



We Urge You to Oppose a Therapy Ban Bill.

Fact Sheet: Harms of Censoring Change-Allowing Therapy for Dependent Adults

Dear Legislator,

HARMS OF BANNING CHANGE-ALLOWING THERAPY FOR DEPENDENT ADULTS

This bill takes away the right to therapy choice for disabled adults and treats them like minors. But adults who are under guardianship or conservatorship may have a disabled body but a capable mind, for example adults who have cerebral palsy or who are hearing or vision impaired and have a university education.

Treating disabled adults like minors is wrong for these reasons:

- (1) State and federal law require giving disabled individuals as much autonomy and freedom as possible—not restricting them. When disabled individuals have the mental capacity for choosing, they should choose.
- (2) The idea behind this bill is to treat disabled adults like children. That’s insulting and offensive to most disability groups and against case law.
- (3) It compels a counselor to violate the 14th amendment that guarantees equal protection under law for disabled adults.
- (4) A professional therapist has the ethical duty to honor a client’s choice for their therapeutic goal. This bill actually substitutes the government’s goals for the individual’s goals. The government tells a disabled adult, “You must choose what we say you must choose.”
- (5) Disabled adults especially need therapy choice. The U. S. Department of Justice says people who have disabilities are victims of sexual assault three times as often as people without disabilities.¹ The American Psychological Association says in its *APA Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology* that childhood sexual assault can lead to unwanted same-sex feelings and behaviors. A therapy ban requires the therapist to deny treatment to relieve a victim’s unwanted same-sex attractions and behaviors or the therapist will be criminalized.
- (6) Medical treatments for gender dysphoric individuals are too dangerous for some disabled individuals and medically counter-indicated. Banning psychotherapy leaves therapists nowhere to go with these clients.

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(MORE DETAILS AND REFERENCES AT: TherapyEquality.org/HarmsOfTherapyBans)

¹Harrell, E. (revised Nov. 14, 2011). National Crime Victimization Survey; Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2008-2010—Statistical Tables. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice programs. <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd10st.pdf>