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Testimony regarding HB 6695
The Protection of Youth from Conversion Therapy
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Senator Gerratana, Representative Steinberg, Senator Somers, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Matthew Burke and I suffer from homosexual attraction and am yet happily engaged to be married in a heterosexual relationship. As of the time of this writing, the language for HB 6695 has not been fully published. Conversion therapy in the form of electric-shock treatment and other such torturous treatments is abhorrent and has been largely discredited and rightfully so. If this bill promotes a ban of such practices, then I support it fully. What troubles me is that these practices do not currently exist in CT. All people should be protected from torturous procedures masqueraded as medically acceptable. However, if the language of this bill reaches beyond the horrible practices listed above, if it seeks to punish therapists who simply do not hold politically correct views of same-sex attraction, who help minors who are struggling with same-sex attraction, then I would oppose it.

The professional LGBTQ lobby sees my lifestyle choices as antithetical to their cause and therefore people who exist in my situation are often silenced in the public sphere. The gay lobby works tirelessly to discriminate and silence people who suffer with homosexual attraction who reject the gender ideology they are promoting. I would remind this legislature that I should be allowed to live my sexuality in the way I choose. If I decide to engage in homosexual or heterosexual relationships, it is my choice. To be denied the opportunity to speak with a licensed professional about the confusing gender identities imposed by the LGBTQ lobby would be selectively discriminatory. The many people who have varied sexual attractions and yet choose to joyfully live out hetero-romantic lives based upon their preference and free will should not be discriminated against. This bill would deny me access to healthcare in dealing with my sexuality in the way I choose because the gay lobby is more interested in promoting an agenda than my personal well-being. If therapists who help minors live with and not act on their homosexual attraction are punished, you will leave people like me with no alternative. The gay agenda is promoting a culture in which the only option for people like me seeking treatment will be therapists who pressure children to adopt a homosexual gender identity. As legislators it is important to protect all citizens from discrimination, including those who live with same-sex attraction and reject the LGBTQ lobby's demand for ideological conformity.

As a child, there is tremendous pressure from the LGBTQ lobby of today to adopt a gender identity contrary to your biological sex. It is very confusing as a child growing up and living my own truth to receive signals through the messaging of the gay lobby that tries to pressure LGBTQ youth into believing that unless they subscribe to the gender ideology of the day, they are not living their truth. As a child, you are systematically subjected to the idea that the solution to your happiness surrounding your non-heterosexual sexuality is to reject traditional man-woman relationships and marriages and pursue same-sex “marriages” and relationships. In my life, I have experienced the exact opposite to be true. It is detrimental as a youth to be confused by the messaging of the LGBTQ lobby into believing that worthwhile relationships that lead to lasting joy can only be achieved through giving into every sexual impulse and desire without reasoning whether this is good or right. I dare to say many people like myself, have chosen to live with and not act on their homosexual attraction and pursue a heterosexual relationship with a partner that preserves the beauty of a relationship which can produce life. I often feel that my voice is unwelcome and rejected amongst LGBTQ advocates as that lobby seems more focused on passing an agenda than the needs of individuals living with nontraditional sexualities. It is “My Life and My Choice” and I will not be silenced any longer or made to conform by the LGBTQ lobby.

The inception of gender identities has put a lot of pressure on people who do not wish to engage in same-sex or non-traditional relationships to conform to the gay lobby’s idea that someone is predestined for a certain type of romantic relationship. I would strongly encourage all members of this committee to reject legislation that further discriminates against people who have same-sex attraction and choose as their fundamental right, not to base their identity on a component of their sexuality. This bill has the potential to further promote a culture that pressures youth to adopt politically charged gender identities incongruous with their biological sex against their will.

A ban that discriminates against individuals, particularly children, who choose to seek help in learning how to cope with a sexuality that is incongruous with their biological sex, should not be something this legislature promotes. The choice is for the children to make with their own families, guardians and systems of support and should not be limited by the LGBTQ lobby that would prefer to advance their agenda over allow someone to seek help. Additionally, there is no indication that “conversion therapy” of almost any form currently exists in CT so I am not entirely sure why this issue is up for a public hearing.