

Submitter: S Sparks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am providing this testimony in support of HB 2458. It is imperative that dangerous practices such as conversion therapy be banned in the state of Oregon. Per the American Psychiatric Association (APA), it is stated that "No credible evidence exists that any mental health intervention can reliably and safely change sexual orientation; nor, from a mental health perspective does sexual orientation need to be changed." In addition, it has been well researched and documented by numerous organizations (such as the Family Acceptance Project) that suicide attempts for youth who have undergone conversion therapy more than doubles.

In summary, LGBTQ+ folks deserve thrive as their most authentic selves. No one has the right to take someones identify away. LGBTQ+ people cannot be "fixed", because there is nothing wrong with them to begin with.