

Dear Senator Grantham,

I am a Lakewood voter and I ask you to bring the HB17-1156 bill to a vote. The "therapy" of altering sexual orientation has absolutely no support in mental health or medical practice, and does irreparable damage to vulnerable people subjected to these techniques.

I grew up in a loving and accepting home, and have been in a committed relationship with my husband for 20 years. Many Colorado men and women who are coming to terms with their sexuality are not as fortunate as I was when I first came out. I have known several brave, strong people who have fought to hide or change their sexuality, only to fail and to face years of guilt and struggle before they find acceptance of themselves. Some have not been strong enough to find that place of acceptance, with heartbreaking consequences.

I ask you to bring this bill to a vote, and to allow our state to prevent the painful illusion of corrective therapies being forced on young people. There is no scientific evidence that people can change their sexuality through these cruel treatments, and nobody who is licensed in psychiatric medicine or mental health has any justification to cause the harm that is done in the name of these conversion therapies. Professional medical and mental health institutions are universally critical of these therapies, including the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

I have found a healthy, fulfilled life despite all the fears I had of what would happen to me if I came out. I ask you not to deny other Colorado citizens the opportunity to find the happiness, self-acceptance and loving relationship that I have found.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kesson Magid
Lakewood, CO
80228