

## ORSAIGE Press Release

Oregon SAIGE (Counselors and Related Professionals Serving Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Communities in Oregon), a division of the Oregon Counseling Association, has requested legislation that will fully ban conversion therapy to be performed by any licensed clinician. Representative Rob Nosse has agreed to sponsor this bill, which adds to the earlier ban for minors. This legislation, if passed, will make Oregon the first state to fully ban Conversion therapy.

All leading professional medical and mental health associations have rejected so called “conversion therapy” as a legitimate medical treatment however, 7% of LGBTQ people reported experiencing some form of conversion therapy. Out of that 7% an estimated 36.5% of LGBTQ+ people, and 90% of trans people have reported receiving this treatment from a healthcare professional. SOGICE (sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts) violate many important ethical principles, the foremost of which is: “First, do no harm.”

Nationally, the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act (S.2242) was introduced in 2021, however this has been languishing in the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee for more than a year. We think that this is important to address on the state level and enshrine this protection into law as soon as possible.

The total economic burden associated with SOGICE was estimated to be \$9.23 billion annually. An economic evaluation published in JAMA Pediatrics estimated that LGBTQ youth subjected to SOGICE incur \$83,366 in lifetime excess health care costs, primarily associated with suicidality, anxiety, severe psychological distress, depression and substance abuse. (Anna Forsythe, et al. (March 2022). Humanistic and Economic Burden of Conversion Therapy Among LGBTQ Youths in the United States, JAMA Pediatrics.)

Passing this legislation will curtail the number of professionals from practicing SOGICE and will give people who experience this treatment a greater legal standing. This legislation is especially important as we have moved into an era of greater conflict surrounding LGBTQ+ equality. Please help us support this much needed legislation.

Respectfully,  
Saren Craig, President  
Caitlynn Hill, President-Elect.