

From: [cathy gardino](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Conversion Therapy Ban
Date: Friday, December 28, 2018 4:06:52 PM

Dear Members;

I have been watching the LGBTQ agenda trending across the nation with rapped attention. It is trending because it's the latest, greatest, coolest thing to be "gender confused"... a whole new category of victimhood for doctors, therapists, and pharmaceutical companies to exploit. An entire new generation of America's kids to influence and destroy. Each one of you is participating in the demise of this generation.

I have but one question... WHY would you not allow a "reversal of decision" in this matter? Why would you "Ban" assistance in this area? Have you ever made a decision you regretted and changed your mind about it? Certainly you have. Why would you not allow these young minds to reverse course? If you want to control this outcome to the point of "banning" reversal, I would suggest you are complicit in the destruction of the individuals that are suffering under this malady. WHY?

I would like to refer you to Arthur Schaper at Mass Resistance. This organization is pro family and they are vehemently against any legislation that would "ban" any therapy that would assist a person that is "gender confused" in making the transition back to their birth gender. I have seen this organization in action for sometime and they have been instrumental in organizing parents to fight back against mandates of local gov't and school boards in a number of states.

Parents have been losing their rights for the past two decades and Mass Resistance is here to help families that are lost in this political game to protect and preserve their rights and the rights of their children and grand children. Our children are NOT subjects of your social experimentation or your social justice agenda. Our children deserve to be assisted to reverse bad decisions and not be "banned" from participating in any therapy we chose for them as their parents.

I would encourage you to rethink your position on this issue and to reject any ban on any therapy that may assist our children in their search for their true identity. The liability for this action is immeasurable and there is no reward.

You may contact Arthur Schaper here : (310) -793-8647

Arthur Schaper, Organization Director

State Director, California MassResistance

Website: MassResistance.org

Email: arthur@massresistance.org

Thank you,

Cathy Gardino
Colorado Parents for Education Options
719-683-5625

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [David Dobson](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dear Denver City Council Member:
Date: Monday, December 31, 2018 9:17:01 AM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is David Dobson, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California: <https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

Below are highlights from important research gathered by the National Task Force for Therapy Equality. (Click here to see more and references):

* Sexual orientation and gender identity are not biologically determined like skin color (1), and psychological and family factors are causes (2). Transgender identity may be pathological (3) * As many as 98% of boys and 88% of girls (6) and no less than 75% of boys and girls (7) come to identify with their innate body sex if supported through natural puberty and not socially transitioned.(8)

* 90% of the exclusively and strongly same-sex attracted boys experienced father absence or loss. (10) Absence of a parent, especially the parent of the same sex as the child, can lead to same-sex attraction, behavior, and orientation identity.

* Even the Southern Poverty Law Center affirms “conversion therapy” uses only non-aversive methods. (14) Stories of “therapy torture” and “aversion therapy” have been documented to be fraudulent in a report sent to the Federal Trade Commission. (15) * More than 100 years of research have found the therapy is safe and effective. (16) A new five-year study of adult male clients who have unwanted same-sex attraction feelings is currently underway and meets APA standards. Results in the first year found distress decreased, sense of wellbeing increased, heterosexual thoughts and feelings increased, and homosexual thoughts and feelings decreased. (17)

* Leading suicide researchers found that, world-wide, 90% of people who commit suicide had mental disorders. The researchers’ number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. (18)

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,

David Dobson

From: [David Dobson](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dear Denver City Council Member:
Date: Monday, December 31, 2018 9:19:48 AM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is Audrey Dobson, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California: <https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

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* Leading suicide researchers found that, world-wide, 90% of people who commit suicide had mental disorders. The researchers’ number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. (18)

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,
Audrey Dobson

From: [Abbey Moffitt](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gile, Kathleen O. - CC YA2246 City Council Aide Senior](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [Marchetta, Theresa - MO MA0059 Executive Director](#); [Bronson, Kristin M. - CAO City Attorney](#)
Cc: [Rob Corry](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban
Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 1:22:13 PM
Attachments: [Denver Cty Council Proposed BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban.pdf](#)

Mayor and City Council,

Please see the attached letter from Robert J. Corry, Jr. and the Law Firm of Corry & Associates in opposition to Proposed BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban.

Feel free to contact our office with any follow-up questions.

