

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 2451

Restricting the Practice of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts

Evidence indicates that HB 2451 has potential to mitigate harms and improve health outcomes among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) patients, a population that is disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes, thereby decreasing health disparities.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Representatives Lias, Walsh, Moeller, Cody, Walkinshaw, Jinkins, Lytton, Goodman, Stanford, Wylie, Riccelli, Pettigrew, Roberts, Orwall, Ryu, Tarleton, Reykdal, Habib, Bergquist, Gregerson, Farrell, Pollet, Ormsby

Companion Bill: [SB 6449](#)

Summary of Bill:

- Expands the list of acts that constitute unprofessional conduct by a licensed health care provider to include performing sexual orientation change efforts on a patient under age 18.
- Defines “sexual orientation change efforts” as any regimen that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation—including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex. The definition does not include psychotherapies that promote acceptance, support, and understanding or facilitate coping, social support, and identity exploration, or provide interventions to address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as they do not seek to change sexual orientation.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This health impact review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 2451:

- Some evidence that restricting sexual orientation change efforts would decrease the risk of harm and improve health outcomes for LGBTQ patients.
- Very strong evidence that LGBTQ adults and youth disproportionately experience many negative health outcomes, and therefore mitigating any emotional, mental, and physical harm among this population has potential to decrease health disparities.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, a logic model showing the potential pathways between the bill and decreased health disparities, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full health impact review which can be found at:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2014-03-HB2451.pdf>

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