
From: Caleb Laieski <caleb.michael.laieski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 5:06 PM
To: Patel, Swati
Cc: Godfrey, Rob; Veldran, Katherine; Haley, Nikki
Subject: Re: Banning Conversion Therapy

Good afternoon,

I wanted to follow-up on my below email. It would be great to see the Governor issue an executive order banning "pray away the gay" therapy. New York Governor Governor Cuomo's recently did so: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-executive-actions-banning-coverage-conversion-therapy>

Thank you again for your time and all you do,

Caleb Laieski

On Apr 30, 2016, at 1:49 AM, Caleb Laieski <caleb.michael.laieski@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning,

I urge you and the Governor to work on banning the extremely damaging practice of conversion therapy.

Conversion therapy refers to the practice to change and help "cure" someone's sexual orientation. Sadly, this practice is used on minors, who have no legal authority to make their own medical decisions. These practices lead to depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, suicidal behavior, and frequently result in suicide. That is why physiological, medical, and counseling associations are against this practice.

The associations also agree that this practice is ineffective, as well as extremely harmful, and damaging to individuals that go through these programs. A few of these organizations include: The American Medical Association, American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, and the World Health Organization.

Without question, there is very clear evidence that conversion therapy does not work and only traumatizes patients more. Several states have passed laws banning licensed therapists from subjecting minors to such treatment, and I urge you to join the movement. Please do everything in your power to prohibit state-licensed mental healthcare providers from advertising or providing "conversion therapy" or "pray away the gay" therapy to anyone under the age of eighteen.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Caleb Laieski
National Advocate for the LGBT Community, Public Safety, and the Environment