

Submitter: Reuben Simon

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2458

I fully support the house bill prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy by certain mental health professionals. Conversion therapy is not "therapy" at all. It is no more than an oppressive manner of control over people whose identity does not conform to the so-called "norms" of gender. The intent to change a person is not therapeutic, it is a conscious manipulation and an affront to our entire field as caregivers. Our aim ought to be to support human beings to become their fullest selves, as defined by them, not us. It is dehumanizing and an abuse of power to presume that we know what they ought to have, who they ought to be, better than our patients/clients. From my position as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, I believe it is unethical and cruel to distort the notion of "therapy" to further the aims of any of our personal, political or social perspectives.