



**Unlawful, Dangerous and Unnecessary - Oppose AB 1779 & AB 2943**

1. ***Everyone should be free to find therapy and support to help them achieve their desired goals and outcomes, including those who want to explore all options regarding feelings of same-sex attraction and gender identity confusion.*** [Voices-of-change.org](http://Voices-of-change.org) provides over 100 testimonials of people who have changed undesired homosexual attraction through professional therapy.
2. ***These bans deprive adults and children of the freedom to set their own counseling goals and objectives, and it will likely cause some children and adults to commit suicide by forbidding therapy for underlying issues.*** The American Psychological Association's Handbook on Sexuality and Psychology<sup>i</sup>, and numerous studies, acknowledge that childhood sexual abuse can cause unwanted homosexuality in some individuals.<sup>ii iii</sup> If these bills pass, children and adults will be unable to heal these wounds, be legislated into a false identity, and be left suicidal and without hope as a result.
3. ***Twenty-five states have voted down similar bans because they are needless.*** Complaints of harmful practice and clinician malfeasance are addressed by appointed licensed mental health professionals on the state licensing board. These licensing boards are responsible for documenting alleged harm. No such complaints exist in CA.
4. ***There is no evidence of harm from sexual orientation change therapy provided by licensed professionals.***<sup>iv v vi vii viii</sup> ***Decades of supportive studies exist.***<sup>ix x xi xii</sup> Change therapy is talk therapy led by licensed therapists working with willing and motivated clients. Even the Southern Poverty Law Center noted in their May 2016 report that change therapists do not use electrical shocks or other aversion therapy. The "torture" stories have not involved trained therapists and generally are unsubstantiated.
5. ***Professional Psychological Associations state that homosexuality is changeable.*** The 2014 APA Handbook states that sexual orientation may change over a person's lifetime especially during adolescence. Also in 2014, the UK's Royal College of Psychiatrists declared: "sexual orientation is determined by a combination of biological and postnatal environmental factors" . . . "[it] is not the case that sexual orientation is immutable or might not vary to some extent in a person's life. . . "

Most respectfully,  
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## References

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- <sup>i</sup> APA *Handbook on Sexuality and Psychology* (American Psychological Association, 2014) Mustanski, Kuper, & Greene, pp. 609-610.
- <sup>ii</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>iii</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>iv</sup> Sexual Orientation Change Efforts Do Not Lead to Increased Suicide Attempts<sup>[1]</sup> (Summary of excerpt from Whitehead, N.) (2010). Homosexuality and Co-Morbidities: Research and Therapeutic Implications. *Journal of Human Sexuality*, 2, 125-176).
- <sup>v</sup> A.D. Byrd, Joseph Nicolosi, and R.W. Potts (February 2008), "Clients' Perceptions of How Reorientation Therapy and Self-Help Can Promote Changes in Sexual Orientation," *Psychological Reports* 102, pp. 3-28.
- <sup>vi</sup> Nicolosi, Joseph, Byrd, D., Potts, R.W. (June, 2002). "A Meta-Analytic Review of Treatment of Homosexuality," *Psychological Reports* 90: 1139-1152.
- <sup>vii</sup> Nicolosi, J., Byrd, A. Dean, Potts, R.W. (June 2000), "Retrospective Self-Reports of Changes in Homosexual Orientation, A Consumer Survey of Conversion Therapy Clients," *Psychological Reports*, 86: 1071-1088.
- <sup>viii</sup> *Essential Psychopathology and Its Treatment*, Third Ed, Maxmen, War, and Kilgus (W.W. Norton & Co.).
- <sup>ix</sup> Karten, E. L., & Wade, J. C. (2010). Sexual orientation change efforts in men: A client perspective. *Journal of Men's Studies*, 18, 84-102.
- <sup>x</sup> Spitzer RL. "Can some gay men and lesbians change their sexual orientation? 200 participants reporting a change from homosexual to heterosexual orientation. *Arch of Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 32, No. 5, Oct. 2003, pp. 403-417.
- <sup>xi</sup> *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, Jeffrey Satinover (Baker Books, 1996) pp. 179-195.
- <sup>xii</sup> *Successful Outcomes of Sexual Orientation Change Efforts*, James E. Phelan (Phelan Consultants LLC, 2014).