

CHURCH UNITED

June 29, 2020

Honorable Chairwoman Eschoo
Honorable Ranking Member Burgess
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
United States Capitol

RE: H.R. 5469 **Inequality** in Mental Health Act 2019
SEC. 303. NO FEDERAL FUNDS FOR CONVERSION THERAPY

Dear Chairwoman Eschoo. Ranking Member Burgess, and Members of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health,

Church United represents over 2,000 California pastors and our network collectively opposes H.R. 5469, specifically SEC. 303. as it's inequality treatment of a **Super Minority**.

In 2018, a group of FORMER LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) individuals spoke and met with members of the California Assembly to share their stories of CHANGED and that they no longer identify as LGBTQ. I testified at a committee hearing as an expert witness and shared my story in under two minutes as a Former Homosexual - My testimony is below. Thankfully, the Author and Chair of the California LGBT Caucus pulled AB 2943 on August 31, 2018, dealing with similar issues as H.R. 5469 SEC. 303.

LGBTQ individuals should be privy to the freedom to choose their counseling goals without government hinderance.

AB 2943, California Senate Judiciary Committee, June 12, 2018,

My name is Jim Domen. I'm a California native. The non-profit I founded is in Vice Chair Moorlach's district. At a young age I was attracted to men. In Jr. High, I thought I might be gay. In 10th grade, I shared with my parents I thought I was gay. I did not want to be gay. It was the first time I saw my dad cry. He cried because I had carried these feelings all alone. His brother died of AIDS in the 80's.

At 16, I wanted to change these desires. My heart ached. I asked my parents for help. After two years of therapy, then 4 years of college, I choose to come out in 1997 at the age of 24.

I met my partner of 3 years; he was HIV/AIDS positive.

At the age of 28, we broke off our relationship. I desired to change my life. I QUESTIONED my lifestyle. I sought out a California licensed therapist and

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programs that would help me change. My previous therapy & programs laid a foundation of understanding and root causes. I wish I had more time to talk about therapy and programs.

*LGBTQ: Q is for Questioning
PART of my story is Questioning!*

*How could California pass a law to prohibit Q for QUESTIONING?
Prohibit my journey?
Prohibit my choice?
Prohibit my counseling?
Prohibit literature of my choice?*

I have nothing against LGBTQ individuals. They have freedom to choose or QUESTION the life they desire. Why would you deny me the freedom to choose or QUESTION the life I desired?

*Please do not take away professional help and programs that help people like us. Please do not pass a law that would harm a **Super Minority**.*

*See my family [Poster size family photo]: This bill says they are FRAUD.
My wife, daughter, son, and our baby due in August are not frauds!*

This bill would prohibit me from sharing my story, the book I'm writing and helping others who want CHANGE. The individuals sharing today are only a few of many who are waiting to share their stories of CHANGE.

I beg you to hear them...

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor James R. Domen, M.Div.
Founder Church United

Attachment: CHANGEDMOVEMENT.org story and family photos

