

Submitter: Kay Gordon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Conversion therapy has long been shown to be ineffective. It can increase shame, guilt, and anxiety in extremely vulnerable people, at a critical moment when they actually need validation, tools for increasing their self-acceptance and self-esteem, and connection to LGBTQ-competent community. Any licensed mental health provider should know that it is dishonest and unethical to offer conversion therapy, and this bill would disincentivize frauds from advertising and engaging in this dangerous practice.

My only critique is that HB 2458 doesn't go far enough to protect citizens from similar counseling by unlicensed professionals, but it is a good step in the right direction.