



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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GOVERNOR

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**VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING HOUSE BILL 495 OF THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION**

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

House Bill 495 of the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

Team Kentucky strives to create a Commonwealth where all people feel welcome, free from hate and discrimination, and encouraged to be themselves. Conversion therapy has no basis in medicine or science and causes significant long-term damage to our kids, including increased rates of suicide, anxiety, and depression. Last year, I signed an executive order directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to take all actions necessary to prohibit the use of state and federal funds for the practice of conversion therapy on minors. House Bill 495 seeks to nullify that executive order and prevent future executive orders from protecting our children from this cruel and inhumane practice. Not only is House Bill 495 an unconstitutional infringement of the executive branch's authority under the law, but it promotes a dangerous and discriminatory practice that has led to the deaths of Kentucky children. As leaders and policymakers, we should be in the business of protecting our citizens and kids from harm, not subjecting them to discredited methods that jeopardize their health, wellbeing, and safety.

For these reasons, I am vetoing House Bill 495.

This, the 22nd day of March, 2025.

Andy Beshear
Governor

