## Here's why you must vote "NO" on H97 – a cruel and dangerous bill

Bill H97 is deceptively and dishonestly titled, "An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors." In fact, it puts vulnerable kids in danger to support a radical ideology.

Homosexual and transgender behavior in children is very often a result of early sexual trauma such as sexual molestation, rape, exposure to pornography, abuse, or serious issues with one or both parents. Victimized youth can become further traumatized and even suicidal. Skilled mental health professionals can often help them heal their severe emotional wounds and work through these issues. For many, it is literally a life-saver.

But radical activists want to make it illegal to offer this help to children because it contradicts their political agenda. They believe that parents and children should *not* have a choice in this matter.

<u>That's why this bill has already been rejected by 20 states</u> – because it puts vulnerable kids in danger in order to please some radical activists.

## Victims came and testified about H97

Many people came and gave very emotional testimony at the Massachusetts State House during the public hearing on H97 held on July 28, 2014. Here are just a few:

"Reparative therapy saved my life. I was one of those 5-year-old boys who was sexually abused . . . Very often homosexual feelings arise in puberty because of one's sexual abuse. . . I didn't know how to deal with those issues." - **David P.** 

"I did not choose to be sexually abused as a child, but I did choose homosexuality . . . And I spent a lifetime fighting depression, addiction, suicide . .. This bill is designed to condemn children like we were to that same experience. Licensed professional therapists through reparative therapy help sexual abuse victims like me heal from trauma." - **Robin G.** 

"I am a mother whose son who was seeing a therapist to deal with damaging childhood experiences that can lead to homosexuality . . .I vehemently plead with you to reject this Bill H97 and give these children a fighting chance to avoid a lifetime of psychological pain and serious health issues." - **Diane S.** 

## Myths and falsehoods being used to push this bill

To push this bill, activists in Massachusetts and other states are conducting a lobbying campaign of disinformation and manufactured hysteria. They've labeled it as "conversion therapy". They tell lurid and completely untrue stories about children being electrocuted and other alleged bizarre abuses by therapists. They claim that this professional therapy *causes* depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior (though it actually *heals* it).

**Fact:** There have been no documented complaints to regulatory agencies of such abuses by professional therapists in over 35 years.

They are also claiming that the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a statement "condemning conversion therapy." But they don't tell you that a past president of the APA, Dr. Nicholas Cummings, said publicly that he used this therapy and saw it to be successful. Moreover Dr. Cummings told reporters that the APA is intimidated and harassed by the 'gay rights' movement and "does not allow open debate" on this issue.

You must vote NO on this terrible bill – H97.

For more information contact:

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