

House Human Services Committee

I am writing in opposition to HB 1332 dealing with the regulation of social workers as it relates to Conversion Therapy for sexual orientation or gender identity. This bill states that it is not an ethical violation to engage in Conversion Therapy as long as the individual or parents of the individual (in the case of a minor) give consent. All you have to do is some simple research to determine that it is not ethical to engage in this type of reparative therapy as it has been shown over and over to do more harm than good. This type of therapy has been rejected by major medical and mental health organizations for decades and studies have found a significant increase in depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness and suicide in individuals, especially minors, who are given this type of treatment. Rather than making this type of therapy legal, our state should be joining many others that have laws in place protecting youth from this harmful practice.

Ethical means pertaining to or dealing with morals or the principles of morality: pertaining to right and wrong in conduct. How can it be ethical to allow a treatment that has been shown to be harmful to be used, especially on young people who may not have been able to make the decision on their own? I have read of too many stories of young people who were forced into a reparative therapy program who either committed suicide or became drug users because they felt like they had failed to be good enough.

Please use common sense and give this bill a Do Not Pass vote.

Thank you,

Jane Hirst
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