

January 23, 2023

Re: HB 1332

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the Human Services committee,

My name is Kara Gloe. I am a mental health therapist – specifically a Master Social Worker, licensed in both North Dakota and Minnesota. I work at Canopy Medical Clinic in Fargo, ND. Among the primary populations of people I serve are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, aromantic, and Two Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) folks in North Dakota – including students in North Dakota’s public schools. I urge you to vote **Do Not Pass on HB 1332**. If passed, this bill would do irreparable harm to our LGBTQIA2S+ friends, family, and neighbors and sully the reputation of social workers throughout the state.

There is no clinical basis for the idea that there is any need to change or repair the sexual orientation or gender identity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals. As there is nothing wrong with being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer, it would, in fact, be highly unethical to provide any type of clinical treatment.

Further, conversion therapy violates several of the National Social Work Association’s Code of Ethics, meaning any social worker who engaged in such a practice would be in violation of their professional licensing board. Conversion therapy does not respect the dignity and worth of the client. As it is not evidenced-based, so a social worker could not be practicing with integrity or competency.

Lastly, there is more than enough evidence to prove that conversion therapy is not only ineffective, it is truly harmful. I have heard several trans folks describe their experience with conversion therapy as traumatic, and this is borne out in the research.

Saying something is ethical does not make it so, and passing laws that give a free pass to mistreat people in the interest of fixing a problem that does not exist is far from ethical. Please do the right thing and vote **Do Not Pass** on HB 1332.

Sincerely,
Kara Gloe, LMSW
Canopy Medical Clinic