

To the Justice Committee regarding Bill C-6 on Conversion Therapy,

Thank you so much for your regard.

Regarding Bill C-6 on Conversion Therapy, I completely understand that we don't want any people group in Canada to be harassed or degraded or coerced or badgered into anything against their will, by any other individual or people group in Canada; and that to allow such a thing, would be a traumatic mark on all Canadians. And, I appreciate that Bill C-6 wants to address this issue.

There seems to be a few unclear definitions layered into Bill C-6, and I hope you will clarify them.

1. Firstly, please protect our LGBTQ2 community. May forced, abusive, coercive, or degrading Conversion Therapy sessions be clearly defined in Bill C-6 as unacceptable. I strongly support Canada's care and protection for all LGBTQ2 Canadians to live in freedom and without fear.
2. It's also important to clarify the definition of this type of unacceptable "Conversion Therapy", for there are very many different forms of therapy and counseling. There are kind and gracious counselors, with thoughtful, open counseling sessions, with freedoms of expression and faith that need to be protected... It shouldn't be illegal to simply seek out someone who may have a different opinion, and have a discussion. And, it shouldn't be illegal to freely request counsel of choice... on anything... including sexual preference, gender diversity and identity. We are a free nation. Broad, sweeping censorship of speech is a terrible thing.

In Bill C-6, I'm hoping that unacceptable Conversion Therapy will be defined more clearly as that which is abusive, coercive, degrading or forced counseling.

And conversely, that LGBTQ2 Canadians and all Canadians will be free to seek out the counsel of their choice, as long as it's not abusive, degrading or forced.

Canada is the very epitome of diversity and tolerance, for sexuality, gender, and faith. I hope we will never clear up one oppression, by creating another.

To clarify: Harassment and degrading practices should be awarded to *no one*... freedom of expression, faith and opinion should be awarded to *everyone*. It's what makes Canada great.

3. Regarding parenting, perhaps the wording of Bill C-6 can be clarified and defined, as well. Are parents free to raise their children? Are Canadians free to uphold their family values, each with their own world view, each with their own faith or religion, and each with their own household rules in place regarding sexuality... as long as there is no forceful abuse afflicted to a child, or to another person (for example: as long as there is no degrading or abusive Conversion Therapy)? It's a very healthy thing for families to freely discuss these issues.

These responsibilities, freedoms and rights are the fabric of family, and the anchor of Canadian diversity. I hope, once again, that the Bill will clarify what negative "Conversion Therapy" is, vs. simply having varying conversations, or sets of values, or beliefs with which we raise our children.

4. In summation, please allow all people... LGBTQ2 Canadians, Parents, Counselors, and Leaders & Members of the faith community to continue to be able to speak freely or seek counsel from varying points of view, without fear of retribution, prejudice, persecution or prosecution.

This is Canadian diversity, true tolerance, and freedom of speech in its purest form. It's a hallmark of being Canadian. It's a mark of being a free nation.

I very much appreciate your consideration and your time. Thank you so much.

M. Reid