors respect the diversity of clients, trainees, and research participants and seek training in areas in which they are at risk of imposing their values onto clients, especially when the counselor’s values are inconsistent with the client’s goals or are discriminatory in nature” (2014, p. 5). As Educators we must train our students to hold unconditional positive regard for a client’s individuality and intersectional identities, and support clients towards their best possible outcomes and not the opposite based on the best evidence available.

American Counseling Association. (2014). 2014 ACA Code of Ethics.

<https://www.counseling.org/resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>

<https://whatwewknow.inequality.cornell.edu/topics/lgbt-equality/what-does-the-scholarly-research-say-about-whether-conversion-therapy-can-alter-sexual-orientation-without-causing-harm/>