



PLEASE SUPPORT **HB 6695** AAC THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM CONVERSION THERAPY

- **The conversion therapy ban bill would make it impermissible for licensed health professionals to engage in discredited and harmful practices that seek to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity, so-called conversion therapy.**
Any licensed health professional who does so would be subject to discipline by the Department of Public Health up to and including the loss of their professional license. The bill would permit someone who is subjected to this mistreatment to bring a consumer fraud claim to recover damages suffered as a result. The bill would prohibit any state funds from being used towards this harmful practice.
- **The term conversion therapy** refers to a range of dangerous and discredited practices that seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **The nation's leading medical, mental health, and human services professional organizations reject conversion therapy as a legitimate practice.** This includes the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Association of Social Workers, among many others. (see back)
- **Other states have passed similar legislation.** Similar legislation protecting children from conversion therapy has passed in California, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and Washington D.C. This session, legislation is proceeding in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Colorado. Legal challenges to similar legislation have failed with federal appellate courts upholding the constitutionality of the challenged laws.
- **Kids who are sent to conversion therapy may be sent by parents who reject them.** Minors who experience family rejection because of their sexual orientation or gender identity face serious health risks. Research demonstrates that lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults who reported higher levels of family rejection, including

admission to conversion therapy, were 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs, and 3.4 times more likely to report having engaged in unprotected sex when compared to non-gay peers who reported no or low levels of family rejection.¹ Even when loving parents may think they are doing the right thing with conversion therapy, their child is still harmed by the practice.

Both the nation's and our state's leading medical, mental health, and human services professional organizations do not recognize conversion therapy as a legitimate therapy and have condemned the practice; they include:

¹ LGBT Policy Spotlight: Conversion Therapy Bans / Ryan, Caitlin, et al. "Family rejection as a predictor of negative health outcomes in white and Latino lesbian, gay, and bisexual young adults." *Pediatrics* 123.1 (2009): 346-352.

AFT Connecticut
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of School Administrators
American Counseling Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Medical Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
American School Health Association
Child Welfare League of America
CT Alliance of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
CT Alliance of School Social Workers
CT Association of Marriage and Family Therapists
CT Chapter of the American Academy of

Pediatrics
CT Chapter, National Association of Social Workers
CT Counseling Association
CT Department of Children and Families
CT Legal Rights Project
CT Psychiatric Society
CT Psychological Association
CT Voices for Children
Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective
Hispanic Health Council
Mental Health CT
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of Social Workers
National Education Association
Pan American Health Organization
The Interfaith Alliance
United Nations Committee Against Torture
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Yale Child Study Center
Yale Medicine Gender Program

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