

Submitter: Kaden Winterkorn

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am writing in support of HB 2458 to ban conversion therapy in Oregon. As a queer and trans counselor, I have witnessed far too often the profound trauma that clients experience when they are subject to conversion therapy. We know that conversion therapy increases emotional distress and is a contributing factor to suicide in our community. All major psychological and medical organizations are united in their condemnation of conversation therapy as a discredited practice that does harm to the people who have to endure it. The American Counseling Association says succinctly that conversation therapy "does not work, can cause harm, and violates our Code of Ethics." Conversion therapy is an oppressive and unethical practice designed to erase queer identities from our communities. LGBTQ+ folks in Oregon already face discrimination in education, housing, employment, healthcare, and many other domains of life. Please support HB 2458 and demonstrate that you are committed to standing with and for the LGBTQ+ community in Oregon.

Thank you.