

I strongly oppose this bill. Conversion therapy is incredibly harmful. I have provided therapy services to several individuals who were unlucky enough to be put through conversion therapy as adolescents. Each of them described their experience as extremely distressing and traumatic. In fact, much of my work with these individuals was trying to help them work through the trauma of their conversion therapy experience.

As a therapist, I can confidently say that conversion therapy absolutely should be unethical. My ethical board (American Counseling Association) requires that I never do anything that could be harmful to a client. Conversion therapy is, without a doubt, harmful to clients.

The fact that this bill is being considered is embarrassing for our state. It shows such ignorance of factual information and the extreme prejudice of our lawmakers. Furthermore, passing this law would make our state undesirable for therapists. Who wants to come to a state where the law directly contradicts their code of ethics?

Megan Degenstein, Ph.D.
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor