



CCLBreakdown

Breaking Down LD 912

What is LD 912?

The current language for LD 912 seeks to prohibit licensed mental health professionals (including pastoral counselors) from offering talk therapy to youth who are experiencing unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria

Prohibits talk therapy, not physically abusive practices

This bill is not about behavioral “conversion” via physical coercion or abusive practices such as electroshock. The bill is about talk therapy.

Physical abuse is already illegal, as it should be. Such techniques would subject practitioners to criminal charges as well as professional sanctions.

Supporters of LD 912 who have expressed concerns about the use of “aversion therapy” have not brought forth the names of any Maine therapists currently using abusive techniques. Rather, scare tactics involving archaic practices are being used in an attempt to ban talk therapy.

Unnecessarily interferes in clinical relationships

We support policies that promote open therapy that is guided by a client’s self-determined goal, whether that goal is to embrace or eliminate same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria.

LD 912 disregards the needs and goals of a client seeking therapy for unwanted same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria, interfering with and destroying clinical relationships.

In addition, LD 912 does not mention the parents of minors at all, treating them as irrelevant to their own children’s health.

Introduces contradictory public policies

LD 912 would leave Maine with two bizarre and contradictory public policies.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services allows Medicaid funds to be used for “gender reassignment” therapy.

On the other hand, LD 912 would ban talk therapy for minors who want to resolve unwanted gender dysphoria.

So, if LD 912 becomes law, the state would threaten counselors who offer talk therapy for a minor if it might resolve gender dysphoria yet pay for irreversible surgery on the same minor.