

Dear Senators:

I am asking you to please oppose HB 19-1129 because it is contrary to reason, religious freedom, and parental rights.

First, this law is contrary to reason. It is currently legal in Colorado for a minor to take drugs to try to change their bodies to match their feelings. But if a minor wants to even talk about changing their feelings to match the bodies, then that should be illegal? That doesn't make sense.

Second, this law either discriminates against those who experience bisexual feelings or presumes they don't exist. It is illegal to have more than one spouse. So this law would say that if a minor who is attracted to both men and women wants to talk about lessening their attraction to the opposite sex, they can do that. But if they want to talk about the possibility of lessening their same sex attraction, say for example because they have fallen in love with a member of the opposite sex, then that is illegal. Again, this is irrational and is discrimination.

Third, even by the liberal standards of many democrats, this law should be opposed. How is it that by liberal standards, a conversation between a minor and a doctor about something as serious as abortion or taking puberty blocking drugs is a matter that the government should stay out of. But a conversation between a doctor and a minor about lessening same sex attractions is something the government should make illegal? That doesn't make sense.

Fourth, religious freedom doesn't begin when someone turns 18. This bill makes it illegal for a minor with parental consent to seek professional help in following their religion. Many Coloradans under 18 believe that the Bible is the Word of God and want to follow God's commandments. The government has no right to make it illegal for a minor to pursue help in following God's commandments by lessening unwanted desires. Again, think of the minor who experiences bisexual attractions and believes homosexual actions are contrary to God's Word. Are you telling that teen that it is legal for them to seek help to pursue disobeying God but illegal for them to seek help in following God? You may not believe homosexual acts are immoral and you have a right to believe that. But you don't have a right to impose your religious beliefs on others, which is what this law is doing. Is this government so tyrannical that it is going to label even talking about following the Bible in the area of chastity as abusive?

People have free will and can choose to not follow their attractions if they believe those attractions are immoral to pursue. The government has no right to take away that freedom. This bill is outdated, irrational, a violation of religious freedom and discriminatory. How can it be legal to try to change your body to match your feelings but illegal to even talk about trying changing your feelings to match your body? Please oppose this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hartley
12600 W 60th Ave.
Arvada, CO