

Bill C-6 Brief

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My first criticism with bill C-6 is regarding the definition written in clause 5 section 320.101 starting with “**conversion therapy** means a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual” and “or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.” This definition is criminally vague since just by taking the word practice you could infer that anything from creating to distributing certain religious texts to a comedy routine is now illegal just because they reinforce gender normativity. This is of course ridiculous therefore the new legal definition should reference the common understanding of conversion therapy. Therefore section 320.101 should read as “In sections 320.102 to 320.106, **conversion therapy** means a therapeutic practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation”. The addition of the word therapeutic references the treatment of same sex attraction as if it were a disease that needs to be cured when in fact it currently is not. (American Psychological Association)

Secondly the conflation of sexual orientation and gender identity within the definition of conversion therapy is an unprecedented intrusion into the field of psychological therapy. (Cantor and Soh) I urge this committee to consult with these and other qualified doctors before making such a significant change to our medical establishment.

Summary of recommendations:

First Section 320.101 of bill C-6 should be amended from

In sections 320.102 to 320.106, **conversion therapy** means a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual

To

In sections 320.102 to 320.106, **conversion therapy** means a therapeutic practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual

Secondly Section 320.101 of bill C-6 should be amended from

In sections 320.102 to 320.106, **conversion therapy** means a practice, treatment or service designed to change a person’s sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour. For greater certainty, this definition does not include a practice, treatment or service that relates

(a) to a person’s gender transition; or

(b) to a person’s exploration of their identity or to its development.

To

In sections 320.102 to 320.106, ***conversion therapy*** means a therapeutic practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to repress or reduce non-heterosexual attraction or sexual behaviour.

Bibliography

Cantor, James, and Debra Soh. "Criminal Therapies | with Drs Debra Soh & James Cantor." *youtube.com*, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IvedwFfTdk>. Accessed 8 November 2020.

American Psychological Association, Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. (2009). Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/publications/therapeutic-resp.html>