

January 23, 2023

Opposition to House Bill 1332

Dear House Members,

My testimony is in opposition to HB 1332. I urge you to give this bill a **DO NOT PASS**.

Conversion therapy is dangerous, pseudoscientific nonsense. It does not work, it has not ever worked, and, why would anyone want it to work? It is backed by absolutely no credible scientific evidence whatsoever. The only data surrounding conversion therapy that you need to know about is that in 2019 The Trevor Project found that 42 percent of young people who underwent conversion therapy later attempted suicide.

An individual's sexual orientation is a static, deeply personal and private matter. People in this state who still believe that someone's sexual orientation can be changed need to consult credible medical professionals. The fact that so many people refuse to understand this basic issue is deeply disturbing and rooted in ignorance and, often, bigotry towards the LGBT community. Something I hear often by people who have hatred towards, or ignorance surrounding, LGBT people (in particular transgender people) is "it's basic biology". I have found that people who utter that phrase have demonstrated that they themselves clearly do not understand basic biology.

In addition, the fact that this bill uses language like "...change or **repair** the sexual orientation..." is deeply troubling. Using the word repair implies that there is something wrong with any sexual orientation other than heterosexuality (straight). LGBT people are human beings and are deserving of respect. Sadly, in 2023, they still are not being treated like normal people.

HB 1332 is an embarrassment to North Dakota and the people who live here.

We don't need this bill. We need the opposite of this bill. We need a bill banning conversion therapy.

Attached is a list of some of the organizations that have publicly denounced conversion therapy **for the literal torture that it is.**

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1332

Shawn Nixon

List of organizations that have publicly condemned conversation therapy.

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

American College of Physicians

American Counseling Association

American Medical Association

American Psychiatric Association

American Psychoanalytic Association

American Psychological Association

American School Counselor Association

American Association of School Administrators

National Association of Secondary School Principals

American Federation of Teachers

American School Health Association

National Education Association

National Association of Social Workers

National Association of School Psychologists

School Social Work Association of America

Interfaith Alliance Foundation

Pan American Health Organization