

Submitter: Lindsey Salzer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

Dear House Committee of Behavioral Health and Healthcare,

My name is Lindsey Salzer (she/her) and I'm an Oregon resident.

I want to testify my position in favor of bill HB2458; prohibiting conversion therapy by professionals in Oregon state.

I support this bill since I myself identify as queer, and have many loved ones in my life who are gay or part of LGBTQIA+ community. Some of my closest friends have had first-hand conversion therapy experiences that actually worsened their state of mental health as a result. 'Conversion therapy' has a misleading name in itself, as my close friend as a result of conversion therapy needed professional therapy in order to feel mentally stable and get out of depression. It's crucial to allow people access to modern mental health practices that do not include outdated, misinformed conversion therapy practices which are rooted in religious beliefs. I support banning conversion therapy as it oversteps the separation of church and state and is not fair to practice anywhere, especially in a professional setting.

In summary, I'm my experience, Conversion therapy only leads to damaging the safety and health of the (big) queer community in Oregon, as well as risking lifelong mental health trauma impacting the mental health for queer people in Oregon.

Thank you for your time,
Lindsey Salzer