

TO: Senators and Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

RE: Please Vote NO for House Bill 3907 – An anti-parent, anti-family, and anti-self-determination bill!

DATE: May 21, 2014

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Already in 2014, **ten states have rejected legislation similar to House Bill 3907**, including Virginia, Washington, Maryland, Minnesota, Illinois, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Florida, Vermont, and Rhode Island.

Why? Because legislation like House Bill 3907 is cruel!

What could be crueler than to counsel young people to believe that the feelings they are experiencing that have developed as a result of childhood traumas and/or abuse are to be celebrated, and to encourage them to engage in behaviors that often lead to severe physical and psychological consequences and even death?

Such traumas often lead to feelings and behaviors associated with eating disorders, such as anorexia, or depression, leading potentially to suicide or drug or alcohol abuse, and some lead to sexual identity issues which can lead to **severe and sometimes deadly medical consequences, including but not limited to gay bowel syndrome, various infectious diseases, liver cancer and AIDS, and can significantly lower the general lifespan of homosexual men who often engage in physically dangerous sexual practices associated with homosexuality.**

Calling successful and compassionate counseling strategies that have assisted countless individuals in resolving unwanted same-sex attractions “abusive practices” is a deceitful ploy to persuade others of something that is simply not true in order to obtain votes from those who don’t have time to research the topic.

In actuality, scientific research has documented 100 years of peer-reviewed literature that shows some individuals experience change from a primary homosexual orientation to a primary heterosexual orientation. For more information on these sources, see:

Phelan, J. E., Whitehead, N. E., & Sutton, P. M. (2009). What Research Shows: NARTH’s Response to the APA Claims on Homosexuality. A Report of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. *Journal of Human Sexuality, 1*, 1-94.

Phelan, J.E. (2014). *Successful Outcomes of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts: An Annotated Bibliography*. Charleston, SC: Practical Application Publications.

What could be more unjust than to take away the rights of parents to seek counseling for their children and teenagers to help them heal from past abuses through methods that have already proven to be successful for many individuals? The primary purpose of counseling or psychological therapy is to deal with and overcome unwanted feelings and damaging behaviors that are born out of trauma and abuse.

HB 3907, however, seeks to remove the rights of parents to pursue such help for their children and teens experiencing unwanted same sex attraction and to only allow therapists to provide gay-affirming therapy, which would force them to ignore the underlying causes of homosexuality and violate their ethical responsibility to allow their patients to choose their own personal goals in therapy.

When LGBT activists and their supporters indicate that people are “born that way” and that people cannot change, they are misrepresenting what science really shows. **While the APA’s official stance is that “there is no scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of reparative therapy,” Dr. Nicholas A. Cummings, former President of the APA and co-author of Destructive Trends in Mental Health – The Well Intentioned Path to Harm, has stated that he himself has helped hundreds of former homosexuals change their sexual identities.**

According to Dr. Cummings, the APA has never conducted unbiased, open research on reparative a/k/a sexual orientation and gender identity change effort therapy and that the Task Force created to determine whether such therapy works would not allow anyone who performed reparative therapy on the committee. **Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, who has also treated numerous people who have successfully changed their sexual identities, investigated the APA’s Task Force and found that of the seven on the committee, five were openly gay, one was bisexual and all seven were engaged in gay activism.** He called them the “foxes guarding the henhouse.”

I strongly urge you not to support this bill that will not only be harmful to an already vulnerable population on young people, but will also violate the rights of parents to care for their own children without unwarranted and unethical government intrusion. Supporting this bill will set a dangerous precedence in removing the constitutionally held rights of parents that have been upheld by numerous US Supreme Court decisions since these laws were put into place at our nation’s founding.

I am asking you as a parent who has already had my parental rights unlawfully usurped. My child has been severely harmed by those pushing this agenda forward across this nation and I would be happy to discuss with you how it has affected our family.

Thank you for your consideration in this very serious matter.