



**Testimony in Opposition to S. 132  
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My name is Christopher Doyle, and I am a former homosexual, a father of five, and a loving husband to a beautiful woman that I have been married to for nine years. I am also a licensed clinical professional counselor and a leader in the #TherapyEquality movement. This is my story of healing and journey in the last eleven years, as I have fought in my own life, and for others I work with, for the existence of those who have left homosexuality and have unwanted same-sex attractions.

In 2004, I had just graduated college and was a young professional, seeking to make a name for myself. I was also terribly confused about my sexuality and struggling with unwanted same-sex attractions (SSA). Deep down in my soul, however, I knew that I was not gay.

But it wasn't until I formed strong bonds with a group of men from my church that I realized I had been filling the missing pieces of my masculinity in gay sex. At the time, I was very attracted to men, and had no problem finding suitable guys to have casual sexual encounters, but this left me feeling empty. I really wanted to be close with my male friends at church, and the more we connected, the more my heart healed from the years of rejection with the popular, athletic guys in school.

Not long after that, I joined a twelve-step group for sexual abuse survivors and began seeing a counselor who helped me understand and heal the long-term affects of sexual abuse I suffered in childhood. During this time, I remember waking up one day and thinking: "My sexual desires for men are not the same as they used to be."

It was around this time that I also started dating a young woman. Eight months later, we married. Soon after, I entered graduate school and began studying counseling to help others, who like myself, were confused about their sexuality.

After my healing, it really bothered me to hear over and over: "Those who experience same-sex attractions are just born that way – they can't change." My experience defied that narrative. I later began to find many others that also rejected that claim for their lives, worked through unwanted homosexuality, and fulfilled their dreams for marriage and family.

I also had that dream, and today, it's a reality for me. My wife and I have five beautiful children, and I couldn't be happier! I also realized my goal of becoming a psychotherapist who specializes in working with men that are struggling with their sexuality. But that reality has not come without a price.

Over the past six years, I have worked with approximately 175-200 men and women and dozens of families struggling with homosexuality. While it has been fulfilling to help these individuals and families, gay activists have increasingly attacked our community by attempting to pass legislation to prohibit licensed counselors from helping youth who are seeking healing.

Although our movement, #TherapyEquality, helped to defeat 15 bills in state legislatures across the country in 2014 and 2015, gay activists were able to convince a number of legislators in a handful of states to make "change therapy" illegal. Why? Because of fear. They are threatened by the fact that *not* everyone who experiences homosexual feelings desires to live a gay life.

While they promote equality for transgendered youth who seek to change their biological sex, they are adamantly opposed to those who seek to change their sexual orientation. Despite the fact that 100 years of psychological research published in peer-reviewed journals documents that some individuals can and do experience change from homosexual to heterosexual. But because of the politically incorrect nature of that reality, most people will never be aware of those scientific facts, because gay activists dismiss or downplay these statistics.

Gay activists also insist that anyone who experiences homosexual feelings are born gay, and therefore, counseling to help them is not only wrong, but also harmful. After all, if people are simply born homosexual, how could they change?

But let's not lose sight of the facts: In 2008, the American Psychological Association asserted that people are not simply born gay. Therefore, taking the rights away from parents and families to make choices about their sexuality and mental health counseling *is* harmful.

Perhaps you support gay rights. Maybe your friend or family member is homosexual. Maybe you yourself are gay. If that's you, you understand that sexuality is complex, and access to diverse mental health counseling to help people navigate through these complexities is important for everyone. Senate Bill 132 is an affront to everyone's rights, and at a time when we're expanding equality for all, this legislation is a step in the wrong direction.

