



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

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RE: H97An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors
DT: 30 July 2015

Dear Honorable Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities,

Thank you for hearing *H97An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors* before your committee today.

This bill is extremely important because it bans the use of conversion or reparative therapy on minors by licensed professionals. This "therapy" attempts to change a person's sexual or gender identity. This "therapy" when used on a non-consenting youth can have detrimental physiological side effects and can cause physical harm.

This bill would not ban the practice of reparative or conversion therapy all together, the ban is limited to the therapy's use on minors. Adults can consent and participate. California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia all ban this practice on minors.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request that *H97An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors* be released favorably and expeditiously from your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Heroux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Heroux