



# Protecting LGBTQ Youth in North Carolina from “Conversion Therapy”

## “CONVERSION THERAPY” – A DANGEROUS PRACTICE

**WHAT IS IT?** Conversion Therapy, also referred to as “reparative therapy,” is the practice of attempting to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Techniques can range from extreme electroshock treatments or institutionalization to “counseling” services based on pseudoscience.

**IS IT LEGAL?** Fifteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws protecting minors from conversion therapy, but the practice remains legal in most states, including North Carolina. Studies by the UCLA Williams Institute suggest that over 700,000 LGBTQ people have undergone conversion therapy during their lifetime.



**DOES IT WORK?** No, it does not work. The practice is not only ineffective, but it is also dangerous, inflicting emotional and psychological trauma on children that can follow them for the rest of their lives. Conversion therapy has been rejected by every leading professional medical and mental health association in the nation.

### A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY IN NC SUPPORTS PROTECTING MINORS FROM CONVERSION THERAPY

In a poll conducted by Public Policy Polling and commissioned by Equality North Carolina and Campaign for Southern Equality in February 2019, **80% of all polled respondents** immediately stated that they think “conversion therapy” purporting to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity should be illegal on children under 18.

Of the remainder who initially disagreed or had no opinion, **more than half changed their minds** after better understanding what the practice of “conversion therapy” entails.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

-  North Carolinians are overwhelmingly ready for the practice of conversion therapy to be outlawed in their home state.
-  A supermajority of Republicans (**87%**), Democrats (**75%**), and Independents (**78%**) support protecting North Carolina’s minors from conversion therapy.