

01/23/2023

HB 1332

Testimony in Opposition

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

I urge you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1332.

It is not the place of the state legislators to determine what is ethical or unethical within a professional community regulated by its own licensing board. Passing this bill would undermine the purpose of a state licensing board whose duty is to oversee such matters of ethical or unethical practices within its scope. The mental health and medical communities in the country and around the world have overwhelmingly and consistently deemed conversion therapy and related treatments, which are to reverse, deter, or discourage clients/patients from engaging in their natural preferences, needs, and identifies within the LGBTQ+ community, as unethical and damaging. No licensed provider who serves the LGBTQ+ community would intentionally do harm to their clients/patients by engaging in conversion therapy.

This bill is a disgrace to the great state of North Dakota. I urge you to support the medical and mental health communities to continue doing their jobs by serving the people in this state with informed, evidence-based, and effective care. I ask you to vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1332.

Thank you for your time and service to the state,

Naomi Tabassum, LPCC

Owner/President/Clinician

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