



For Young LGBTQ Lives

March 4, 2026
Maryland House
Judiciary Committee

RE: Support (FAV) for [HB 1209](#) – Supporting Survivors of Conversion “Therapy” Practices

Chair Bartlett and members of the Judiciary Committee:

[The Trevor Project](#) writes in strong support of HB 1209, which would extend the statute of limitations for survivors of conversion “therapy” practices.

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ+ young people. Trevor offers 24/7 crisis services, connecting highly trained counselors with LGBTQ+ young people whenever they need support. To further our mission of ending LGBTQ youth suicide, Trevor is dedicated to ending the practices commonly referred to as “conversion therapy” – practices condemned by every reputable medical and mental health organization as harmful, ineffective, unethical, and built on theories that have been debunked for decades.

Research & Data

We don’t just oppose conversion therapy on principle – we see its consequences every day in our crisis work. In the last year, more than 1,200 of our crisis conversations – from over 500 cities and towns across the country – explicitly raised conversion therapy. Young people brought it up themselves, in the middle of their darkest moments.

The data behind these conversations is sobering. Our 2024 National Survey of nearly 18,000 LGBTQ young people found that [13% reported being threatened with or subjected to conversion therapy](#). Those youth were more than twice as likely to have attempted suicide in the past year.

In Maryland, where [40% of LGBTQ+ young people](#) already seriously considered suicide in the past year –including 44% of transgender and nonbinary young people – **giving survivors a meaningful path to accountability is one of the most powerful tools we have to fight back.**

These practices are not a relic of the past. Our latest research suggests conversion therapy is [on the rise](#), with [at least 1,300 active practitioners](#) documented across the country. The harm is ongoing – and so are the costs. A peer-reviewed study in an American Medical Association journal found that practitioners have extracted millions of dollars from vulnerable families to pay for these practices– to the tune of [\\$650 million](#). Indirect costs, including treating the depression, trauma, and suicide attempts left in its wake, total [more than \\$8 billion](#). This bill ensures survivors have the opportunity to hold them financially accountable.

Why HB 1209

As attacks on the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth mental health rise, so does the potential for them to be subject to this harmful practice. Survivors deserve justice. But seeking justice requires time – time for survivors to process what happened to them, time to find the words, time to build



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support systems, time to heal from the shame and manipulation to come forward. The current statute of limitations doesn't account for the severity or complexity of the harm these practices cause.

The Trevor Project strongly supports HB 1209 and urges the Committee to vote favorably. HB 1209 gives survivors the chance to seek the justice they deserve on a timeline that reflects the gravity of what was done to them. It also sends a clear message to practitioners that these harmful practices will not go unanswered – a deterrent effect that protects the next generation of LGBTQ youth.

For questions, please contact:

Tanner Mobley

Tanner Mobley

Manager of State Advocacy

Tanner.Mobley@TheTrevorProject.org

7 N Bradford St, Baltimore, MD 21224