

## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 1430**

### **I urge you all to vote NO.**

Many Christian denominations and organizations have spoken out AGAINST conversion therapy, arguing that it does not align with core Christian values.

1. Central to Christian doctrine is the commandment to love one another. Conversion therapy promotes rejection and harm rather than love and acceptance.
2. Christianity teaches that ALL individuals are created in the image of God and possess inherent dignity and worth. Conversion therapy dehumanizes and stigmatizes LGBTQ+ individuals, doing the opposite of what Christ taught.
3. Studies have shown that conversion therapy leads to significant psychological harm. The Christian call to care for the vulnerable and to do no harm is at odds with conversion therapy practices.
4. Many theologians and Christian leaders argue that those who use interpretations of scripture to promote conversion therapy, do not reflect the love and grace of God, but rather a misunderstanding of biblical texts and hate.
5. Sexual orientation is a part of the diversity of God's creation. Embracing God's creations show an understanding of the creator's creativity and intention.
6. Christian teachings emphasize the importance of inner transformation and a relationship with God, rather than external adjustment of identity. The focus on changing what God has created, detracts from an authentic spiritual journey.
7. Mainstream Christian denominations and organizations, including the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association, have DENOUNCED conversion therapy. Surely, this body doesn't consider itself more educated on the matter of conversion therapy than doctors and educated theologians.
8. Christians are called to be witnesses to God's love in the world. Hate filled practices such as conversion therapy create a negative perception of Christianity as they are associated with judgment and exclusion rather than love and inclusivity.

Please be on the side of Christianity that follows the fundamental teachings of Jesus of love, acceptance, and inherent dignity of ALL individuals that embody Christ's love in the world.

Thank you for your time.

Michele Grenier  
Rolette, ND