



TO: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

FROM: Mary Miller, Oregonians for Sanity

DATE: 2/14/2023

RE: Oppose HB 2458 which expands ORS 675.850's ban on so-called "conversion therapy"

Chair Nosse, Vice-Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Committee Members:

I am Mary Miller of Oregonians for Sanity, a watchdog group shining a light on the activist agenda and groups behind the policies and legislation being enacted in Oregon which harm everyday Oregonians. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony to the committee today.

1. The term "conversion therapy" is being misused. Normal people including the [Oregon legislators responsible](#) for enacting ORS 675.850 originally in the spring of 2021 which banned so-called "conversion therapy" for minors, have been lied to about the meaning of the term. Now legislators are being lied to again by activists in this push to expand the ban to people of all ages.
2. Activist groups such as the group that pushed to ban so-called "conversion therapy" for minors in Oregon in 2021 and their partners define "conversion therapy" as "dangerous and discredited practices that falsely claim to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression." Activists such as one who testified to the United Nations back in fall 2020 tell stories about "acts of physical, psychological and sexual abuse, electrocution and forced medication, isolation and confinement, verbal abuse and humiliation." Are there many reports of these (already illegal) acts occurring in Oregon?
3. It is a lie that ORS 675.850 and HB 2458 are about banning already illegal abuse. The language in the statute is very broad and is in fact being used to silence health care professionals from speaking out about or offering alternatives to a much more common and dangerous type of abuse: pushing permanent and brutal medical and surgical practices, usually referred to by the euphemism "gender affirming care," as the only treatment option for gender dysphoria. This ban isn't about accepting sexual preferences or behaviors. It is about promoting an idea that people suffering from mental health conditions causing them to believe they would be happier if they had been born the opposite sex or no sex at all should be encouraged to sterilize themselves, medicate themselves, and amputate themselves. It's barbaric.
4. In the two years since the Oregon Legislature originally debated the ban on "conversion therapy," the house of cards that is "gender affirming care" has begun to collapse. The fake studies published by trans rights activists have been disproven. The power of persuasion of promoting transgenderism online and in school has been proven. The quackery of the so-called "experts" practicing "gender medicine" at clinics and hospitals around the country, one of the largest of which is OHSU in Portland, has been exposed. HB 2458 is being proposed because trans rights activists don't want the house of cards to collapse. While health care professionals around the country are beginning to speak out, trans rights activists in Oregon want to make it illegal for health care professionals in Oregon to do anything except **"counseling that assists a client who is seeking to undergo a gender transition or who is in the process of undergoing a gender transition."** (HB 2458)
5. Legislators, please oppose HB 2458, please pass legislation to repeal ORS 675.850, and please pass legislation to ban child mutilation, so called "gender affirming care" for young people, in Oregon.

Please oppose this dangerous legislation. Thank you.

Resources:

Sapir, Leor. "[The Distortions in Jack Turban's Psychology Today Article on 'Gender Affirming Care.'](#)" *Reality's Last Stand*, October 7, 2022

Reed, Jamie. "[I Thought I Was Saving Trans Kids. Now I'm Blowing the Whistle.](#)" *The Free Press*, February 9, 2023

Mia. "[Apotemnophilia.](#)" *Twitter*, February 11, 2023

Sapir, Leor. "[Yes, Europe Is Restricting 'Gender-Affirming Care.'](#)" *City Journal*, February 13, 2022