

(1) To the Justice Committee.

The proposed amendments to Bill C-6 would benefit from specific wording changes before passing and I will present my six recommendations below. Thank you for taking the time to read my recommendations. They are summarized at the end of this document for quick reference.

As it is written, this proposed amendment is discriminatory towards the LGBTQ2 community as well as those who love them and care about them.

Straight Canadians can access any kind of counsel they choose but if this law passes as written, the LGBTQ2 community will have their options of “willingly consented to” therapy removed. And many practitioner or clergy when approached will refuse to counsel them for fear of prosecution, leaving that people group discriminated against out of fear of recriminations.

The wording of the proposed amendments to Bill C-6 discriminates against the LGBTQ2 community by limiting what services they can receive because of their gender or orientation. In the free country of Canada, as the law now stands - the citizens may not be discriminated against due to their gender identity or sexual orientation.

But Bill C-6 goes against the other laws of Canada by making Canadians who identify with a particular group unable to access some services of their OWN choosing.

This law is, in essence, saying to some Canadians - that they are not capable of making their own decisions and choices. That is a deep insult to the LGBTQ2 community as Canadian citizens.

They are as capable and intelligent as anyone and should be allowed the chance to make choices about the counsel they willingly seek and give consent to.

Please include wording and definition that allows for this group of Canadians to make their own “well thought out” and consensual choices of types of counsel or therapy - as all Canadians can.

In the free country of Canada the citizens have the right to choose whom they go to for advice or counsel or therapy. They choose what conversations they have and with whom and freely express opinions. This is a

fundamental right of Canadians, supported by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The proposed amendments to Bill C-6 needs to be updated with clear wording that prevents all violent, degrading or coercive sexual orientation change therapy and “non-consented to” therapy for all Canadian citizens, LGBTQ2 and Straight and minors. The amendments as written only provides protection for LGBTQ2 members but not Canadians who identify as Straight or heterosexual adults or minors. This is also discriminatory as all Canadians deserve the same rights to make their own decisions.

The amendments to bill C-6 also needs to include wording that doesn’t allow criminalization of private conversations between parent and child and allows parents to set house rules on sexuality. As ludicrous as this sounds, the amendments, as worded - could allow that to happen. Gender identity is a huge issue in the life of any Canadian and free and unlimited access to many and varied opinions is what helps one become settled and secure in who they are. Parents, friends - these Canadians need to be free to have loving conversations with their children and friends. Parents need to be able to set loving house rules in the area of sexuality as they are in all other areas.

Gender and sexual orientation should not be seen by law makers as an opportunity to discriminate by refusing certain people the chance to make intelligent and informed choices. That would be a sad day when that happens in Canada.

Please include wording in the proposed amendment that doesn’t criminalize amateur or professional help that members of the LGBTQ2 community requests, no matter who or where this help comes from. As any citizen of Canada will tell you, free and open conversations, counsel and requested therapy are what help them become settled and confident in who they are.

Don’t take this choice away from some Canadians simply because of their sexual orientation. That isn’t the Canadian way. Free speech is one of the rights of all Canadians and spoken difference of opinion does not equate violence. We are a mosaic country with a colourful array of opinions as part of our national identity and to criminalize opinions and advice and

therapy and counsel that doesn't agree with only one way of thinking is to go against our broad and colourful Canadian identity.

Thank you for your time and please refer to my summery below.

****Recommendations about proposed amendments to Bill C-6 in summery:**

#1) Provide clear wording that allows all Canadian citizens, regardless of their gender or sexual orientation to have the right as a resident of the free country of Canada to consent to and choose whom they go to for advice or counsel or therapy. And to freely choose what kind of therapy they want to receive.

#2) Provide clear wording that allows free and open conversations about sexuality to occur between all Canadians, both in home and in casual conversations and in professional conversation.

#3) Provide clear wording that allows parents to set house rules about sexuality and guide their children towards therapeutic treatments that they lovingly choose for the health and safety of their children and allows parents to make the choice for their underaged children.

#4) Provide clear wording that protects professional therapists, clergy and other Canadians from criminalization the act of providing consensual therapies.

#5) Provide clear wording that protects all Canadians of any sexual orientation from non-consensual, degrading, violent or coercive methods to change their sexual orientation while adding clear wording in the Bill that doesn't criminalize either party if specific counsel, conversation or therapy is sought and requested.

#6) Provide clear wording that does not equate free speech/conversation/loving advice/ therapy/counsel with violence.