

Date: November 20, 2020

Place: Surrey, BC

To: Justice Committee

Re: Fix the Definition of Conversion Therapy in Bill C-6

Honorable members of the Justice Committee,

It is quite likely that all politicians oppose, in principle, conversion ‘therapy’ of the coercive and degrading sort that is designed to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

The problem I urge you to address is the overreaching definition of ‘conversion therapy’ that would needlessly criminalize normal conversations between children and parents, teachers and students, counsellors and their clients, and mentors and mentees about gender and sexual behavior.

Hence, please do everything in your power to clarify that a *better definition* will serve to bring much greater transparency to a deeply sensitive issue to many confused people across the age spectrum by

Guaranteeing that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Ensuring that parents are allowed to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships;

Articulating in this Bill that free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour are allowed ;

Safeguarding professional and religious counseling services that are voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.

Sincerely,
Heres Snijder, B.Ed., MA, RCC