

Brief for Bill C-6

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Attention: Justice Committee of Canada

I am writing to you concerning Bill C-6, the proposed bill to ban conversion therapy. I wholeheartedly esteem efforts to completely prohibit and eradicate shock or electroconvulsive therapy and any other kind of dehumanizing practice that is employed to coercively change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. Please do pass this bill!

At the same time, I would like to request that certain amendments be made, for I do not think Bill C-6 possesses sufficient clarity and specificity, and if it were to be passed as it currently stands, I believe societal problems are bound to result, particularly as this bill relates to our cherished freedoms of speech, religion, and autonomy. According to our legislation, we should have zero tolerance for any kind of discrimination; however, I fear the ambiguity of Bill C-6's definition of "Conversion Therapy" may discriminate LGBTQ2 Canadians who do not want to be limited by the government on the services from which they can avail themselves. For example, many LGBTQ2 Canadians are people of religious faith, and they may want to discuss sexual concerns with a pastor or obtain religious counseling about their gender identity or some related matter. At present, it is unclear whether or not Bill C-6 criminalizes professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians. As someone who is currently studying to be a religious counselor myself, this is a matter of personal concern.

Additionally, I fear Bill C-6's vagueness could be used wrongly to prevent parents from speaking freely with their children about sex and relationships. I do believe, as I think many Canadians do, that parents should be allowed to set house rules with their children about sex and relationships as long as they are the ones functioning as the providers for their children and their children are in fact—children (not older than eighteen years of age).

One of the greatest reasons so many flock to Canada is because of our renowned tolerance of diversity and our many freedoms. One of those freedoms is the freedom to differ, to disagree, to have an opinion, and to be privileged to hear both sides of an issue. It may be the "elephant in the room" that not everyone agrees with encouraging puberty blockers or sex-reassignment surgery. People who do adhere to a different opinion about this may be hated and discriminated against. I believe this is extremely sad, and it does not forecast a hopeful future for

our country, for respectful debate and informed dialogue between people of different parties and groups is the way critical thinking is developed and a society is often enhanced. It enables people to be able to think for themselves within a safe and respectful society and not be forced by the culture or government to accept certain beliefs or practices not proven to be absolutely true.

Books like Abigail Shrier's *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* and Nancy Pearcey's *Love Thy Body* reveal that always encouraging puberty blockers and sex-reassignment surgery as an underlying rule may not always be best according to recent research. I hope Bill C-6 can be amended to show that banning "Conversion Therapy" does not equate with banning the ability to express and hear varying perspectives, nor the ability to follow evidence and research wherever it leads.

Thank you for considering my brief and view though it may vary with yours.

Sincerely, Bronwyn Gray

Summary:

This view was written to kindly suggest the following amendments be made to Bill C-6:

- "Ban coercive, degrading practices that are designed to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Ensure that no laws discriminate against Canadians by limiting what services they can receive based on their sexual orientation or gender identity;
- Allow parents to speak with their own children about sexuality and gender, and set house rules about sex and relationships;
- Allow free and open conversations about sexuality and sexual behaviour; and
- Not criminalize professional and religious counseling voluntarily requested and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians." ---MP, Garnett Genuis<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Home - Fix The Definition](#)