

Submitter: Sharon Chatkupt Lee

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Banning conversion "therapy" is an important step that Oregon must take to protect our LBGTQIA+ population. As a psychologist, I have seen first hand the damage that can be done with conversion therapy. We know that suicide rates, which are already high in LBGTQIA+ youth become even higher when they are victims of conversation therapy. Punishing people for their feelings and identity is immoral and unethical. There is much work to be done in the mental health field to be a more welcoming place for LBGTQIA people. Banning conversion therapy would be a start. As a mother, it is terrifying that there are mental health practitioners out there who would try to extinguish my child's identity for their own religious dogma. I support this ban whole-heartedly.

Thank you,

Dr Sharon Chatkupt Lee, PsyD