

Judicial Proceedings Committee
Senate Bill 950
Favorable

Honorable Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee;

One Pasadena: Building a Safe and Inclusive Community is an anti-bigotry group in northeast Anne Arundel County. We, the Steering Committee of One Pasadena, ask that you give Senate Bill 950 a favorable report.

Senate Bill 950 would provide an avenue for injured parties to sue people who practice conversion therapy, and also to sue those who enable them. Additionally, it would require an insurance surcharge. The bill would also impose legal consequences for others who advertise for or lie about conversion therapy for monetary gain.

Conversion therapy is a barbaric practice, known to cause tremendous harm to those who are put through it. Some families and places of worship push the narrative that someone who is Queer is unlovable and that being Queer is a choice. There should be no conditions on one's love for their children; and there should be no excuse for imposing something as damaging as conversion therapy, especially under the guise of mental health care. We understand that the Trump administration is determined to hurt LGBTQIA+ people in as many ways they can, and we hope that this legislation will provide some protection in Maryland.

We urge a favorable vote for Senate Bill 950. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
The One Pasadena Steering Committee
Pasadena, MD