

Dec. 5, 2020

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights:

I am requesting that this Committee, considering Bill C-6, remove all items from this bill regarding conversion therapy for children. I am also requesting a more scientifically-based, precise definition of what constitutes “conversion therapy”.

This bill would deny parents the right to raise their children according to their parental beliefs, including religious convictions and moral values regarding gender identity and LGBTQ2+ lifestyles.

This bill does not deny LGBTQ2+ organizations the right to influence these same children.

People have the right to choose and maintain their own lifestyle; I would not deny any individual this right. But I do not accept manipulation of the courts by influencing government to pass legislation denying the right to refuse to condone any lifestyle. The right to disapprove of a lifestyle on religious or moral grounds is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This right of expression cannot be compromised by any group or organization. This is blatant discrimination against religious freedom and denial of the democratic “freedom to have, hold and act upon (or not) one's conscientiously-held beliefs”.¹ The [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)² specifies as fundamental freedoms a “freedom of conscience and religion”, and “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression”.

Advising children on their sexual identity is not something to be legislated by government. Parents, out of love and concern for their child's future, are responsible and able to determine how best to help their children understand such issues.

In summary:

The sexual orientation of consenting adults should be considered their own responsibility, and need not be addressed by this bill.

Remove all references to counseling regarding gender identification or sexual orientation of children from Bill C-6.

Clarify the definition of “conversion therapy”.

Sincerely,

Daphne I. Francis

1 Greg Peters, “Nurturing the Spirit of Democracy: Freedom of Conscience”, UNB , 2001, <https://docplayer.net/39451651-brunswick.html>

2 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, s 2, Part 1 of the Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the Canada Act 1982 (UK), 1982, c 11.