Best,
Abbey Moffitt

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Abbey Moffitt
Attorney At Law
Corry & Associates
437 West Colfax Ave. Ste. 300
Denver, CO 80204
303-634-2244
abbey@robcorry.com

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From: [Abbey Moffitt](#)
To: [dence - City Council](#); [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gile, Kathleen O. - CC YA2246 City Council Aide Senior](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [Marchetta, Theresa - MO MA0059 Executive Director](#); [Bronson, Kristin M. - CAO City Attorney](#)
Cc: [Rob Corry](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban
Date: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 4:10:48 PM
Attachments: [Denver City Council Proposed BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban.pdf](#)

Mayor and City Council,

Please see the attached letter from Robert J. Corry, Jr. in relation to BR 18-1508 Conversion Therapy Ban. The letter is the same as previously provided, but we wish to clarify that it does not take a formal position in support of or in opposition to the bill.

Best,

Abbey Moffitt

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Abbey Moffitt
Attorney At Law
Corry & Associates
437 West Colfax Ave. Ste. 300
Denver, CO 80204
303-634-2244
abbey@robcorry.com

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From: [Katherine Smith](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dence - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] reparative therapy ban
Date: Friday, December 28, 2018 7:55:29 PM

Dear Denver City Council:

My name is Katherine Smith, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California: <https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

Below are highlights from important research gathered by the National Task Force for Therapy Equality. ([Click here](#) to see more and references):

- Sexual orientation and gender identity are not biologically determined like skin color ⁽¹⁾, and psychological and family factors are causes ⁽²⁾. Transgender identity may be pathological ⁽³⁾
- As many as 98% of boys and 88% of girls ⁽⁶⁾ and no less than 75% of boys and girls ⁽⁷⁾ come to identify with their innate body sex if supported through natural puberty and not socially transitioned. ⁽⁸⁾
- 90% of the exclusively and strongly same-sex attracted boys experienced father absence or loss. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Absence of a parent, especially the parent of the same sex as the child, can lead to same-sex attraction, behavior, and orientation identity.
- Even the Southern Poverty Law Center affirms “conversion therapy” uses only non aversive methods. ⁽¹⁴⁾ Stories of “therapy torture” and “aversion therapy” have been documented to be fraudulent in a report sent to the Federal Trade Commission. ⁽¹⁵⁾
- More than 100 years of research have found the therapy is safe and effective. ⁽¹⁶⁾ A new five-year study of adult male clients who have unwanted same-sex attraction feelings is currently underway and meets APA standards. Results in the

first year found distress decreased, sense of wellbeing increased, heterosexual thoughts and feelings increased, and homosexual thoughts and feelings decreased. [\(17\)](#)

- Leading suicide researchers found that, world-wide, 90% of people who commit suicide had mental disorders. The researchers' number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. [\(18\)](#)

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,

Katherine Smith

From: [Michael Cherochak](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reparative Therapy Counseling Ban
Date: Sunday, December 30, 2018 5:50:57 PM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is Michael Cherochak, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in [this report](https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/): <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

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This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California:

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

Below are highlights from important research gathered by the National Task Force for Therapy Equality. ([Click here](#) to see more and references):

<!--[endif]-->Sexual orientation and gender identity are not biologically determined like skin color ⁽¹⁾, and psychological and family factors are causes ⁽²⁾. Transgender identity may be pathological ⁽³⁾

<!--[endif]-->As many as 98% of boys and 88% of girls ⁽⁶⁾ and no less than 75% of boys and girls ⁽⁷⁾ come to identify with their innate body sex if supported through natural puberty and not socially transitioned. ⁽⁸⁾

<!--[endif]-->90% of the exclusively and strongly same-sex attracted boys experienced father absence or loss. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Absence of a parent, especially the parent of the same sex as the child, can lead to same-sex attraction, behavior, and orientation identity.

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<!--[endif]-->More than 100 years of research have found the therapy is safe and effective. ⁽¹⁶⁾ A new five-year study of adult male clients who have unwanted same-sex attraction feelings is currently underway and meets APA standards. Results in the first year

found distress decreased, sense of wellbeing increased, heterosexual thoughts and feelings increased, and homosexual thoughts and feelings decreased. [\(17\)](#)

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I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Michael Cherochak

From: [John Blomberg](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop Ban
Date: Sunday, December 30, 2018 2:22:28 PM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is John Blomberg, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California: <https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

Below are highlights from important research gathered by the National Task Force for Therapy Equality. ([Click here](#) to see more and references):

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had mental disorders. The researchers' number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. (18)

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,
John Blomberg

From: [Jerry P](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge; Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large; dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Therapy Ban For Minors
Date: Friday, January 04, 2019 1:28:04 PM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is Jerry Panek, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

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I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,
Jerry Panek

From: [W. Jason King](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT BAN therapies on psychological transgender and "problematic male and female identities."
Date: Sunday, December 30, 2018 1:48:47 PM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

Although there are no practitioners concerning this particular case at present in the Denver area, this situation has been brought to my attention. And the LGBT community would like to make a "BAN on therapies" that address the following condition in the future that happens with our children.

