

Submitter: Marion Suber

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am a licensed psychologist in Oregon, and I am in full support of HB2458 to ban conversion therapy in Oregon. Conversion therapy has a long-lasting traumatizing impact on queer people and has significant deleterious effects on the mental and emotional wellbeing. Conversion therapy intended to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity to conform to heteronormative or gender binary standards is oppressive and harmful. It is dehumanizing, reflective of an abuse of power held by the mental health care professional, and eliminates agency for the person engaging in identity exploration and development. Furthermore, it is contrary to multiple code of ethics guiding the practice of counseling and therapy that prohibit harm and abuse of power in therapeutic relationships including the code of ethics for the American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, and National Board for Certified Counselors. Thank you.