

November 24, 2020

Members of the Justice Committee

Re – Bill C-6

Please note concerns on this Bill C-6 and strongly consider the need to Fix the Definition of Conversion Therapy in context to this bill.

Conversion Therapy in it's original meaning of coercive practices to change a person's sexual orientation, has long been looked down upon and considered not the way to help people who may have confusion with their sexuality or identity.

The conversion therapy that this Bill C-6 is speaking against is unclear. Please make amendments to ensure that LGBTQ2 people will not be hindered in the services that they need or may want and ensure, parents, therapists, or counsellors are able to discuss life decisions and help them navigate what they are truly feeling or going through.

For children or adults that have signs of gender dysphoria, a one-sided approach to affirm transition is not a way to ensure that all issues the person is facing are being dealt with. Transition may take place, in which no reversal is possible, and the person is left with that harmful practice, plus still dealing with the issues they were facing, and not having been dealt with.

In regards to children, especially, a wait and see approach is surely needed to protect them from a decision made in childhood with life time consequences that can not be reversed.

Bill C-6 seems to propose to criminalize therapists and medical practitioners who do not practice the affirmative model, choosing not to encourage a child to transition, suggesting a wait and see attitude, before beginning the process of transitioning. Taking the time to counsel the child on other issues they may be dealing with that are displayed in gender confusion instead of rushing them into transitioning. Why is the affirmation counsel the only one that is accepted?

Please Fix the Definition to ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their gender identity. Allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships. Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour and not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Thank you.

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