My name is W. Jason King, and I am urging you NOT “to ban reparative therapy for minors,” which is proposed in this report:

<https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

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This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that **Mass Resistance** (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California:

<https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

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- As many as 98% of boys and 88% of girls ⁽⁶⁾ and no less than 75% of boys *and* girls ⁽⁷⁾ come to identify with their innate body sex if supported through natural puberty and not socially transitioned. ⁽⁸⁾

<!--[endif]-->

- See "**NOW THIS FROM W. JASON KING . . .**" below
- 90% of the exclusively and strongly same-sex attracted boys experienced father absence or loss. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Absence of a parent, especially the parent of the same sex as the child, can lead to same-sex attraction, behavior, and orientation identity.
- Even the Southern Poverty Law Center affirms “conversion therapy” uses only non-aversive methods. ⁽¹⁴⁾ Stories of “therapy torture” and “aversion therapy” have been documented to be fraudulent in a report sent to the Federal Trade Commission. ⁽¹⁵⁾
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- Leading suicide researchers found that, world-wide, 90% of people who commit suicide had mental disorders. The researchers’ number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. ⁽¹⁸⁾

NOW THIS FROM W. JASON KING, NHC, FOR ABOUT 30 YEARS.

- A very big influencer of the disruption of “male sexual orientation identity” is found in the hormone disruptors that are common in the Standard American Diet (SAD) which has become prominent over the past 60+ years. These hormone disruptors are formed by estrogen-like substances that are now found extensively in our diet. Some men and many boys (whose hormonal systems are being formed) can be affected by this well-known estrogenic disruptive hormonal factor.

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they would like and need.

Sincerely,

W. Jason King

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hosea 4:6a

Aurora, Colorado

wjk1776@yahoo.com

720-988-5205

From: [Dave & Kitty Smith](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dencc - City Council](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote no on reparative therapy ban!
Date: Sunday, December 30, 2018 9:59:07 AM

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is David Smith, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in [this report](https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/): <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

This ban on counseling and therapy for children who struggle with same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria is tantamount to child abuse, and effectively takes away their right to choose the type of therapy they want. Please visit the link below to see the information that Mass Resistance (an international pro-family organization) shared with the California State legislators to successfully stop a reparative therapy ban for adults in California: <https://www.massresistance.org/docs/gen3/18c/MR-CA-Bill-2943/images/Handout-on-AB2943.pdf>

Below are highlights from important research gathered by the National Task Force for Therapy Equality. ([Click here](#) to see more and references):

- Sexual orientation and gender identity are not biologically determined like skin color ⁽¹⁾, and psychological and family factors are causes ⁽²⁾. Transgender identity may be pathological ⁽³⁾
- As many as 98% of boys and 88% of girls ⁽⁶⁾ and no less than 75% of boys and girls ⁽⁷⁾ come to identify with their innate body sex if supported through natural puberty and not socially transitioned. ⁽⁸⁾
- 90% of the exclusively and strongly same-sex attracted boys experienced father absence or loss. ⁽¹⁰⁾ Absence of a parent, especially the parent of the same sex as the child, can lead to same-sex attraction, behavior, and orientation identity.
- Even the Southern Poverty Law Center affirms “conversion therapy” uses only non aversive methods. ⁽¹⁴⁾ Stories of “therapy torture” and “aversion therapy” have been documented to be fraudulent in a report sent to the Federal Trade Commission. ⁽¹⁵⁾
- More than 100 years of research have found the therapy is safe and effective. ⁽¹⁶⁾ A new five-year study of adult male clients who have unwanted same-sex attraction feelings is currently underway and meets APA standards. Results in the first year

found distress decreased, sense of wellbeing increased, heterosexual thoughts and feelings increased, and homosexual thoughts and feelings decreased. [\(17\)](#)

- Leading suicide researchers found that, world-wide, 90% of people who commit suicide had mental disorders. The researchers' number one prevention recommendation is to let them have psychotherapy. [\(18\)](#)

I urge you to put the needs of hurting children first, and to respect the rights of parents and all citizens to choose the type of therapy they want.

Sincerely,

David Smith



**CORRY &
ASSOCIATES**

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
437 W. Colfax Avenue, Suite 300
Denver, Colorado 80204 USA
303-634-2244 www.robcorry.com

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Mayor and City Council
City and County of Denver, Colorado
Denver, Colorado 80204

Re: Proposed BR 18 1508 HRCP “Conversion Therapy Ban”

Dear Mayor and City Council:

This law firm represents numerous licensed professionals including physicians, nurses, psychologists, counselors, mental health professionals, therapists, pastors, and others, some of whom are engaged in new, emerging, non-traditional, holistic, and even controversial, medical treatments or therapy. This firm also represents patients, or parents of patients, who receive or are involved in such medical services. These treatments sometimes depart from the prevailing Establishment popular orthodoxy.

