



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Ban on conversion therapy receives Senate approval

HB 2307 heads to Governor's Desk for her signature

SALEM – The Senate approved legislation this morning that will protect youth from discredited “conversion therapies” that aim to change a person’s sexual orientation or suppress a person’s gender identity or expression. House Bill 2307, the Youth Mental Health Protection Act, will prevent licensed mental health care providers from practicing “conversion therapy” on youth under the age of 18.

“Every child is born perfect, and they deserve to know that. The harm caused by so-called conversion therapy lasts a lifetime, and too often shortens lives. This discredited practice teaches children that they are broken and have no place in Oregon,” said Senator Sara Gelsler (D-Albany/Corvallis). “With the passage of HB 2307, our LGBTQ youth will know that Oregon stands by them and is focused on making our state a safer place to live.”

“Conversion therapy” is based on the idea that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is a mental illness that can be cured through counseling and other mental health interventions, a premise that has been widely rejected by medical and behavioral health professionals. This non-evidence-based approach can put youth at risk for serious harms such as depression, substance abuse, and suicide.

“Every single leading health and mental health professional association in this country has rejected the view that being LGBT is a mental illness and has deemed conversion therapy “treatment” as ineffective and harmful,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Today we send a message to our young people that they are worthy of love and that they have our support.”

“Conversion therapy” has been discredited by the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the American School Counselor Association.

HB 2307 will now go to Governor Brown for her consideration.

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