

Seal Dwyer Counseling LLC

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February 14, 2023

Thank you, Mr Chair and Committee Members.

I am Seal Dwyer. I'm a licensed marriage and family therapist in private practice in St Cloud. I primarily serve the queer community and I specifically serve LGBTQ people with trauma. I am a queer person myself.

As a therapist in Minnesota it is my job to provide quality care to my clients, specifically evidence-based practice. Evidence-based practice is care that has been shown over time and with peer-reviewed studies to be effective care. Conversion therapy is fraudulent and unethical, and has been proven over time, not only to not-work, but to be detrimental to the clients. This so-called therapy more than doubles the suicide attempt rate. No therapy that has a rate of attempted suicide at nearly 30% would be allowed in any other population; and it should not be permitted to be practiced on the LGBTQ population. In comparison, gender-affirming care reduces suicidality by 73%. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based and has been proven over time.

In addition to being a licensed marriage and family therapist, I am also a board approved supervisor for the board of marriage and Family Therapy, and the Board of behavioral health and Therapy, supervising LMFT, LPC, and LPCC. This means that it is part of my job to train the next generation of therapists that will serve Minnesota.

As a supervisor I have three-fold duties: My first duty is primarily and always to the clients. It is my job to protect them, to serve them, and to help them. My second duty is to my interns and supervisees. It is my job to train them, to screen them, and to assess them for fitness of duty in service to clients in Minnesota. My third job is to the profession. It is my job to protect marriage and Family Therapy and maintain the extremely high level of ethical and practical professionalism.

It is a clear breach of my work both as a licensed marriage and family therapist and as a board approved supervisor to engage in any kind of conversion therapy. Any practice that doubles the suicidality rate is a threat to the profession. And clearly does not meet the first duty of a supervisor, which is to the clients.

Please support Senate file 23 to ban the practice of so-called conversion therapy from Minnesota. Please protect the consumers and the clients from this fraudulent and dangerous practice.



MS LMFT

Seal Dwyer, MS LMFT