

Submitter: Stephen Higgins

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

To whom it may concern,

I am a concerned citizen, Licensed Acupuncturist in the state of Oregon, and mental health counselor. I am writing in support of HB2458.

It is my sincere belief that Oregon should follow the lead of the American Counseling Association, the American Psychological Association, and numerous other mental health and social justice organizations in taking a stand against this inhumane "mental health care" practice.

Conversion therapy is considered unethical by the above professional organizations, and it has been shown by numerous studies to be both harmful and ineffective; further, the studies that ostensibly support conversion therapy have been poorly constructed and have not been normed for individuals outside of the highly religious White male population. By contemporary scientific standards, these studies are not considered relevant, repeatable, or scientific.

Please ban conversion therapy in Oregon with all due haste.

Sincerely,

Stephen Higgins, MSOM LAc