

Submitter: Mai Coats

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

As a social services professional working directly with LGBTQ2IA+ individuals in Oregon and as a member of the LGBTQ2IA+ community, I fully support HB2458. Conversion therapy is discredited, very harmful and should most definitely be banned.

Due to religious intolerance, family pressure and systemic oppression, the Queer community already has a higher incidence of negative physical and mental health outcomes. We also have an increased risk of suicide. People who are subjected to conversion efforts are at an even higher risk of mental illness, substance abuse and suicide.

Oregon is a place where people like me can feel safe and comfortable to fully be themselves. I do not believe that decent Oregonians would knowingly cause harm to kids, especially by using discredited practices. Let us completely ban this fraudulent and harmful practice now, before another life is harmed or lost entirely.