

November 24, 2020

To: The Justice Committee of Canada

I'm writing this letter as a concerned citizen of Canada. I want to discuss some issues of Bill C-6 concerning Conversion Therapy. The main concern is that you as the Justice Committee ensure that the definition of this bill be discussed and amended in a fair and safe way.

I agree that conversion therapy which is coercive, forceful and degrading against a person's will and which humiliates and encroaches upon a person's rights and dignity is wrong. At the same time, I am concerned that the bill ensures that no law discriminates against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is the right of each Canadian to be able to seek out and receive their choice of help and therapy if one so chooses. This should include the right of people who consider themselves part of the LGBTQ2 community to seek out help from a counselor or also religious worker if one so chooses. To not allow this option would be restricting the basic rights of a Canadian citizen. A counselor or religious worker who is sought out and asked to give help and advice should in no way be criminalized for doing so.

Furthermore, this bill should not restrict in any way the rights of parents to be able to discuss sexuality in their own homes with their children. A parent needs to be allowed to have free and open conversation about sexuality and sexual behaviour with their own children, and in no way should be criminalized for this.

I hope that Bill C-6 will be properly and thoroughly discussed by the Justice Committee to ensure that it protects and includes fairness and upholds the basic rights of all Canadians.

Thank you,

Kimberly Schwindt