

I am opposed to HB 2458, which assumes that adults are being coerced rather than choosing their own counseling goals and bans professional speech that is constitutionally protected.

The Bill seeks to prohibit adult persons from getting talk therapy when they want to resolve their unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoric feelings. **Instead of being coerced to seek counseling, these adults would find the help they seek to be prohibited by the state.**

Williams Institute Generations data showed that adults seeking help to leave homosexuality and obtaining counseling that supported their own goals actually lowered suicidality 17 to 25 times. **Individuals who are in conflict with their own feelings deserve professional support of their own choosing**, which lowers suicidality by a huge margin.ⁱ

The **11th Circuit Court**ⁱⁱ ruled that professional speech is constitutionally protected speech and overturned Conversion therapy bans in three states. IE that the state should not insert itself into conversations between clinician and client, even for minors. They also acknowledged that abusive treatment was not being used, rather this was to attempt to ban speech, professional speech.

The **US Supreme Court**ⁱⁱⁱ provided the basis for overturning the bans in *Becerra v. NIFLA* referencing professional speech.

As we know, conversion therapy bans do not simply ban abusive behaviors, but speech...professional speech. If you wish to only ban abusive practices, you could adopt language that excludes verbal and written speech.

ⁱ <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3729353>

ⁱⁱ <https://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/201910604.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/17pdf/16-1140_5368.pdf