



Legislation Text

File #: 18-0431, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to support AB 2943 (Low), which would declare conversion therapy a fraudulent and unlawful business practice in California, and request City Manager to communicate the City's support to the bill's author and our state legislative delegation.

Assembly Bill 2943 by Assemblymember Evan Low would make sexual orientation change efforts, also known as conversion therapy, an unlawful business practice under the state's Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

Sexual orientation change efforts are defined in state law as practices by mental health providers that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

The American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, and American Medical Association, among other professional medical and mental health organizations and professional associations, oppose the practice of conversion therapy on the basis that it is not evidence-based and is potentially harmful to a patient's mental health.

In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to prohibit conversion therapy for any patients under 18 years of age. That law has since been upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

AB 2943 would extend the prohibition on sexual orientation change efforts to all persons, regardless of age. It would extend certain consumer protections to individuals harmed by such efforts, and restrict advertising and offering of conversion therapy.

Supporting this legislation is consistent with Long Beach's values and priority to protect the dignity and rights of all of our residents.

As Rick Zbur, the Executive Director of Equality California said, "So-called conversion therapy is a dangerous, ineffective solution in search of a nonexistent problem, and there's no place for it in the State of California."

The State Assembly approved AB 2943 in April on a bipartisan vote of 50-18. The bill is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

None.

There is no fiscal impact with this recommendation.

Approve recommendation.

COUNCILMAN AL AUSTIN,
EIGHTH DISTRICT

COUNCILWOMAN LENA GONZALEZ,
FIRST DISTRICT

COUNCILWOMAN SUZIE PRICE,
THIRD DISTRICT