

**DRAFT**

**House Bill**

***Prohibit Conversion Therapy Mental Health Provider: Concerning a Mental Healthcare Provider Engaging in Conversion Therapy with a Patient Under Eighteen Years of Age***

**An Economic Analysis**

**Bill**

House Bill 18-1245 will prevent mental health professionals from practicing conversion therapy, also known as reparative th

social isolation or religious conflict, LGBT people or parents of LGBT youth respectively may opt for conversion therapy (McCormick et al., 2017; Moss, 2014).

Despite the continued use of this therapy, existing studies, and a large quantity of patient narratives, caused many mental health professionals to conclude that conversion therapy is ineffective, and even harmful, towards patient health (Moss, 2014). There is no scientific evidence that conversion therapy alters sexual orientation (Drescher et al., 2016).

However, some organizations, like Focus on the Family, have taken to citing Dr. Robert Spitzer's flawed clinical research study to advocate for the use of conversion therapy (Johnston, 2014). Spitzer's study claimed that one's sexuality can be changed via therapy (Spitzer, 2003). Spitzer recalled that critics of his study urged him not to publish (NPR, 2012). One critique of the study was Spitzer's recruitment of patients who were invested in demonstrating the efficacy of conversion therapy, putting the credibility of patient reports at risk (Hill & Diclementi, 2003). Realizing his error, Spitzer denounced his study and wrote an apology which was reprinted by the Truth Wins Out (Becker, 2012; Carey, 2012; NPR, 2012). Spitzer also stated that "there is no way to judge the credibility of subject reports of change in sexual orientation" (Drescher et al., 2016).

The American Psychological Association states that "[s]ame-sex attractions, feelings, and behaviors are normal variants of human sexuality" (Moss, 2014). This is echoed by other reputable mental health and medical organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association and the World Health Organization

Conversion therapy can potentially harm its patients as patients can be misled into thinking that their sexual orientations





