

Submitter: Megan Thornton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in concern for bill HB 2002. I think it is so important to support people and especially youth who belong to the LGBTQ community. I also feel it very important to support those questioning if they might belong to that community. However I am deeply concerned about the wordage in this bill and the limits it places on counselors and therapists to do that. I think people need support when questioning anything, or believing in something new. They need someone who can ask them difficult questions and someone who can help them question things they haven't yet. They need this before they take any drastic measures and especially before they make any drastic changes that will be life altering. Oftentimes this needs to be someone who is impartial to the person and the outcome of their decisions. Family and friends often can't be that person. This bill also takes away the ability for a therapist to be that person. I don't think they can't affirm a person's belief but I do think they do need to be able to help them ask the hard questions and explore such difficult transitions to help the person be sure they are ready to make a decision as often treatment is life altering and can't be taken back. The person needs someone to make sure there are no underlying explanations for their feelings such as abuse, trauma, fear, desire to fit in, etc. These things are especially important for youth and young adults. Please do not support this bill. Re-write it and allow therapists to do their job, supporting their patients by being able to speak freely with them about ALL topics and asking the difficult questions.

Thank you.