

To: The Justice Committee
From: Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Re: A Brief on Bill C-6

Dear Committee,

As a Pastor of more than 40 years, I am writing to you to thank you for your service on behalf of all Canadian citizens and to appeal to you to please work to amend the definition of Bill C-6 making it a bill that serves all Canadians. As the Pastor of a large multi-ethnic congregation (55 nationalities) in the heart of Surrey, I serve people from many different backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences. People who come seeking feedback, advice, and yes counsel on a variety of life's topics, sexuality being one of them. As the definition is currently written it would prohibit me and Pastors like me, from being able to offer counsel and advice to those Canadian citizens who in and of their own free volition have come seeking it, infringing on their own personal rights and freedoms. I as well as every other Pastor I personally know fully stand against any coercive or abusive measures use in counseling on anyone for any reason at all.

I am personally aware of and have been involved over the years in a number of peoples lives who have wanted help regarding unwanted sexual attraction, sexual addictions, and same sex attraction. Some of those people have found help and freedom from the things they were seeking counsel for. My point is this all Canadian citizens ought to be able to seek the health care they desire, whether that care be mental, physical, or spiritual. I would appeal to you to amend C-6 in a way that fully offers protection against coercion of any kind and yet allows those seeking help for unwanted sexual feeling and attractions to be able to receive it.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Baptist Church
Surrey BC