

Submitter: D E Likins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Honored Committee Members --

As one of Oregon's mental health providers and a member of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, I strongly support adopting HB 2458. Not only is conversion therapy a pseudoscience promoted primarily as a vehicle for religious assimilation, it is a mechanism of tremendous social harm to the queer and questioning communities I represent and serve.

Over many decades, this legislature has demonstrated our values of fostering inclusion and safety for all Oregonians. From the early days of trans healthcare coverage as part of Oregon Health Plan, to the incredible and brilliantly successful CareAssist Program for Oregonians living with HIV, LGBTQ+ Oregonians have come to expect the advocacy and protection of the Oregon State Legislature. Passing HB 2458 is in keeping with that quality of care and protection in an increasingly hostile political era for Queer Oregonians.

Please join me in ending this barbaric and weaponized practice, and continue making Oregon a state of refuge for queer, questioning, and trans adults nationwide. Thank you.