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ASSEMBLY BILL 2943: Declare Conversion Therapy a Fraudulent Practice

What does AB 2943 do?

AB 2943 states that Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) is a prohibited practice under the **California Consumer Legal Remedies Act** and is thus limited by its express terms to the practice of conversion therapy--by all persons--as a commercial service in exchange for monetary compensation.

How is AB 2943 different from SB 1172?

The existing prohibition (SB 1172) on minors applies to licensed mental health providers only, and the remedy provided is discipline by professional licensing boards.

What is Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE)?

SOCE, also known as "Conversion Therapy", "Reparative Therapy", or ex-gay therapy means any practices that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation. This 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. SOCE does not include sexual orientation neutral interventions that promote healthy sexual and romantic relationships.

How is it harmful to LGBTQ people?

The American Psychological Association (APA) convened the Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation. The task force conducted a systematic review of peer-reviewed journal literature on sexual orientation change efforts and issued a report in 2009. The task force concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks to LGBTQ people, including confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, stress, disappointment, self-blame, decreased self-esteem and authenticity to others, increased self-hatred, hostility and blame toward parents, feelings of anger and betrayal, loss of friends and potential romantic partners, problems in sexual and emotional intimacy, sexual dysfunction, high-risk sexual behaviors, a feeling of being dehumanized and untrue to self, a loss of faith, and a sense of having wasted time and resources.

What legal remedies would this bill provide?

Any consumer who suffers damages as a result of these unlawful practices could bring an action to recover those damages. This kind of provision is often referred to as a private right of action and allows people who have been harmed to recover directly from the person or entity that engages in or advertised these practices.

Does AB 2943 ban the Bible?

No. It does not apply to the sale of books or any other kind of goods, and it does not prevent anyone from speaking or writing on the subject of conversion therapy in any medium. The Bible therefore would absolutely not be banned in the State of California under this bill.

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