

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1332**

House Human Services Committee on House Bill 1332

Date of Hearing: January 24, 2023 10:15 a.m.

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This written testimony is presented in opposition to HB 1332, which codifies individuals to subject LGBTQIA+ individuals to conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is an abusive practice. It implies that being LGBTQIA is somehow a mental illness that needs fixing. It is not.

The American Medical Association (AMA)<sup>1</sup> and the American Psychiatric Association (APA)<sup>2</sup> both oppose conversion therapy. The APA has states: “The potential risks of reparative therapy are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.”<sup>3</sup>

Failure to be accepted by friends, family, and the community at large increases the risk of suicide in the LGBTQIA+ community, increases the risk of depression, and increase the use of drug and alcohol.

Please stop persecuting the LGBTQIA+ community with laws designed to hurt, not help and oppose HB 1332.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts (so-called “conversion therapy”)* (<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> *Position Statement on Conversion Therapy and LGBTQ Patients* (<https://www.psychiatry.org/getattachment/3d23f2f4-1497-4537-b4de-fe32fe8761bf/Position-Conversion-Therapy.pdf>)

<sup>3</sup> American Psychiatric Association, *Position Statement on Therapies Focused on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation (Reparative or Conversion Therapies)* (2000)