



## **Oppose AB 2943: Dangerous, Destructive, and Unconstitutional**

Dear State Senator:

**Bill AB 2943**, would ban any form of reparative therapy for individuals struggling with gender dysphoria or same-sex attraction. The title of the legislation could not be more misleading or provocative: **AB-2943 Unlawful business practices: sexual orientation change efforts**.

In fact, it puts vulnerable children and adults in danger to support a radical ideology.

Homosexual and transgender behavior in adults 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 their issues. For many, it is literally a life-saver.

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

**That's why similar bills have already been rejected by nearly 20 states** – because it puts vulnerable people in danger in order to please some radical activists. *Just this past month it failed in Maine AND Massachusetts!*

### ***Victims came and testified about the need for this therapy***

Many people came and gave emotional testimony during a public hearing. 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 homosexual behavior . . . 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 and give these children – who are now adults -- a fighting chance to avoid a lifetime of psychological pain and serious health issues." - **Diane S.**

(Over ...)



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### ***Misinformation and lies being used to push this bill***

To push this bill, activists in California and other states are conducting a lobbying campaign of disinformation and manufactured hysteria. They've dishonestly labeled it as "conversion therapy."

**Misinformation:** They are claiming that the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a statement "condemning conversion therapy."

**The facts:** But they don't tell you that a past president of the APA, Dr. Nicholas Cummings, told reporters that the APA is intimidated and harassed by the 'gay rights' movement and "does not allow open debate" on this issue. Moreover Dr. Cummings said publicly that **he used this therapy and saw it to be successful.**

**Lies:** They tell **lurid and completely untrue stories** about children being electrocuted and other alleged bizarre abuses by therapists.

**Fact:** There have been no documented complaints to regulatory agencies of such abuses by professional therapists in nearly 50 years.

**Misinformation:** They claim that "research" shows that this professional therapy *causes* depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior.

**Fact:** Such "research" is from radical activist sources and completely untrustworthy. In fact, the exact opposite is true: Good therapy helps *heal* those problems in children.

### ***Unconstitutional in light of recent US Supreme Court ruling***

**This bill is clearly unconstitutional.** On June 26, 2018, the US Supreme Court ruled in *NIFLA v Becerra* that the government cannot create a "professional speech" category that has less protection than the First Amendment. According to Liberty Counsel, the winning legal team in that case, it definitely applies with this type of bill.

**There is no other health topic that a *qualified health care provider* is not allowed to talk about! It is an absurd attempt to limit patients' choice.**

**You must vote NO on this terrible bill – AB 2943**

Do not let radical special interests dictate on this life or death for anyone!

For more information contact:

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