

January 23, 2023

Chairperson Lee and Committee Members,

I strongly urge a Do NOT Pass on HB 1332. As a local church pastor, I have served individuals who have undergone “conversion therapy.” The practice of conversion therapy is mentally and spiritually damaging upon an individual. Most often this unethical and abusive practice is performed on minors, which results in long-term mental and spiritual damage, increased self-harm and suicide rates, and decreased self-esteem.

The latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) is clear that different expressions of sexual orientation and gender identity are not disorders. Homosexuality and bisexuality are not mental illnesses. Gender nonconformity is not a mental disorder. These medical statements are backed by extensive research and are reviewed by ethics panels.

Furthermore, this bill states that the damaging practice of “conversion therapy” only requires the authorization of an individual’s parents or guardian and does not require the authorization of the individual being “treated.” Individuals of all ages deserve a voice in their wellbeing.

Do NOT Pass on HB 1332. This is an incredibly dangerous bill which puts already vulnerable individuals at high risk for increased harm.

Sincerely,

Rev. Gretchen Deeg
Local Church Pastor
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