

CHANGED MOVEMENT

The “ideal” legal definition of so-called “conversion therapy”:

So-called “conversion therapy” is a broad and ill-defined term referring to therapeutic practices that include forms of physical violence, force, manipulation, shame, or humiliation to coerce an individual to renounce LGBTQ identity or change sexual orientation or gender identity. We reject these unethical practices as ineffective and harmful.

We advocate for accessible, patient-directed talk therapy among self-motivated individuals that affirms and empowers personal choice, desired sexual ethic, and individual life goals. Government should not restrict what topics can or cannot be talked about with one’s trusted counselor or therapist of choice.

Suggested language:

Section 1

This bill enacts provisions protecting individuals from unethical practices by therapists and protects the right for all people to obtain ethical therapy in connection with sexual attractions and feelings, sexual behaviors, and gender perception.

This bill:

- protects individuals from abusive and improper practices undertaken by a licensed therapist for the purpose of attempting to change the sexual attractions, sexual feelings, sexual behaviors, or gender perception.
- specifies unethical practices in therapy and subjects licensed therapists to professional discipline for engaging in any of them;
- protects the right to obtain competent, ethical therapy for feelings of sexual attraction, sexual behaviors, gender perception issues, and emotional issues relevant thereto.

Section 2

A licensed therapist who engages in any of the following practices in the course of counseling or therapy with the stated goal to change the sexual attractions, sexual feelings, sexual behaviors, or gender perception, is subject to professional discipline, including the possibility of revocation of the therapist’s license, for unprofessional:

- (a) Castration;
- (b) Electroshocking of the genitals;
- (c) Administering electroshocking or electroconvulsive procedures to body parts other than the genitals, including transcranial magnetic stimulation;
- (d) Administering drugs or substances to induce vomiting or nausea;
- (e) Using any other aversion technique that involves inflicting physical pain or physical discomfort on a client;
- (f) Using any of the following as a therapeutic intervention in therapy:
 - (i) Threat of force or rejection;
 - (ii) Intimidation;
 - (iii) Punishment;
 - (iv) Verbal abuse;
 - (v) Bullying;
 - (vi) Humiliation; or
 - (vii) Shaming;

CHANGED

MOVEMENT

- (g) Undressing or using nudity in a therapy session;
- (h) Subjecting the client to touching his or her own genitals or those of another individual;
- (i) Causing a client to engage in physical self-harm or physical self-inflicted pain;
- (j) Representing that that therapy will or probably will result in a substantial and permanent change in feelings of sexual attraction towards persons of the same sex;
- (k) Representing that sexual attractions, sexual feelings, or sexual behaviors toward persons of the same sex cannot change or probably will not change (whether as a result of therapy or otherwise); or,
- (l) Endorsing or advocating a client's unlawful sexual behaviors.

Nothing in this Act is to be construed to limit any licensed therapist from advocating any position or viewpoint publicly or privately when not conducting therapy with an individual client.

Protection of client's therapeutic rights:

Consistent with a client's right to self-determination in choosing individual therapeutic objectives, every person has the right to voluntarily consult with, and seek and receive professional assistance from, a licensed therapist regarding —

- (a) Any feelings of sexual attraction;
- (b) Any sexual behaviors;
- (c) Any issues related to gender perception; and
- (d) Any emotional issues that may be relevant to such attractions, behaviors, or gender perception.

The client's right to professional consultation and assistance is subject to:

- (e) Any requirement under applicable law that a therapist must report a particular matter or information to law enforcement authorities; and
- (f) The consent or authorization of a minor's parent or legal guardian.

If a licensed therapist believes, or in the course of therapy comes to believe, that a client has been or probably has been brought to the therapist for therapy involuntarily, under threat of force or rejection, intimidation, threat of punishment, or otherwise against the client's will, the licensed therapist may inquire with the client regarding all circumstances relevant to that question.

If the licensed therapist concludes that the client has been or probably has been brought to therapy involuntarily, under threat of force or rejection, intimidation, threat or punishment, or otherwise against the client's will, the licensed therapist may terminate therapy regardless of whether the minor's parent or legal guardian agrees that therapy should be terminated.

The licensed therapist will not be subject to liability or to professional discipline for the decision to terminate therapy.