

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of SB 5722

Restricting the Practice of Conversion Therapy
(2017-2018 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that SB 5722 has potential to mitigate harms and improve health outcomes among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals, a population that is disproportionately impacted by poor health outcomes, thereby decreasing health disparities.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Senators Liias, Walsh, Ranker, Pedersen, Rivers, Keiser, Fain, Frockt, Hunt, and Kuderer

Summary of Bill:

- Expands the list of acts that constitute unprofessional conduct by a licensed health care provider to include performing conversion therapy on a patient under age 18.
- Defines conversion therapy as, "...a regime that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. The term includes 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 term includes, but is not limited to, practices commonly referred to as 'reparative therapy' or 'conversion therapy'".

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in SB 5722:

- A fair amount of evidence that prohibiting the use of conversion therapy in the treatment of minors would decrease the risk of harm and improve health outcomes for LGBTQ individuals.
- 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, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review:

<http://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2017-18-SB5722.pdf>

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