

Submitter: Meghan Kelley

On Behalf Of: All historically marginalized people

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care,

I am writing today as a Psychologist licensed and practicing in Oregon for 12 years. I have treated a high number of LGBTQIIA individuals and couples throughout my training and professional career. Many of them have experienced a version of conversion therapy at some point in their lifetime. Most of those individuals continue to suffer from symptoms of chronic Post-traumatic Stress Disorder years after those experiences. These symptoms often become barriers to being able to have healthy, trusting, safe relationships with others. These experiences create harmful, internalized perceptions of the individual's place in society and create additional challenges in regard to finding and maintaining stable employment, engaging in community, and having meaning and purpose in life. Survivors of conversion therapy are prone to suicide. Moreover, we know that chronic stress creates an increased vulnerability to a myriad of chronic medical conditions that further impact one's quality of life. Please vote to support this bill, as it is literally a matter of life and death for many in our community.

Thank you for your consideration and time.