

Citizens have been solicited by your committee. to give their views on conversion therapy and Bill C-6. I have mostly questions.

What is conversion therapy? Has it been defined? How is it different, if at all from therapy conducted by medical and psychiatric practitioners throughout history?

Is it sufficient that therapy be restricted only to medical doctors, psychiatrists and designated counselors? Is it now to become normal that parents cannot counsel their children in sexual matters? How does the determinant for State intervention in the parent child relationship in the case of conversion therapy vary from existing law such that it necessitates an exceptional law here?

What of the parents's constitutional rights?

Clergy are often highly educated in matters spiritual, philosophical, psychological as well as religious. Does that last disqualify them from offering counsel in these areas if asked to do so by parents or children?

One often has to wade through pages of prefatory historical and definitional material in order to get to the meat of some law or regulation, yet in this instance we hear that the definition of the fundamental phrase describing the issue, namely 'conversion therapy' is left somewhat loose, with the unfortunate result that normally beneficial interaction between say parents and children, doctors and patients, counselors and clients becomes open to misinterpretation, state intervention and abuse. Surely it is essential to follow conventional, well established and logical processes such as formulating unambiguous definitions when developing legislation? I urge the committee to seriously consider the points raised by Mr Genuis

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 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.

* I suggest it is not within the purview even of Parliament to 'allow' parents to speak to their own children or for free and open conversations on these topics to take place. Perhaps the word "Endorse" or "Reaffirm" could be used in it's place.