

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

As your constituent, I'm writing to ask you to help protect LGBTQ youth in Massachusetts by supporting *An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors* (H.1190), also known as the Conversion Therapy Ban Bill.

This bill prohibits state-licensed mental health professionals from subjecting people below the age of 18 to conversion therapy practices to change sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Frequently used conversion therapy practices can cause serious, long-lasting damage, and minors subjected to such methods are at high risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Ultimately, this bill will ensure that state-licensed mental health practitioners abide by professional standards of ethics and do not engage in damaging practices that have no scientific basis.

In contrast to opponents' arguments, this legislation does **NOT** do any of the following: limit the practices of religious or faith-based counselors, prohibit the legitimate practices of professionally accepted therapies, prohibit the therapeutic exploration of sexual orientation or gender identity, apply to adults, or infringe on First Amendment liberties as demonstrated by rulings in both federal and state courts.

H.1190 has the support of a broad coalition of mental health, child welfare, legal and LGBTQ organizations in Massachusetts. Similar legislation has already become law in 11 other states and Washington, DC, and more states are on the brink of banning conversion therapy on minors. Massachusetts is falling behind in protecting our youth.

**Please protect LGBTQ minors in Massachusetts from the harmful, fraudulent practice of conversion therapy by advocating for H.1190 to be brought to the floor for a vote in the Massachusetts House of Representatives this session.**

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Mailing Address]