

Submitter: Dana Powers-Green

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

There is a theme that I noticed in review testimony that opposes this measure that I wanted to comment on as it appears to be based on a fundamental misreading of the bill. This assumption is that if this bill is passed therapist will suddenly be required to exclusively encourage clients to pursue transition or homosexual relationships if they ever express any interest in an identity that is not cisgender and straight. This assumption is not supported by either therapeutic ethics or the text of section (B) (ii). It is not a therapist role to try and push or force their client embrace a particular gender identity or sexual orientation and it is this type of pressure that this bill seeks to ban. A therapist role is to work with their client to explore and understand what their goals, identity and values are without the therapist trying to impose their own values on the client.