

Submitter: Paul Tucker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Outlawing 'conversion therapy' for gender identity is approximately as foolish and dangerous as outlawing 'conversion therapy' for religious beliefs, political party affiliation, or NFL team fan affiliation. All three of the latter are probably at least as persistent as transgender identities adopted during adolescence or young adulthood, but usually less health damaging.

Let's be honest: the mental health field is the least scientific of all licensed branches of medicine. The recommendations of its professional associations are highly subject to reflect fashionable beliefs among its most idealistic members, rather than strongly evidence demonstrated conclusions. While it can make sense to prohibit involuntary commitment to coercive programs of therapy, prohibiting voluntary participation in talk therapy is completely different. In this case the coercion is completely on the part of the ideological group (i.e. those who believe in innate gender identity) who seeks to outlaw any opposition. Don't be fooled.