



Conversion Therapy Resolution

By: Casey Platkin

WHERE AS, conversion therapy is the pseudoscientific practice of trying to "deprogram" an LGBTQ+ minor's sexuality or gender by using psychological or physical treatments. Barbaric techniques for conversion therapy in the United States have traditionally included ice-pick lobotomies, chemical castration, and electric shock. More modern day psychological methods effectively attempt to shame individuals into repressing their sexuality or gender.

WHERE AS, 20 states, including California, have banned conversion therapy, it is still legal in a majority of states. In nearly every state that has not banned conversion therapy, citizens can deduct conversion therapy costs from Medicaid insurance. Because Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal and state government, federal taxpayer dollars are essentially funding conversion therapy.

WHERE AS, a recent study from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard analyzed the genomes of nearly 500,000 people. The authors concluded that sexual preferences are not a choice but rather biologically inherent to the individual.

WHERE AS, there is no evidence proving that conversion therapy actually changes one's sexuality or gender, several studies and anecdotal evidence highlight the devastating consequences to individuals who undergo it. A recent survey from the Ozanne Foundation, a major LGBTQ+ activist organization, concluded that one in four individuals who have undergone conversion therapy have reported attempting suicide. In addition, the study revealed that more than two-thirds of those individuals have had suicidal thoughts.

WHERE AS, over 700,000 LGBTQ+ individuals have been victim to conversion therapy. New reports also estimate that 73,000+ of current LGBTQ+ youth will receive conversion therapy before they reach the age of 18.

WHERE AS, The Prohibition of Medicaid Funding for Conversion Therapy Act (H.R 1981), was introduced by Rep. Sean Maloney in 2019. Despite having 119 co-sponsors and endorsements from major humanitarian organizations, the bill was never even brought to a vote in the Subcommittee on Health. This bill would not have placed restrictions on conversion therapy itself, but rather would prohibit the payment of conversion therapy practices through Medicaid.

WHERE AS, The Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act (H.R 3570), introduced by Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-33), was introduced in 2019. It designates commercial conversion therapy as a fraudulent business practice, effectively banning it from the market. Despite having 219 cosponsors, which exceeds the 218 votes needed for a bill to pass the House, Democrats chose not to advance it.

WHERE AS, the United States has a duty to set an example by joining Germany, Brazil, Switzerland and several other countries to ban conversion therapy.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Mateo Labor Council supports all attempts to federally ban all conversion therapy, commercial, Medicaid funded or otherwise.

*Submitted by Stan Kiino, AFA-CWA*

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