



Florida Counseling Association

A Branch of the American Counseling Association

SB 180/HB 41 Conversion Therapy Ban

The Florida Counseling Association supports this bill with the banning of Conversion Therapy in the state of Florida. Efforts to change a person's sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful, and this effort will protect young people from a potentially harmful experience.

Rational for Support:

- ▶ Conversion therapy has been banned in California, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New Jersey, New Mexico, Connecticut, Nevada, Rhode Island, Washington, Maryland, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Maine, and Washington DC.
- ▶ Results of studies indicate that there are clients who enter this type of treatment and then report that they function more poorly than when they entered (Nicolosi, Byrd, & Potts, 2000; Schroeder & Shidlo, 2001).
- ▶ The American Psychological Association (APA) report titled Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. For this report, APA conducted a systematic review of the available research on sexual-orientation-change efforts—83 studies in all. The report concluded that: “efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm.” In fact, the report documented that up to 50% of participants in conversion-therapy practices reported harmful effects from the attempt to change their sexual orientation.
- ▶ There are treatments endorsed by the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling, a division of the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association. It is important to know there are other options for people that are gay affirmative and help a client reconcile his/her same-sex attractions with religious beliefs.

We ask that you support these bills banning Conversion Therapy in our state. Please contact us below with any questions or concerns.

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