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Dec 6, 2020

To: The Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, House of Commons, Ottawa

Re: Bill C-6 an act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)

Dear Chair Khalid and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Pflag Canada's fifty chapters across Canada, I would like to express our concern about possible amendments to bill C-6. Pflag Canada is a volunteer, charitable, organization which offers peer support and other resources to LGBTQ2S people and their families and friends. Pflag helps all Canadians with issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Pflag Canada supports the legislation in its original form, which, defines conversion therapy as a practice to change either an individual's **sexual orientation** or **gender identity**. Removal of gender identity from the definition would exclude trans people from protection, effectively creating two classes of people within the LGBTQ2S community. The idea that some people are more deserving of protection than others is offensive and dangerous.

We note that several healthcare professional associations including: the Canadian Psychiatric Association and the Canadian Paediatric Society support the legislation. Pflag's peer support meetings routinely witness how affirming care and support for transgender youth and adults is essential to their health and well being.

We request that the Committee recommend passage of the bill in its original form. It is essential that all LGBTQ2S Canadians are protected equally under the conversion therapy ban.

Sincerely,

Ross Wicks
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(pronouns he, him)
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