

Brief Submitted to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights

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I would like to provide my recommendation on Bill C-6, regarding conversion therapy, to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

I recommend making the definition of “conversion therapy” more precise by:

1. Expressing the right of parents to make decisions for the welfare of their children
2. Acknowledging the right of religious communities to share their beliefs on human sexuality
3. Removing mentions of gender identity, as there is currently not enough research into the long-term effects of changing your sex
4. Focusing only on coercive acts or those targeting minors

I recommend this because:

1’ I am concerned with parents' rights to educate their children as they wish and to decide for their children's welfare. The education and welfare of children belong first of all to parents, not to the state.¹

2’ I want to defend the freedom of religion and religious expression, which are protected as fundamental freedoms in our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.²

3’ I am hesitant in general about sex-changes since there really is not enough research to show its long term effects. In fact, some research indicates negative long term effects.³

4’ I think the definition should focus on coercive acts or those targeting minors since I do not agree with coercion in any situation, and I think minors need the most protection.

¹ I refer to the following “It’s up to parents to choose the type of schooling for their children, such as:

free public schools

paid private schools

at-home education

English or French schools (in many areas).

This implies the government’s recognition of the parents’ right to choose the education and beliefs of their children. Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/new-immigrants/new-life-canada/enrol-school/elementary-secondary.html>

² I refer to Part 1, Fundamental Freedoms: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-15.html>

³ I refer to the following study from the US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health: “The overall mortality for sex-reassigned persons was higher during follow-up (aHR 2.8; 95% CI 1.8–4.3) than for controls of the same birth sex, particularly death from suicide (aHR 19.1; 95% CI 5.8–62.9). Sex-reassigned persons also had an increased risk for suicide attempts (aHR 4.9; 95% CI 2.9–8.5) and psychiatric inpatient care (aHR 2.8; 95% CI 2.0–3.9). Comparisons with controls matched on reassigned sex yielded similar results. Female-to-males, but not male-to-females, had a higher risk for criminal convictions than their respective birth sex controls.” Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3043071/>