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North Carolina Society for Clinical Social Work Joins Born Perfect NC in Efforts to Protect Minors from ‘Conversion Therapy’

150+ behavioral health providers in North Carolina sign onto letter rebuking practice of ‘conversion therapy’

RALEIGH – This month the North Carolina Society for Clinical Social Work (NCSCSW), in its representing clinical social workers for 40 years and in its support of the LGBT community, announced its strong support for HB516/S426 and signed on as a coalition partner for Born Perfect NC, the campaign to protect young people in North Carolina from so-called “conversion therapy.”

More than 150+ licensed mental health professionals [signed onto a letter](#) from NCSCSW, addressed to legislators considering the Mental Health Protection Act, which would prohibit licensed mental health professionals from subjecting young North Carolinians to “conversion therapy” www.ncscsw.org/. [Read the letter here.](#)

NCSCSW released a [formal position paper](#) supporting legislation to ban the use of conversion therapy by licensed clinicians. Below is an excerpt from that position paper, [which you can read in full here.](#)

“As licensed clinicians we know the lifelong damage so-called conversion or reparative therapies do to those who identify as LGBTQ, especially minors and adults who are disabled. Clinicians are required to treat diagnosable conditions according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and to use therapies that have proven efficacy. Currently, there is no training or evidence-based treatment offered or condoned by any of the mental health professional organizations that attempts to change sexual or gender identity. ... The role of mental health providers is to heal, not increase distress or cause damage. Treatments that attempt to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity significantly increase issues related to mental and sexual health, substance abuse and suicide.”

"In the trusted role as healers, clinicians recognize their influence and therefore do not fraudulently treat sexual orientation or gender identity as a mental disorder. Affirmative therapies have been determined to be best practice, because they dramatically improve mental health outcomes. In their professional, advisory role, clinicians improve the lives of children and families by offering a non-judgmental environment to reduce shame and facilitate acceptance. This includes helping parents be effective supports to their child. Parental support is vital and the best predictor of mental health outcomes, including suicidality."

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[NCSCSW](http://www.ncscsw.org) has been the voice of clinical social work, representing licensed clinical social workers (LCSW/LCSWA) in North Carolina since 1979; providing education, advocacy and support for clinicians and the mental health needs of North Carolinians. www.ncscsw.org

[Born Perfect NC](http://www.bornperfectnc.org) is the campaign to protect young people across North Carolina from "conversion therapy" and send the message that LGBTQ youth should feel safe, supported, and affirmed. www.bornperfectnc.org