

Submitter: Taylor Van Rysselberghe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I am currently a QMHP who is on track to become an LPC and I chose this profession because of its first rule, which is: To do NO harm. Conversion therapy is harmful, there is no scientific evidence or argument that could be made to support its utility or efficacy within the realm of any mental health service in this state. Though there are plenty of scientific and evidence based studies that have concluded how detrimental and harmful conversion therapy is. Testimony upon testimony from people who have attended conversion therapy (whether forcefully or willingly) have been documented for the public, including public figures such as politicians and legislative members, to consume in order to gain insight into how dangerous and unethical conversion therapy is. Section A.4.b. of the ACA code specifically outlines that "Counselors are aware of—and avoid imposing—their own values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Counselors respect the diversity of clients, trainees, and research participants and seek training in areas in which they are at risk of imposing their values onto clients, especially when the counselor's values are inconsistent with the client's goals or are discriminatory in nature" (2014, p. 5). To put it bluntly, for any LPC or mental health worker who provides conversion therapy would be in ethical violation - grounds for which may result in a legal trial or loss of licensure. This is not only an opportunity to provide safety to citizens of this state, but to directly halt a source of harm and discrimination that is conversion therapy.

Thank you kindly,  
Taylor Van Rysselberghe

American Counseling Association. (2014). 2014 ACA Code of Ethics.  
<https://www.counseling.org/resources/aca-code-of-ethics.pdf>