

Public Testimony Opposing HF 16 – A Ban on Conversion Therapy – 1/18/23 by Karin Miller – a wife, mother, and educator.

As we discuss HF 16 today, we must remind ourselves that the Government CANNOT legislate or control what people believe. The Government CANNOT legislate or control how people think. Any attempt to do so is the worst form of abuse, especially to vulnerable minors.

HF 16 seeks not just to ban particular practices, but rather to ban particular values. It is a gross violation of our 1<sup>st</sup> amendment freedom of religion and freedom of speech.

In order to be free, we the people must have choice and options (within the bounds of what is legal and moral).

We must not forget that true freedom goes both ways! In order to be free, people must have the ability to choose to go this way (right), or to go that way (left)! To choose option A, or option B.

To eliminate one option entirely, be it A or B, eliminates freedom.

HF 16 seeks to eliminate one option – counseling that moves in a heterosexual direction. It would only legally allow counseling that supports homosexual orientations. This is a gross violation of the principles of individual liberty our country was founded on.

Beyond this, whatever happened to “My Body, My Choice!”? You cannot argue in regard to abortion that we must trust women to make the best decisions for their health in consultation with their doctors, but then argue that we cannot trust individuals to make the best decisions for their sexuality in consultation with their counselors!

The logic behind the support of these two bills – HF 1 and HF 16 – is completely untenable. You cannot have it both ways.

In regard to minors, no one should be sexualizing our children, whether toward heterosexual or homosexual behaviors. The least you can do to protect minors is to leave all options of support available to them. Let's not allow our children to become victims of the battle over sexual ideology.

Legislators, if you truly believe in Health Freedom, you must vote NO to HF 16! Prove to your constituents that you trust them to make the best decisions regarding their own health and sexuality and that they can trust you to protect their First Amendment rights.