[Senator/Representative Name]

[Senator/Representative Address]

[Date]

Dear [Senator/Representative]:

I am writing to ask you to support SB44, Concerning the Protection of Youth from Conversion Therapy. This bill would prevent licensed mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with anyone under the age of 18.

As a [licensed professional] counselor, I can assure you: Conversion therapy does not work, can cause harm, and attempts to treat something that is not treatable. The study that provides evidence that conversion therapy is both ineffective and harmful is provided by the American Psychological Association (APA) in a report entitled: “Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation.” In this report, APA conducted a systematic review of the available research on sexual orientation change efforts - 83 studies in all. The report concluded that, "efforts to change sexual orientation are unlikely to be successful and involve some risk of harm." In fact, the report documented that up to 50% of participants in conversion therapy practices reported harmful effects from the attempt to change their sexual orientation.

SB44 only pertains to attempts to provide conversion therapy to minors. It is in line with legislation already passed in six states and currently being considered in nine others. As a [licensed professional] counselor I want to add my opinion that conversion therapy on minors needs to be prohibited. I hope you will agree and add your support to this bill.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Contact Address]