

This is my brief in support of Bill C-6, an act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy). I am a gay man in my mid-30s. When I came out at 17, I was taken to therapy. Thankfully, I had an excellent therapist who understood that there was nothing wrong with being gay. Together, we talked about what some of my family members may have been experiencing and got on to what were more pressing issues for me at the time: finishing high school and choosing a career path. This is the kind of experience I would wish for anyone who found themselves coming to a more fulsome understanding of their sexuality or gender. Unfortunately, for some, therapy is a nightmare. Conversion therapy can lead to a lifetime of “depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide” (Human Rights Campaign). This is why Bill C-6 is so important. As a country, we understand that the ability to live your true gender and/or sexual expression is a right. We believe that all Canadians have the right to marry. Therefore, we need to protect all citizens, especially youth, from the harms of conversion therapy. So, please, bring the Criminal Code into line with this and ban conversion therapy in Canada. For the good of all our citizens.