



**House Bill 1209**  
**Conversion Therapy - Prohibitions and Causes of Action**  
**March 4, 2026**  
**Favorable**

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition (TRAC) supports HB 1209, which protects minors from harm from dangerous “conversion therapy” by creating concrete consequences for medical professionals who engage in this illegal practice.

TRAC is a Maryland based, and entirely trans-led coalition committed to ensuring that all transgender and gender expansive Marylanders can live safe and affirming lives. Our membership includes healthcare providers, attorneys, academics, organizers and other community members who all stand in strong support for laws and policies that protect the health and well being of transgender people like HB 1209.

Maryland has a long history of valuing and protecting the LGBTQIA+ community. Maryland law restricts state-licensed therapists from practicing conversion therapy on minors to change their sexual orientation or gender identity, defining it as “unprofessional conduct”. The Youth Mental Health Protection Act, signed in 2018, covers mental health and child care practitioners and prohibits using state funds for such services, but does not directly address malpractice.

Additionally, Maryland Attorney General Brown spoke out against the dangers of conversion therapy in a press release and on social media after joining a multi-state amicus brief to the Supreme Court defending a conversion therapy ban. “Maryland and other states must be able to protect our most vulnerable children from these harmful interventions that tell them there's something wrong with who they are.”<sup>1</sup>

Conversion therapy has been rejected by all the major health and mental health professions.<sup>2</sup> Research consistently demonstrates that conversion therapy is associated with many long-lasting consequences, including depression, anxiety, suicidality,

---

<sup>1</sup> See Attorney General press release

<https://oag.maryland.gov/News/Pages/Attorney-General-Brown-Joins-Coalition-at-SCOTUS-Supporting-Colorado-Law-Banning-Conversion-%E2%80%98Therapy%E2%80%99-for-Minors---.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> See American Psychological Association, Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation & Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators and School Personnel, available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/lqbc/facts.pdf>



**House Bill 1209**  
**Conversion Therapy - Prohibitions and Causes of Action**  
**March 4, 2026**  
**Favorable**

substance misuse, a range of posttraumatic responses, loss of connection to community, damaged familial relationships, self-blame, guilt, and shame.<sup>3</sup>

HB 2109 provides the necessary consequences to practitioners who violate the law and endanger young people. We strongly urge a favorable report on HB 1209.

Sincerely,

The Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition

---

<sup>3</sup> See APA resolution on SOCE:

<https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-sexual-orientation-change-efforts> AND Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on the Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/therapeutic-response.pdf>