The proposed Bill noted above, and titled “Prohibition of Conversion Therapy,” raises serious constitutional concerns, as it essentially involves a prohibition and prior restraint against speech, but only discriminates against speech of certain viewpoints. The proposed ordinance would violate the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, if enacted.

Statements made during confidential doctor-patient or other medical consultations are free speech and are protected by the First Amendment. See National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Beccera, 585 U.S. ____ (U.S. Supreme Court June 26, 2018); Conant v. Walters, 309 F.3d 629 (9th Cir. 2002) (physician recommendation of medical marijuana, even if recommended

substance is federally-illegal, protected under First Amendment as free speech and cannot be penalized).

This bill prohibits constitutionally-protected speech, by injecting State interference into the subjects or treatment objectives of privileged treatment or medical discussions. This proposed law authorizes State coercion and punishment, all against mere words, with such State force triggered from an *anonymous* complaint, adjudicated by a lone unelected and unaccountable bureaucrat, with no rules of evidence, no rules of procedure, no due process, no jury, no ability to question the motives of, or even face, the accuser(s), and no mechanism to remedy or penalize frivolous or false allegations.

Moreover, the bill also violates the constitutional right of a parent to parent a child without State interference. See Troxel v. Granville, 530 U.S. 57, 65 (2000). Colorado law contains a presumption that a parent acts in the best interests of his or her child. In Re Parental Responsibilities of B.J., 242 P.3d 1128, 1132, 1135 (Colo. 2010). This bill substitutes the government for the judgment of a loving parent or parents who know and live with their own child, and are legally-presumed to love the child and act in the child's interests.

This letter does not endorse the effectiveness, or lack thereof, of “conversion therapy” itself. In Denver, the free market and patients themselves are already seemingly rejecting the practice, without any legal ban from City Council. Our clients have diverse opinions on the practice, but believe it should be the case-by-case individualized decision of the patient, the patient's parent(s), and the medical professional, not the State's.

Given that this particular type of treatment is currently rare within the borders of the City and County of Denver at this specific point in time, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. Politicians' desire to express their “intolerance for intolerance” could potentially result in these politicians needing medical treatment from contortions patting of themselves on the back after passing this bill. Obviously, the First Amendment exists to protect all speech--popular or unpopular--and stands for the proposition that the political fad of the day does not trump the fundamental constitutional rights to free speech and to parent one's own children.

Which is precisely the point: When Government inserts itself in between the sacrosanct, ancient, discreet, and constitutionally-protected relationship between doctor and patient, Government violates the Constitution. If Government is

allowed to ban conversion therapy today, tomorrow it will be allowed to ban other controversial or politically-unpopular medical treatments.

And ultimately, legal arguments aside, this bill does nothing to actually help or compensate any victims of conversion therapy. If a minor has been individually harmed by the therapy, under existing law, such victim can already bring a civil action or a formal administrative complaint with the licensing entity, either on his/her own behalf when reaching the age of majority, or through his/her parents while still a minor.

In fact, the bill does the opposite, compounding future harm by driving it underground. First, the bill only applies to licensed professionals, but allows conversion therapy by anyone unlicensed, who may be less responsible actors anyway as they are unlicensed and unregulated. Second, the bill is so broadly drafted, it arguably prevents even the therapeutic discussion of sex, “sexual orientation,” “gender identity,” “gender expressions,” “sexual or romantic attractions,” and even “feelings,” all terms used in the bill, all subjects prohibited, and poorly defined, or completely undefined. Third, Americans have always been rebellious, and our cultural desire to rebel against arbitrary and powerful authority is literally the reason the United States of America was founded and exists. Thus, perversely, when Government bans a particular type of speech, such prohibition can unintentionally draw more attention and desire to engage in such speech. Like many past government efforts to ban particular books, it will have the opposite effect desired.

This bill would prohibit a licensed professional from discussion “that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity,” adopting the definition of “gender identity” in D.R.M.C. § 28-92. It is probably not the intent of the drafters of this bill to enact a stealth prohibition against therapeutic discussion with transsexuals, gender transition, or those considering it, but this could be the actual result.