Respectfully yours,  
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## Fact Sheet

### What Happens When Legislation Prevents Therapy

1. Parents will be denied the right to seek a counselor for their children that suits the child's need and aligns with their family values and spiritual beliefs on sexuality. The right of clients to choose their own goals for therapy is a civil right.
2. There are no outcome-based studies on adolescents undergoing sexual orientation change effort therapy; allegations of harm and ineffectiveness of SOCE therapy are unfounded based on this lack of research in the peer-reviewed literature. When examining the outcomes of adults undergoing SOCE therapy, a 2009 review of the scientific literature identified over one hundred years of research that demonstrates some clients with unwanted same-sex attractions may experience change or fluidity in their orientation and identity as a result of psychotherapy.<sup>1</sup>
3. American Association of Christian Counselors, Catholic Medical Association, American College of Pediatricians, Christian Medical Association, Freedom2Care, Alliance for Therapeutic Choice and Scientific Integrity, and the International Network of Orthodox Jewish Mental Health Professionals represent over 100,000 medical and mental health professionals and they all support the rights of clients to pursue therapy to change.
4. Psychotherapy/counseling is both medical conduct *and* speech. Banning SOCE therapy is against the First Amendment of the Constitution and is viewpoint discrimination.
5. Children who are molested and develop same-sex attraction (SSA) as a result of sexual abuse will be denied access to highly qualified professional counselors who are trained on how to treat trauma and help clients resolve SSA. Same-sex attracted persons are more likely to be victims of sexual abuse than heterosexuals.<sup>2,3</sup>
6. It has now been proven that some of the stories of "therapy torture" and harm told by gay activists testifying in front of legislatures are fabricated.<sup>4</sup>
7. Scientists cannot conclude that same-sex attractions are caused by genes, hormones, or brain differences. It's a combination of many factors.<sup>5,6</sup> Science has not determined that anyone is born gay.
8. Research suggests that sexual orientation, especially in adolescence, is fluid and subject to change.<sup>7,8,9</sup>
9. Individuals who do not identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) believe they are inherently heterosexual and seek help to identify the specific reasons why they experience unwanted SSA.
10. Heterosexual identity affirming therapy is not different from any other psychotherapy. Counselors who work with clients who experience unwanted SSA/gender identity confusion are licensed and provide psychological services for a wide variety of issues.

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<sup>1</sup> Phelan, J.E., Whitehead, N. & Sutton, P.M. (2009). What Research Shows: NARTH's Response to the APA Claims on Homosexuality. *Journal of Human Sexuality, 1*, 1-94.

<sup>2</sup> Walker, M. D., Hernandez, A. M., & Davey, M. (2012). Childhood Sexual Abuse and Adult Sexual Identity Formation: Intersection of Gender, Race, and Sexual Orientation. *Family Therapy, 40*(5), 385-398

<sup>3</sup> Tomeo, M.E., Templer, D. I., Anderson, S., & Kotler, D. (2001). Comparative Data of Childhood and Adolescence Molestation in Heterosexual and Homosexual Persons. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 30*(5), 535-541.

<sup>4</sup> Doyle, C.J. (March 21, 2013). *Transgendered 'woman' lies about therapy 'torture'*.

Retrieved online at: <http://www.wnd.com/2013/03/transgendered-woman-lies-about-therapy-torture>; also see: <http://www.fpiw.org/about/family-policy-blog/the-fear-of-change.html>

<sup>5</sup> American Psychological Association. (2008). *Answers to your questions: For a better understanding of sexual orientation and homosexuality*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Whitehead, N.E. & Whitehead B. (2013). *My Genes Made Me Do It! A scientific look at Sexual Orientation*. Lafayette, LA: Huntington House Publishers.

<sup>7</sup> Savin-Williams, R. C. & Ream, G. L. (2007). Prevalence and stability of sexual orientation components during adolescence and young adulthood. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 36*(3), 385-394.

<sup>8</sup> Savin-Williams, R. C. & Ream, G. L. (2006). Pubertal onset and sexual orientation in an adolescent national probability sample. *Archives of Sexual Behavior, 35*(3), 279-286.

<sup>9</sup> Whitehead, N.E. (2009). Adolescent Sexual Orientation: Surprising amounts of change.