



May 15, 2018

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and City Councilmembers
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of Long Beach City Council,

The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach strongly supports Agenda Item 20 to support AB 2943 which would outlaw conversion therapy in the State of California. The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach is the largest direct service organization in the City providing health, wellness, advocacy, and cultural programs for the LGBTQ community supporting 25,000 people annually.

As an organization that provides culturally affirming mental health services to the LGBTQ community, we are committed to efforts which enhance the availability of professional, empirically-based mental health services to increase the health and wellness of people seeking care. The American Psychological Association has found no evidence that conversation therapy is effective, and in fact many reputable mental health and healthcare organization in the United States deem this practice psychologically harmful to participants including the American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy to name a few.

Supporting AB 2943 will ensure that adults will benefit from protections minors already receive in California banning this harmful and scientifically baseless practice. Being LGBTQ is not a mental illness and individuals and platforms purporting otherwise only serve to increase the risk of community and individual harm already experienced by our community on a daily basis.

Again, The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach strongly supports the Long Beach City Council supporting AB 2943.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached by phone at 562-434-4455 or via email at porterg@centerlb.org.

Sincerely,

Porter Gilberg
Executive Director