

We are writing to express our concerns with the wording of Bill C-6. While we support a ban of conversion therapy that is coercive and degrading and the intention of this bill to protect LGBTQ2 Canadians from harm, we posit that the current wording of the bill is needlessly broad and could lead to several negative outcomes.

These could include:

- 1 – An LGBTQ2 Canadian being unable to access services which they desire and to which they consent.
- 2 – Parents being criminalized for speaking with their children about sexual issues or for setting house rules about sexual behaviour.
- 3 – Professional or religious counsellors being censored from giving counsel that is freely sought by and consented to by LGBTQ2 Canadians.
- 4 – Private conversations being subject to censorship or prosecution.

We implore you to narrow the definition of conversion therapy to that which is coercive and degrading. This would provide an opportunity for the government of Canada to demonstrate their support for

- 1 – **LGBTQ2 Canadians** by allowing them to access any type of services they may choose.
- 2 – **The Family** by ensuring that parents, who know and love their own children best, are free to converse with them honestly and to give them the guidance that they believe to be in their best interests.
- 3 – **Counsellors** by not mandating how they must advise their clients even though this may be against their better judgment and their consciences.
- 4 – **Every Canadian** by being inclusive of everyone's viewpoints and values. Only when all Canadians can speak their mind freely and openly without fear of penalty can everyone be confident of their place and value in Canadian society.

"Diversity is our strength" is a maxim often repeated. May this legislation affirm our government's commitment to diversity of beliefs and values in Canadian society by 'fixing the definition' in Bill C-6. We respectfully request the rewording of this bill to ensure that it would protect against harm without endangering the privacy or rights of anyone in the process.

Thank you for your attention to these matters of grave importance to the preservation of a free and open society.