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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Pursuing heterosexuality or pursuing homosexuality should hold equal weight. Every human being has the right to determine which path forward is right for them. Specifically with sexual identity, only the individual knows what is right and best for them. Counseling is personal, intimate and driven by the patient - not the government. Every person should have the basic human right of being able to discuss, process and analyze what they want in their own therapy sessions. Without proper definition and designation of "conversion therapy," it will only continue to be a loose term thrown around to remove basic human rights. This type of bill would have resounding bipartisan support if "conversion therapy" would be properly defined with precise language. On a personal note, my husband and I were married for a couple years when he realized his addiction to same-sex pornography and same sex attraction. He sought counseling help to process why he was going to porn and how that was destroying our marriage. Luckily, he was afforded the right to pursue discussing his sexuality and sexual identity with a counselor and found great healing and resolution after a few years in counseling. We have now been married for almost 13 years, have two young children and live a thriving life together. Should a bill like this pass, my family would not have the opportunity to be helped and saved by counseling. Would my husband had to have coerced someone to help him process his struggle? Without properly and precisely defining "conversion therapy," my husband's talk-therapy sessions would be lumped in with this bill's term of "conversion therapy" and would therefore be unlawful. This is unconstitutional and wrong. Every individual deserves the right to pursue their own path to happiness, particularly within counseling.