

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1817

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SANDER.

2788H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, ex-gay therapy, or
2 sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts, is a range of discredited practices aimed
3 at changing one's sexual orientation or gender identity; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, a national community of professionals in education, social work, health,
6 mental health, and counseling, including the American Psychological Association, the
7 American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the American
8 Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
9 (AACAP), the American Counseling Association, the American School Health Association,
10 and the National Association of Social Workers, has determined that there is no scientifically
11 valid evidence that supports the practice of conversion therapy; and
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13 **WHEREAS**, such professionals have determined that there is no evidence that
14 conversion therapy is effective or that an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity can
15 be changed by conversion therapy; and
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17 **WHEREAS**, such professionals have also determined that conversion therapy is not
18 only ineffective but is substantially dangerous to an individual's mental and physical well-
19 being and has also been shown to contribute to the likelihood of depression, self-harm, low
20 self-esteem, family rejection, and suicide; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the AACAP finds no evidence to support the application of any so-
23 called therapeutic intervention operating under the premise that a specific sexual orientation,
24 gender identity, or gender expression, or any combination thereof, is pathological; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, based on scientific evidence, the AACAP asserts that such so-called
27 conversion therapies, or other interventions imposed with the intent of promoting a particular
28 sexual orientation, a particular gender, or a particular sexual orientation and a particular
29 gender as a preferred outcome, lack scientific credibility and clinical utility; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, in contrast to entities providing conversion therapy, hospitals in Kansas
32 City, Missouri, provide evidence-based therapy or treatment to over three hundred children
33 annually, offering physical, mental, and social health services to children and their families as
34 they navigate the process of gender identity development, illustrating the need for
35 responsible, scientifically defensible therapy and treatment services; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, minors in this state, including LGBTQ individuals under eighteen years
38 of age, who seek therapy or treatment to assist them in understanding their individual
39 development of gender identity or their sexual orientation should be free from exposure to the
40 serious harms and risks caused by conversion therapy; and

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42 **WHEREAS**, twenty-six states; Washington, DC; and over one hundred cities and
43 counties have enacted laws, executive orders, or regulations to ban conversion therapy against
44 minors by licensed medical providers, and many similar bills have been filed in other states,
45 including Missouri's Youth Mental Health Preservation Act; and

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47 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri House of Representatives has a responsibility to protect the
48 health, safety, and welfare of all people in our community, especially the physical and
49 psychological well-being of minors, including LGBTQ youth, and to protect minors in this
50 state against exposure to the serious harms caused by conversion therapy:

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52 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri
53 House of Representatives, One Hundred Second General Assembly, First Regular Session,
54 hereby affirm the importance of protecting minors against exposure to the serious harms
55 caused by conversion therapy.

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