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On Behalf Of: Anonymous 8  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2458

Conversion therapy as it relates to transgenderism is a far cry from the conversion therapy "of old" that was applied to the gay community in the past.

In fact, in this bill the term "conversion therapy" is being used to create a false parallel to the situation of the past. In my opinion, that is being done purposefully to capitalize on the negative connotations the term carries so as to apply them to this newer topic of transgenderism and gender identity in hopes of getting the bill passed. There are many, many trans-activists in this arena who want to benefit from this confusion.

In this bill, speaking the truth from the point of science would be considered "conversion therapy." Speaking facts must be preserved. Had it been illegal to have factual conversations with youths when I was a little boy, I may have not been steered clear of a belief I would someday turn into a girl. Some neighbor boys convinced me of it. I can't imagine going to an adult back then and having them tell me something like that was possible.

Today, kids are led to believe if they think it, even once, then it can be true. They are sometimes told that outright, but worse: When all level-headed adults feel we "aren't allowed" to speak on facts, for any reason at all, and keep our mouths shut, we've become complicit in the confusion, hurt, and pain.

Bills HB2458 would serve to make conversion therapy illegal at all ages. We must take note: the term "Conversion Therapy" in this bill has been given broadened scope which would basically make it wrong to speak factual truth.

A young girl very close to me was taken up in the fervor of gender identity. This bill provides a "do not touch/hands off/let them do what they feel" protectionism or you'll be accused of conversion therapy. HB2458 will prevent straight talk factual discussions because they could be construed as conversions therapy.

We need to preserve the ability of our health care providers, parents, and school district employees to keep discussions of transgenderism (in all its various forms from trans male, trans female, and the notion of nonbinary) based in fact. Many good conversations based in absolute fact may be in danger under this bill. Educating a child on the facts of life, biology, and physiology should not be considered in a negative shadow that the term "conversion therapy" casts.