

OPPOSE

HB 495

“CONVERSION TORTURE” BILL

HB495 ENCOURAGES MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, ENDANGERS KIDS

- **HB495 encourages licensed mental healthcare professionals in Kentucky to engage in medical malpractice by subjecting patients under the age of 18 to dangerous “conversion therapy.”**
- “Conversion therapy” attempts to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity through methods that may include aversion therapy, shaming, hypnosis, talk therapy, or other harmful techniques.
- **Few practices destroy families and hurt LGBTQ youth more than “conversion therapy,” which has been condemned by almost every major medical and counseling organization in the country,** including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the American Counseling Association, the National Association of Social Workers, and more.
- The American Medical Association, for instance, refers to conversion therapy as **“clinically and ethically inappropriate,”** and the National Association of Social Workers affirms that conversion therapy “can negatively affect one’s mental health and cannot and will not change sexual orientation or gender identity.”
- **“Conversion therapy” poses critical health risks to minors, such as increased risks of depression, suicidality, and substance use disorder.**
- **LGBTQ youth who were subjected to “conversion therapy” reported more than twice the rate of attempting suicide** in the past year compared to those who were not.
- An estimated 16,000 LGBTQ youth (ages 13-17) will receive “conversion therapy” from a licensed healthcare professional before they reach age 18.
- 21% of LGBTQ youth in Kentucky reported being threatened with or subjected to “conversion therapy.” HB495 will dramatically increase that statistic.

FAIRNESS
C A M P A I G N

