

Dear Colorado Legislators:

Bill HB19-1129 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 children 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 their 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.

That’s why this bill has already been rejected by nearly 20 states – because it puts vulnerable children in danger in order to please some radical activists. Just last year, the legislation was rejected in Maine!

Victims came and testified

Many people came and gave very emotional testimony at the Massachusetts State House 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 a fighting chance to avoid a lifetime of psychological pain and serious health issues.” - Diane S.

Misinformation and Lies being used to push this bill

To push this bill, LGBT activists are conducting a lobbying campaign of disinformation and manufactured hysteria. They’ve dishonestly reparative therapy as “conversion therapy.” Bill H4664 uses terms such as “assigned sex at birth” and other marks of unscientific quackery.

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

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

Lie: They claim that “research” shows that this professional therapy causes depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior.

Truth: 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.

Lie: They claim that the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a statement “condemning conversion therapy.”

Truth: Past president of the APA, Dr. Nicholas Cummings, told reporters that the APA is intimidated and harassed by the ‘gay rights’ Movement, and now the APA “does not allow open debate” on this issue. Moreover Dr. Cummings said publicly that he used this therapy and saw it to be successful.

Unconstitutional in Light of Recent US Supreme Court and other Federal Ruling

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 under the First Amendment. According to Liberty Counsel, the winning legal team in that case, it definitely applies with this type of bill.

In January 2019, the Federal District Court for Central Florida ruled in [*Vazzo v. Tampa*](#) that reparative therapy bans are unconstitutional, as well. This latest ruling is based on the Supreme Court ruling in *NIFLA v. Becerra*.

There is no health topic that a qualified health care provider should not be allowed to talk about! It is an absurd attempt to limit patients’ choice. Any legislation which undermines parental rights is evil and immoral. Do not let radical special interests dictate life or death for vulnerable children and hurting adults!

Vote NO on this bill **HB19-1129!**