

Good afternoon Senator Ayer and members of the committee,
Thank you for the important work that you do.

In accordance with national efforts by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Vermont Chapter of NASW would like to express our support of Senate Bill 132. Attached is a document prepared in May of 2015 exploring the practice.

I have included an excerpt from the position statement here as well:

"The practice of SOCE [Sexual Orientation Change Efforts] violates the very tenets of the social work profession as outlined in the NASW Code of Ethics. The NASW Code of Ethics (1998) enunciates principles that address ethical decision making in social work practice with lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgender people; for example: 1) social workers' commitment to clients' self-determination and competence, and to achieving cultural competence and understanding social diversity, 2) social workers' ethical responsibilities to colleagues, their commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, and their responsibility to report unethical conduct of colleagues, 3) social workers' ethical responsibilities as professionals—maintaining competence, fighting discrimination, and avoiding misrepresentation, and 4) social workers' ethical responsibilities to the social work profession, to evaluation, and to research. The National Committee on LGBT Issues asserts that conversion therapy or SOCE are an infringement of the guiding principles inherent to social worker ethics and values; a position affirmed by the NASW policy statement on "Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues."

http://www.socialworkers.org/diversity/new/documents/HRIA_PRO_18315_SOCE_June_2015.pdf