



LD 912 An Act to Clarify the Scope of Practice of Certain Licensed Professionals Regarding Conversion Therapy

February 27, 2018

As been reported by the American Psychological Association as well as by every professional association in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, social work, and pediatrics, conversion therapy is harmful to minors and is not supported by credible research. The following are among the research/findings from respected scientific sources that are the basis of our opposition to conversion therapy (also known as reparative therapy). Note that the research below also may contain cites for additional peer-reviewed studies in scholarly journals.

1. There is evidence that conversion therapies increase risk of causing or exacerbating mental health conditions in the very youth they purport to treat.

Adelson, S. L., & the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) Committee on Quality Issues (CQI). (2012). Practice parameter on gay, lesbian, or bisexual sexual orientation, gender non-conformity, and gender discordance in children and adolescents. Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, 51, 957– 974. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaac.2012.07.004>.

American Psychiatric Association Commission on Psychotherapy by Psychiatrists. Position Statement on Therapies Focused on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation (Reparative or Conversion Therapies). Am J Psychiatry. 2000; 157(10):1719-1721.

APA Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. (2009). Report of the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 15-4928. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015.

2. "...There is limited research on conversion therapy efforts among children and adolescents: however, none of the existing research supports the premise that mental or behavioral health interventions can alter gender identity or sexual orientation."

Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Oct. 2015.

3. "Reparative 'therapy', which attempts to change one's sexual orientation or gender identity, is inherently coercive and inconsistent with current standards of medical care."

Recommendations for Promoting the Health and Well-Being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Adolescents: A Position Paper of the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, 52 Journal of Adolescent Health, 506, 506-07 (Apr. 2013)

4. One of the most vulnerable populations of sexual minorities (children who have been rejected by their parents or guardians) are also the most at risk of suffering the harms resulting from participating in sexual orientation change efforts.

Elaine M. Maccio, Influence of Family, Religion and Social Conformity on Client Participation in Sexual Reorientation Therapy, 57 Journal of Homosexuality 441, 454 (2010)