

The Truth About Conversion "Therapy"

What is Conversion Therapy?

Conversion therapy is the term used to describe therapy that claims to change a gay person into a straight person or to stop a person from being transgender.

The truth is that conversion therapy has no scientific basis whatsoever. Instead, it is often based on outdated and false theories such as the false notion that being gay is caused by bad parenting. Most conversion therapists falsely blame parents for their child being gay or transgender, even though there is zero evidence for such claims.

Every leading medical and mental health organization in the country and Kentucky has concluded that conversion therapy is dangerous. It doesn't work, and it can cause life-threatening harm to minors.

What this bill does:

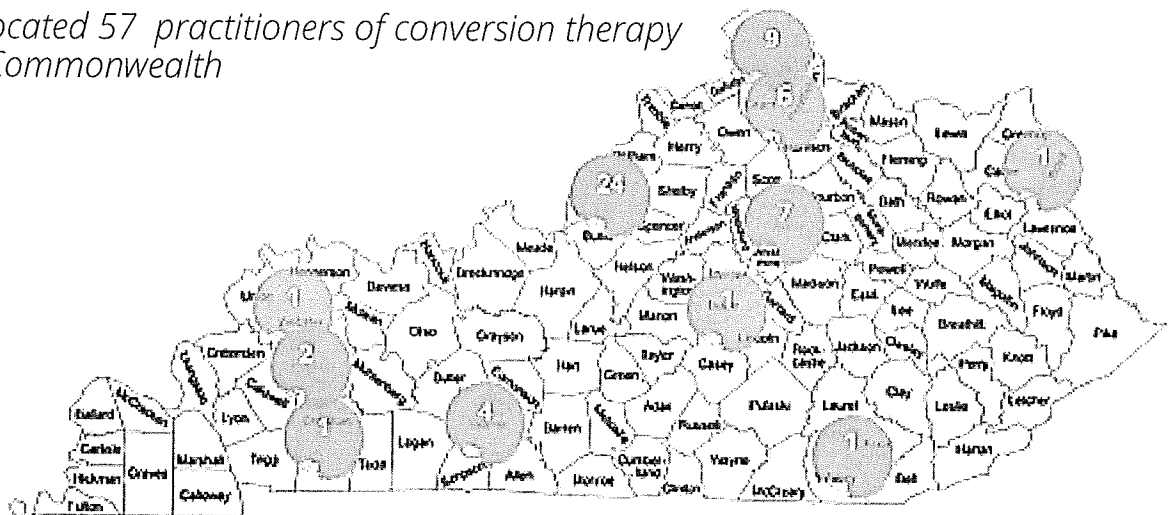
- Prevents state-licensed providers from engaging in conversion therapy with minors
- Protects religious freedom with an exemption for religious leaders
- Protects families from predatory therapists

What this bill doesn't do:

- Restrict religious leaders from counseling youth and families
- Restrict religious leaders or licensed providers from discussing morality and church teachings or beliefs around same-sex attraction or gender identity
- Prevent parents or guardians from discussing beliefs about same-sex attraction or gender identity with their kids and grandkids

Conversion Therapy Practitioners in Kentucky

We've located 57 practitioners of conversion therapy in our Commonwealth



NEED TO KNOW

Q: Is conversion therapy truly harmful?

Peer-reviewed research has found that sixty percent of young adults who were subjected to conversion therapy as minors reported attempting suicide--three times higher than LGBT youth who did not undergo conversion therapy (Family Acceptance Project).

Q: What are some examples of conversion therapy?

According to the American Psychological Association, techniques can include: inducing nausea, vomiting, or paralysis while viewing homoerotic images; providing electric shocks; snapping an elastic band around the wrist when aroused by same-sex images; using shame to create aversion to same-sex attractions; trying to make one's behavior more stereotypically feminine or masculine; teaching heterosexual dating skills; using hypnosis to try to redirect desires and arousal.

Q: Are youth being subjected to conversion therapy today?

According to the UCLA Williams Institute, 350,000 minors have been subjected to conversion therapy. That number grows by thousands each year, as they predict 20,000 LGBTQ youth are at risk of conversion therapy by a licensed mental health professional in the next few years.

Q: What about freedom of speech?

This bill does not apply to clergy or religious counseling by non-licensed providers.

Q: What about parental rights?

This bill does not interfere in any way with the rights of parents to raise their children as they choose, including their religious or moral beliefs.

Legislation to ban conversion therapy has bi-partisan support across the country:

- 18 states including Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado have passed legislation to protect youth from conversion therapy. 7 of those laws were signed by Republican governors.
- 380 Republican lawmakers have sponsored or voted in favor of such legislation going into 2019.

Take Action. Protect Youth from These Dangerous Practices. Support the Youth Mental Health Protection Act - B.R. 99 (House Version)

**BAN
CONVERSION THERAPY
KENTUCKY**

**BAN
CONVERSION
THERAPY
KY
.ORG**