

Honorable members of the Justice Committee :

Thank you for the work you are doing to protect the vulnerable members of society and for your attention to these briefs sent by informed citizens concerned about the implications of Bill C-6.

This Bill C-6 :

- 1) is not necessary, as we already have these protections against forcible treatment and confinement in Canadian Law.
- 2) has a much too broad definition of 'Conversion Therapy', and a corrective which is only one-sided.
- 3) will likely have a negative outcome for the patients and discourage therapists from seeing LGBTQ people.
- 4) is bound to have a negative effect on therapists and parents, adding pressure to an already tense situation. They are the ones most aware of the details in each individual situation and able to deal with it appropriately.

Therefore, please ADD :

- 1) the amendment specifically excluding non professional discussions, meetings.
- 2) an exemption for parents getting help for their kids as they see fit, and their therapist.

Subsections 164(3) to (5) of the Act is not about therapy, but about pornography and prostitution. Written material about sexual attraction or gender dysphoria, or offers to provide therapy does NOT belong in this subsection. This is a complete mis-use of these sections of the Act.

Parents MUST be exempt from Subsection 320.103 (1) for sending their child to a counsellor (as well as said counsellor). The developing pre-frontal cortex of teenagers means that they lack the decision-making ability to weigh the long term consequences of their actions. It is recognized in Canadian Law that minors have limited rights and liabilities because of this. This is why parents have the responsibility to sign documents for them, send them to therapy, etc.

Anyone who has been the parent of a teenager knows that they are gung-ho one week and rebelling the next. Cognitive therapy is hard work and sometimes painful to get to the reward at the end. This is why we had parents: to push us to keep going till we succeed in the end. Most clients want to give up at some point and need encouragement. We MUST NOT handcuff the parents from this legitimate role in their teen's life!

A client may be convinced wrongly that they are of one orientation or gender and it only be revealed after months of therapy. The state can not be permitted to take the place of the therapist's judgement by saying that leaning towards one direction is acceptable and the other isn't.

We must also ensure in this Bill that there is no possibility that when a former client hits a rough patch years later and has second thoughts or regrets, that they can then prosecute a therapist who in good faith helped them through that process.

This Bill is an egregious incursion into the rights and liberties of therapists and parents to play their role in the lives of vulnerable youth. This will result in therapists having to look over their shoulder, worrying if someone is going to object to something they say. Knowing that in cognitive therapy, it is very likely that at some point, some clients will change their mind and say they don't want to do it and need to be persuaded to carry on with their treatment to get over the hump. This is for any issue we are dealing with.

But it will only be in cases involving the issue of gender or sexuality that therapists will now have to consider their career first and not their patient's well-being. Nobody performs their best under that kind of pressure. This may well have a chilling effect on therapy for the LGBTQ community.

Therefore, please ADD :
the amendment specifically excluding non professional discussions, and meetings.
an exemption for parents getting help for their kids as they see fit, and the therapist they select.

Yours truly,

Keith Robertson