

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1332. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

The reason for this is that it is generally harmful and ineffective. As a Campus Minister, I can attest that I've heard firsthand how conversion attempts increase suicidality.

Recognizing that I am one person (and one who recognizes, respects, includes and supports LGBTQ+ people), I would like to draw your attention to the following evidence-based resources:

- Here is **a link** to a related study put out by the Minnesota Department of Health. While members of the ND Legislature may argue that the social and political perspectives and cultures of the two states vary, this is a scientific review based on research.
- While **this overview** was undertaken in the UK, it included a wide range of published findings of conversion therapies (many from North America), all published in English. I ask that you consider part 6.1 of the document, which clearly states that the significant evidence gathered by this review clearly and scientifically demonstrates, "The balance of evidence suggests that conversion therapy is unlikely to be effective and is associated with negative health outcomes."
- The American Psychiatric Association's **position statement** on conversion therapy of LGBTQ people is brief, but includes a deep and convincing review of studies that support that association's stand *against* conversion therapy.

Best Regards,
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