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Dear House Members,

I am the Medical Director at Canopy Medical Clinic, located in Fargo. Our clinic specializes in the medical care of LGBTQ+ individuals. I am writing in opposition to HB 1332, and I ask that you give this bill a **Do Not Pass** recommendation. HB 1332 seems to target one of our most vulnerable populations, which are our neighbors and community members who identify as LGBTQ+.

Research for decades has shown us that conversion therapy is basically equivalent to mental torture, causing irreversible trauma and PTSD for individuals who have gone through it. This is why many states consider it unethical or have even criminalized this type of therapy. Medical associations and organizations from around the world agree that conversion therapy is not helpful in any meaningful sense, but causes harm. In fact, any mental health therapist or provider who provides conversion therapy should have their license reviewed and revoked for providing care that causes harm, shame, fear, guilt and trauma to their clients.

I can not think of any medical procedure/intervention that is known to be extremely harmful, increasing rates of depression, anxiety and suicide, that is allowed to be normalized in State laws.

For the reasons listed above, I again urge a **Do No Pass** recommendation for this bill.

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