

Bill C-6 – Submission to the Justice Committee  
Mr. Jeffery Eastwood  
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Thank you for all your work representing all Canadians in the House of Commons.

Bill C-6 proposes to ban “conversion therapy” from being offered to minors struggling with their gender identity. If this legislation is reintroduced, I hope you will oppose it as an unnecessary and even harmful measure.

I, along with many Canadians, oppose actual conversion therapy and its abusive techniques, all of which are currently banned, and their prosecution covered under the Criminal Code of Canada. The wording of this bill, however, is far too broad and covers even conversations between children and their parents and/or counsellors, such as me. Given the life-changing reality of decisions regarding one's gender, guidance is needed, especially when those struggling with gender dysphoria are too young to legally vote, drive, consume certain substances, etc. A decision of this magnitude should not be made lightly, and those making it should have all the facts, not simply be almost universally affirmed in it while doing irreversible damage to their bodies through such procedures as puberty blockers and gender reassignment surgeries.

I am also concerned as it appears that bans on conversion therapy seem to specifically target Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others who recognize that biological sex is a part of God's good design for humanity. Sex-affirming counselling or therapy is demonized while affirming an identity different than one's biological sex is celebrated. This is contradictory and reveals the ideological goal behind the bill. It also means that those who desire, of their own volition, to "de-transition" or reduce homosexual conduct would be banned from help and support in doing so. This would then, as is the case with broad legislation such as this bill's current form, actually harm the very individuals it purports to help.

Harmful forms of conversion therapy should be banned and their practices in most cases already are. But Bill C-6 is too broad, and wrongly includes Christian counselling and other support services in their ban. Please bring up these concerns and work to tighten the definition of conversion therapy in a way that supports and honours those who want to be comfortable in the body they were born with.

For further study, I commend to you Abigail Shrier's book "Irreversible Damage".

While we may disagree on several foundational realities, I believe we both want what is best for Canadians. I believe that means a continuation of upholding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which includes Freedom of Religion, and equal access to all sides of any issue so that individual Canadians can make an informed choice regarding their health, sexual, mental, and otherwise.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I pray for you as you seek to lead our country wisely.