

To Whom It May Concern

I would like to state my opinions regarding the current Bill C-6, conversation therapy.

I would like to state that I do support banning any type of conversion therapy that would threaten someone or coerce them to change their sexual orientation or gender identity. So called “brain washing”, shaming or any other type of violent action to deny a person the right to be who they want to be is wrong. Such measures that have been used in the past are unacceptable on all levels.

However, I find the wording in this bill is very vague and does need to be clarified more precisely. At present, it seems that I as a grandparent could be in trouble for engaging in a voluntary loving discussion with my grandchildren that questions or even tries to understand their sexual preference and or identity and this includes their parents as well. May I ask what is going on here?

It seems as though this Bill C-6 wants to take away the right of parents, teachers, counsellors, pastors, doctors, anyone who wants to have a conversation with children. These are our children, I repeat children, who need guidance and the counsel of people who love them, not to persuade them but to discuss matters freely and openly in a safe environment. They need support during this sensitive and most assuredly difficult time in their lives. This action should not constitute anything criminal. Children are not capable of thinking long term and the implications of certain decisions that affect their future is certainly not on their minds, like the decision to have children later. The idea that discussing permanent sex change procedures with your child should be criminalized is preposterous. In addition, parents should be allowed to set the rules in their own homes regarding any type of sex and relationships without feeling that the government is going to overrule or criminalize their decisions.

It is a different matter when it pertains to adults. They can definitely make their own choices and should be allowed to without any interference or judgement. There should be no laws that discriminate against or prevent them from receiving the services that they need based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Further, should they voluntarily wish to seek any type of professional or spiritual counseling; those offering it should not be penalized as committing a criminal act.

In conclusion I support banning conversion therapy that is in anyway harmful or coercive. Any LGBTQ2 Canadian, young or old, should be allowed to voluntarily consult whomever they wish without causing that person, be they professional or not, to commit a criminal act. In addition, children may not be fully aware or understand how or what they are feeling. They are too young to be making decisions that will affect their life, permanently, without some guidance or communication from those that love and care for them. Parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, counsellors all should be allowed to have conversations with them. Bill C-6 should clearly define that such conversations would not be a criminal act. Please change the wording so that parents can raise their own children without worrying about what they can or cannot say to help a struggling child.