

Bill C-6 An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)
Comments by JJF Killackey
November 19, 2020

Please consider the following points pertaining to proposed Bill C-6 *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)* submitted at the recommendation of MP Iqra Khalid.

Overall Observations

The need for Bill C-6 by the Canadian people is open to question. The need for the current rush to push Bill C-6 through the government approval process is not justified. The Bill could be of minimal usefulness if it focused solely on forced conversion therapy, but even the need for a bill such as this is not widely agreed by all Canadians. Finally, Bill C-6, as currently written, is incomplete in that it would criminalize:

- Parents who educate their children about human sexuality based on their religious or ethical beliefs
- Clergy who share their religious or ethical beliefs on human sexuality
- Support group volunteers who walk with consenting same-sex attracted adults seeking to live consistently with their religious or ethical beliefs
- Anyone who opposes a child attempting to change their outer sex appearance through hormone treatments or surgery

The suggested revisions proposed here would make Bill C-6 more precise by changing the bill to:

- Focus only on coercive acts
- Remove mentions of gender identity, as there is currently insufficient research into the long-term effects of ‘changing your sex’
- Acknowledge the right of religious communities to share their beliefs on human sexuality
- Express the right of parents to make decisions for the welfare of their children

Specific Revisions Requested

Preamble

Current Text:

Whereas conversion therapy causes harm to the persons, and in particular the children, who are subjected to it...

Comment:

There is no valid scientific evidence to support this statement. There may be many associations and societies and opinions that support the statement but there is *no valid scientific evidence* to support this claim. Anecdotal information exists but it is matched, and possibly exceeded, by

contrary evidence including that supporting the LGBTQ lifestyle as addictive and harmful, that homosexual gender-converting medical and surgical treatments are irreversible and potentially harmful to the individual who desires a return to their original orientation, and that people who have found religious support are able to lead happy and productive lives away from the LGBTQ lifestyle and within the highly supportive structure of the traditional family.

This statement should be deleted.

Current Text

Whereas conversion therapy causes harm to society...

Comment

There is *no valid scientific evidence* to support this statement. There may be anecdotal evidence but that evidence could be ideologically biased and not democratically or universally agreed.

This statement should be deleted.

Additional Text for the Preamble

The following text must be added to protect Canadians, who are properly fulfilling their duties and responsibilities in the care of others, from the adverse consequences of this bill:

‘These new offences would not criminalize private conversations in which personal views on sexual orientation, sexual feelings or gender identity are expressed such as where teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, friends or family members provide mental or spiritual support to persons struggling with their sexual orientation, sexual feelings, or gender identity.’

Other Text

Current Text

Criminal Code

Subsections: 1, 2, 3,4 and 5

Comment

These sections do not deal with conversion therapy, the title of Bill C-6. The rationale for including this Criminal Code section here is not clear. These sections lead to confusion. It is recommended that these sections be removed from the current Bill C-6.

Current Text

320.103 (1) Everyone who knowingly causes a person who is under the age of 18 years to undergo conversion therapy is

Revised Text

320.103 (1) Everyone who knowingly forces a person who is under the age of 18 years to undergo conversion therapy is

Comment

This revised statement will allow parents and caregivers the freedom and latitude they need to address uncertainty and confusion common to the growing stages of children in this age group.

Current Text

Material benefit from conversion therapy

320.105 Everyone who receives a financial or other material benefit, knowing that it is obtained or derived directly or indirectly from the provision of conversion therapy, is

Revised Text

Material benefit from conversion therapy

320.105 Everyone who receives a financial or other material benefit, knowing that it is obtained or derived directly from the forced provision of conversion therapy, is

Comment

This revised statement is in the interest of and will protect those Canadians seeking a return to original orientation.

Other Comments

I observe here and note for the record that the conduct of the Question Period on this bill prevented full comment on this proposed bill. The comments of Mr. Derek Sloan were truncated based on a technicality that could have been accommodated by the Speaker, demonstrating the committees lack of commitment to obtaining complete and representative input from all parties on this controversial bill.

Finally, despite Minister Lametti's assurances, it is absolutely essential that the following statement be included in Bill C-6 to ensure that it is interpreted as presented by the Minister for the sake of fairness and to serve all Canadians:

These new offences would not criminalize private conversations in which personal views on sexual orientation, sexual feelings or gender identity are expressed such as where teachers, school counsellors, pastoral counsellors, faith leaders, doctors, mental health professionals, friends or family members provide mental or spiritual support to persons struggling with their sexual orientation, sexual feelings, or gender identity.

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I urge the committee to give serious attention to these suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF Killackey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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