

**Minnesota House of Representatives Health Finance and Policy Committee
Preventive Health Policy Division
H.F. 2156 (Hollins), March 2, 2022**

I Oppose H.F. 2156, Conversion Therapy Ban

Chair Freiberg and Members of the Committee:

You, as elected officials, were elected to defend and uphold the rights of citizens. That responsibility does not include restricting access to what individual citizens deem as necessary resources which address their individual needs. As citizens of America, we have the right to determine for ourselves what is best for us. No elected official has been granted the right to make that decision for us.

You claim you want to protect those seeking counseling for same-sex attraction. So, why are you choosing this one aspect of counseling to criminalize? Why this? Why stop there? Why not go after other forms of counseling treatment?

LGBT activists want to make it illegal to offer this help to children because it contradicts their political agenda. They believe that parents and children should not have a choice in this matter. This terrible idea puts vulnerable children in danger just to support an ideology.

Therapists are necessary for those who struggle with same-sex attraction. Just as therapists are necessary for those struggling with depression and for struggling marriages.

There are lies being told about conversion therapy. Here are three of those lies:

First, reparative therapy has been dishonestly labeled as “conversion therapy.”

There are tales of “research” showing that this professional therapy causes depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior, when, in fact, such “research” is from LGBT activist sources and is completely untrustworthy. In fact, the exact opposite is true: Good therapy helps heal those problems in children.

Claims have been made that the American Psychological Association (APA) issued a statement “condemning conversion therapy.” Yet, the past president of the APA, Dr. Nicholas Cummings, told reporters that the APA is intimidated and harassed by the ‘gay rights’ Movement, and now the APA “does not allow open debate” on this issue. Moreover Dr. Cummings said publicly that he used this therapy and saw it to be successful.

There is no health topic that a qualified health care provider should not be allowed to talk about! It is an absurd attempt to limit patients’ choice. Any legislation which undermines parental rights goes against the U.S. Constitution and the MN State Constitution. Do not let radical special interests dictate life or death for vulnerable children and hurting adults!

Kathleen Nydegger
Chairperson MN Chapter of Mass Resistance