

# The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 2, 2017

Contact: Tess Koenigsmark  
860-240-8790

## **Rep. Currey Leads House Passage of Conversion Therapy Ban** *Bill protects LGBTQ youth from discredited practice*

**Rep. Jeff Currey** (D-East Hartford/Manchester/South Windsor) led the House's passage today of a bill to ban the discredited practice of conversion therapy on minors in Connecticut.

Conversion therapy refers to a range of practices intended to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. Introduced by **Rep. Currey** and **Sen. Beth Bye** (D-West Hartford), [HB 6695](#) would ban health care providers from practicing conversion therapy on minors.

Violations would be punishable by suspension or revocation of the professional's license, certification, or registration to practice.

"Conversion therapy is a dangerous practice that can have lasting mental health consequences. LGBTQ youth don't need to be changed or 'fixed' – what they need is our acceptance and support," **Rep. Currey** said. "Today's bipartisan vote sends a strong message about Connecticut's values. I'm proud to be able to say that the safety and wellbeing of LGBTQ youth is not a partisan issue in our state."

"This is an important vote today in Connecticut on an important bill that helps move our national conversation on civil rights away from the myth that homosexuality is some sort of problem that needs to be addressed with medicine or therapy," said **Sen. Bye**. "Just yesterday, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a California law that bans conversion therapy, rejecting the argument that conversion therapy is some sort of religious right. It isn't. And the enormous bipartisan support that Representative Currey has been able to put together on this bill – there are more than 100 co-sponsors, Democrats and Republicans, from the House and Senate – shows just how united Connecticut is on this issue."

The nation's leading health care professional organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Psychological Association, have rejected conversion therapy as a legitimate practice.

“The amount of bipartisan support the bill has received is inspiring, and sends a strong message to LGBTQ young people that they are perfect as they are and don't need fixing,” said Anne Stanback, Coordinator of the CT Equality Coalition.

“This law aims to guard against practices that have devastating consequences for LGBTQ youth,” said Jennifer Levi, Transgender Rights Project Director at GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders. “I'm gratified to see such a strong showing of bipartisan support, and hopeful that the Senate will quickly follow the House's lead to ensure all Connecticut youth know they are valued and supported just as they are.”

The bill also prohibits any public funds from being used to practice or refer someone to conversion therapy.

The bill passed the House by a 141 - 8 vote and now goes to the Senate.

###