

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 184

Expressing the sense of the Senate that conversion therapy, including efforts by mental health practitioners to change the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of an individual, is dangerous and harmful and should be prohibited from being practiced on minors.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. UDALL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that conversion therapy, including efforts by mental health practitioners to change the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of an individual, is dangerous and harmful and should be prohibited from being practiced on minors.

Whereas being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming is not a disorder, disease, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming;

Whereas the development of all children and adolescents into healthy and productive adults is a priority of the United

States and ending prejudice and injustice based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender nonconformity is a human rights issue;

Whereas the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Counseling Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American School Counselor Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Association of Social Workers, together representing more than 480,000 health and mental health professionals, have all taken the position that homosexuality is not a mental disorder and thus is not something that needs to be or can be “cured”;

Whereas the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, and the American Psychoanalytic Association have not found conversion therapy to be safe or effective;

Whereas several States have enacted or are considering legislation and other measures to prohibit conversion therapy in children and adolescents; and

Whereas enacted State legislation to prohibit conversion therapy in children and adolescents has been upheld as constitutional: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Stop Harming

4 Our Kids Resolution of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING CONVERSION**
 2 **THERAPY DIRECTED AT MINORS.**

3 (a) **CONVERSION THERAPY DEFINED.**—In this reso-
 4 lution, the term “conversion therapy”—

5 (1) means any practice by a licensed, certified,
 6 or registered mental health provider, health care
 7 provider, or counselor that seeks or purports to im-
 8 pose change of the sexual orientation, gender iden-
 9 tity, or gender expression of an individual, including
 10 reducing or eliminating sexual or romantic attrac-
 11 tions or feelings toward an individual of the same
 12 gender and efforts to change behaviors, gender iden-
 13 tity, or gender expression; and

14 (2) does not include counseling—

15 (A) that—

16 (i) provides acceptance, support, and
 17 understanding of an individual;

18 (ii) facilitates the coping, social sup-
 19 port, and identity exploration and develop-
 20 ment of an individual;

21 (iii) provides developmentally appro-
 22 priate counseling for an individual under-
 23 going gender transition; or

24 (iv) provides sexual orientation- and
 25 gender identity-neutral interventions to

1 prevent or address unlawful conduct or un-
2 safe sexual practices; and

3 (B) that does not seek to change sexual
4 orientation, gender identity, or gender expres-
5 sion.

6 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
7 Senate that conversion therapy directed at minors is dis-
8 credited and ineffective, has no legitimate therapeutic pur-
9 pose, and is dangerous and harmful.

10 (c) STATE ENCOURAGEMENT.—The Senate encour-
11 ages each State to take steps to protect minors from ef-
12 forts that promote or promise to change sexual orienta-
13 tion, gender identity, or gender expression based on the
14 premise that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or
15 gender nonconforming is a mental illness or developmental
16 disorder that can or should be cured.

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