

**Statement by  
Joy Emmons, Certified Counselor  
American Association of Christian Counselors**

To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on  
Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

**Regarding L.D. 1025, "An Act To Prohibit the Provision of Conversion Therapy to Minors by Certain Licensed Professionals"**

April 10, 2019

Sen. Herbig, Rep. Larsen-Daughtry, and members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Joy Emmons of Belgrade, and I am a Certified Counselor with the American Association of Christian Counselors. Gender identity is only one thing young people are very confused about today. Surgery is final and needs to wait. Their brains aren't completely developed. Therefore, they should not be encouraged to make a radical decision that can't be changed.

This bill would allow peers, social media, and society to continue to bombard our children with their confusion over their gender orientation without allowing the tried and true values and traditions of parents and the church to be given equal time.

The term "conversion therapy" does not begin to describe the thought-provoking questions that would be discussed in a session with a child or teen about their sexual orientation. This would be quite different than society barraging them with these gender issues.

Children may be attracted to or turned off by the masculine determination to conquer or the feminine gentle, comforting spirit. The truth is that until the brain is fully developed in their 20's, young adults will be juggling these male/female attitudes back and forth until they understand who they are.

I urge this committee to vote L.D. 1025 "ought not to pass." Thank you.