

I am writing regarding Bill C-6 (pertaining to a ban on Conversion Therapy).

I wish to open my brief wholeheartedly in support of what I believe is the spirit and intent behind Bill C-6... that being, a ban on coercive & degrading practices designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

But the key words here are (or must be) "coercive & degrading".

The way Bill C-6 is currently written, it is overreaching, and could unintentionally include a ban on "loving and supportive" conversations and practices pertaining to sexuality.

It could unintentionally limit or criminalize conversations parents wish to have with their own children, about sexuality and gender, or a parent's ability to set house rules about sex and relationships.

Finally, the way Bill C-6 is currently written, it may criminalize professional and religious counseling VOLUNTARILY requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians, or those that may wish to explore transitioning back to their birth gender.

There is a video of an LGBTQ2 individual who supports Bill C-6 in principle, who would have been adversely impacted during his journey, had Bill C-6 in its current form been in place when he was exploring his sexuality. It can be viewed here, and I would ask it be viewed as part of my brief/submission:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK-x8nDmtwY&feature=youtu.be>

We cannot and must not live in a society where the government controls our conversations and our thoughts, and prohibits or disallows free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour.

Yes, criminalize harmful and hurtful practices, but ensure adequate protections are in place to not have overreach beyond the intent of this legislation, and thus limit our cherished rights of freedom of speech, and freedom of thought, and freedom of association.

Sincerely,
Troy Sedgwick