

To the Justice Committee

Re: Bill C-6 Conversion Therapy Ban

Bill C-6 as currently proposed is dangerous. Numerous studies show that by the time most people who have struggled with gender identity reach their early 20s, they are comfortable in their birth gender. Bill C-6 makes it illegal to help people reach this natural state, instead only allowing for counseling and other practices that would encourage them to reject their natural gender.

Additional studies also show that people who do not accept their birth gender have much higher incidence of mental health problems, many of which lead to suicide. Most of these people have a very hard time fitting into society and living a normal productive life. They are plagued with depression and other mental problems. Are you willing to lead them to this place and leave them there with no way back to normalcy?

Bill C-6 should ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. It should also:

- Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity
- ***Allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set rules about sex and relationships***
- Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour
- ***Not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.***

Please amend Bill C-6 to reflect these changes. Thank you.