

December 2, 2020

To the Justice Committee for Bill C-6; namely Arif Virani, Mike Kelloway, James Maloney, Sameer Zuberi, Ramesh Sangha, and Iqra Khalid,

I submit this brief to your committee for consideration as you make amendments to Bill C-6. I would like to first of all thank you for your service to our country as you give up your time and resources to make sure that the rights and freedoms of Canadians are protected. May you continue to do that as a steward of the time given you in parliament.

I can understand why the government is looking to ban therapy that is coercive, degrading or violent and is designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity against their will. However, please redefine this bill to clarify that type of definition and to ban those practices only.

Please consider changing the bill so that

1. No laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
2. Parents can speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships;
3. All people can have free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour; and
4. Professional and religious counselling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians are not criminalized.

I agree with Leslyn Lewis, who wrote a note on Facebook on October 26, 2020. She said, "I am opposed to any 'therapy' that involves coercion, or violence. Such actions under any pretence are reprehensible and should lead to any therapist, at minimum, losing their licence. So I had hopes when the Liberals introduced a bill to 'ban conversion therapy' that they would be focused on cracking down on any act of coercion and violence. This does not appear to be their intention however, and the Bill in its current state blurs the definitions of conversion therapy in what appears to be a deliberate attempt to use our children to play politics. Instead of clear definitions that would protect Canadians from violence and coercion, the Bill undercuts parents, pastors and faith leaders by potentially prohibiting these well-meaning individuals from having voluntary conversations with children about their sexuality."

My MP Rosemarie Falk accurately represented me and many other constituents in North Battleford-Lloydminster when she said in the House of Commons on Tuesday, October 27, 2020: "As it is written in the current legislation, the definition of conversion therapy is overreaching, in my view, and it is flawed. It does not strike the right balance between protecting people in the LGBTQ community, parental rights, and freedom of

religion. By providing a clear definition of conversion therapy, we can provide needed clarity on the scope and intent of the legislation.” (Volume 150; Number 020; 2nd Session; 43rd Parliament)

I am praying and trust that you will make this bill more clear to rightly punish providing therapy against a person’s will and to not punish those who provide help and support to all people and most of all, our most vulnerable, our children.

Respectfully yours,

Colson Brown