

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 42

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Jacob R. Candelaria

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO ASSESS THE PREVALENCE AND PRACTICE OF EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR GENDER EXPRESSION CHANGE EFFORTS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, "conversion" or "reparative" therapy is a practice that attempts to change the sexual orientation, gender identity or gender orientation of homosexual or transgendered minors; and

WHEREAS, according to the American psychological association fact sheet *Gender Diversity and Transgender Identity in Adolescents*, attempts to force gender-diverse and transgender youths to change their behavior to fit into social norms may traumatize the youths and stifle their development into healthy adults; and

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, the American psychological association has
2 concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose
3 critical health risks to lesbian, gay and bisexual people, such
4 as confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness,
5 shame, social withdrawal, thoughts of suicide, substance abuse,
6 stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and
7 decreased authenticity to others, increased self-hatred,
8 hostility and blame toward parents, loss of friends and
9 potential romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional
10 intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk sexual behaviors, a
11 feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of
12 faith and a sense of having wasted time and resources; and

13 WHEREAS, in 2009, the American psychological association
14 issued a resolution advising parents, guardians, young people
15 and their families to "avoid sexual orientation change efforts
16 that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental
17 disorder and to seek psychotherapy, social support and
18 educational services that provide accurate information on
19 sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school
20 support and reduce rejection of sexual minority youth"; and

21 WHEREAS, many other mental health organizations have taken
22 positions in opposition to attempts to "convert" or "repair"
23 homosexuality, including the American psychiatric association,
24 the American medical association council on scientific affairs,
25 the national association of social workers, the American

.198963.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 counseling association governing council and the American
2 school counselor association; and

3 WHEREAS, laws in California, New Jersey and Washington,
4 D.C., have banned the practice of using conversion or
5 reparative therapy to change minors' sexual orientation or
6 gender identity or expression; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a compelling interest in
8 protecting the physical and psychological well-being of its
9 minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
10 youths, and in protecting its minors against exposure to harm
11 that may be caused by sexual orientation, gender identity and
12 gender expression change efforts;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of health be requested to
15 convene a working group of representatives from the department
16 of health, the children, youth and families department, the
17 human services department, the public education department,
18 equality New Mexico and the transgender resource center of New
19 Mexico; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
21 to review whether any sexual orientation, gender identity or
22 gender expression change efforts attempted on a patient under
23 eighteen years of age by a person who is licensed in New Mexico
24 to provide professional counseling or a person who performs
25 counseling as a part of the person's professional training

.198963.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 should be considered unprofessional conduct; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
3 to compile and make available to the public a report that
4 includes a survey of reparative, conversion and other change
5 efforts under way throughout the state; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of health, the
8 secretary of children, youth and families, the secretary of
9 human services, the secretary of public education, the
10 executive director of equality New Mexico and the executive
11 director of the transgender resource center of New Mexico.