This language could prohibit a minor who is homosexual from discussing subjects of bisexuality, given the bill’s one-way-ratchet, allowing therapeutic discussions where a heterosexual seeks to become a homosexual, but prohibiting discussions the other way, or overbroadly, any discussions that could “*reduce* sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward *individuals* of the *same* gender.” (emphasis added.) So, discussions with homosexuals under 18 who wish to experiment with bisexuality or heterosexuality will be prohibited and subject to

State punishment. For example, a heterosexual minor boy would be permitted to seek counseling to get over a difficult breakup with his “individual” girlfriend and “reduce her attractions or feelings towards her,” but perversely, a homosexual minor boy could be denied treatment to get over a difficult breakup with his “individual” boyfriend and “reduce his attractions or feelings toward him.” This viewpoint discrimination is counterproductive to the cause of equal rights for all sexual orientations, and is not permitted under the Constitution.

This is the legal flaw where Denver’s proposal diverts from laws of other jurisdictions that have been upheld by other courts. In general, the bans that have been upheld, most notably California’s SB 1172, did not discriminate by viewpoint. California law prohibits “sexual orientation change efforts” to minors by licensed professionals, and defines the term in a viewpoint-neutral fashion, thus prohibiting licensed professionals engaging in efforts to changing minors from heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, or any other orientation. See Pickup v. Brown, 740 F.3d 1208 (9th Cir. 2014); Welch v. Brown, 834 F.3d 1041 (9th Cir. 2016).

Moreover, most of the previous caselaw concerns challenges brought under the free exercise of religion clauses of the First Amendment, not primarily under free speech and viewpoint discrimination principles. Finally, the U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled on the constitutionality of government prohibitions on therapeutic discussions in this specific context, but the U.S. Supreme Court dramatically altered the landscape in June 2018 with its NIFLA decision, which upheld the First Amendment rights of crisis pregnancy centers against compelled government speech advocating abortion, a procedure which such centers generally oppose.

Perhaps Denver’s proposed one-way ban, which unjustifiably provides that helping to change a minor from bisexual to homosexual is acceptable and not harmful, but changing from homosexual to bisexual is harmful enough to result in actual government punishment, may be extreme enough to ultimately provide the U.S. Supreme Court with an opportunity to extend protections for freedom of speech.

When Government takes a sledgehammer to subtle and complex topics demanding a precise and fine scalpel, this is the inevitable result, and this is why there is a First Amendment at all. Prohibition of certain subjects of speech, and only one side of that subject, doesn’t work.

The bill's vague and undefined prohibitions of certain subjects will exert a severe "chilling effect" on frank and candid discussions of even related topics by minors with their therapists. Most minors or adolescents, at some point, are inquisitive or even confused about sex and sexual matters before age 18. Some of these minors and their parents may seek formal counseling to discuss these matters, most will not. If this bill passes, such subjects are now prohibited or at least suspect, pigeonholed under the pervasive scrutiny of the State. Thus, the ultimate impact of this bill, as with most Government efforts to prohibit speech, will be to hamper and block discussion, and thus to slow real individual progress on these subjects. The bill gives Government the power to peek into, second-guess, and micromanage confidential and sensitive discussions that ought to remain private.

Additional points relating to the State prohibiting a particular medical treatment could fill many more pages. If this Bill passes, the City and County will be served with a lawsuit and injunction. See Elrod v. Burns, 427 U.S. 347 (loss of First Amendment freedoms, even for minimal periods of time "unquestionably" constitutes irreparable injury). If we are not granted an injunction, we will take this legal challenge as far as necessary.

Although I am unable to attend the upcoming committee meeting in person, I am happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Corry, Jr.

cc: Denver City Attorney

From: [mannablom](#)
To: [District 1 Comments](#); [Flynn, Kevin J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Lopez, Paul D. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Black, Kendra A. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Susman, Mary Beth - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Kashmann, Paul J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Clark, Jolon M. - CC XA1405 President Denver City Council](#); [Herndon, Christopher J. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Brooks, Albus - CC XA1404 Member Denver City Council](#); [New, Wayne C. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [Gilmore, Stacie M. - CC Member Denver City Cncl](#); [kniechatlarge](#); [Deborah Ortega - Councilwoman At Large](#); [dence - City Council](#)
Date: Thursday, January 03, 2019 3:40:52 PM

Replace the red X's at beginning and end with your name.

Copy the body of the letter, paste it into your email and hit send!

Dear Denver City Council Member:

My name is Robert E Blomberg jr, and I am urging you not to ban reparative therapy for minors, which is proposed in this report: <https://kdvr.com/2018/12/19/proposed-denver-lgbt-conversion-therapy-ban-for-minors-advances-to-city-council/>

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Sincerely,

Robert E Blomberg Jr

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone