



City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Me NB-20
Councilmember Al Austin
Eighth District

Date: May 15, 2018

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District *al*
Councilmember Lena Gonzalez, First District *LH*
Councilmember Suzie Price, Third District *SP*

Subject: **Support for AB 2943 (Low) to declare conversion therapy a fraudulent and unlawful business practice in California**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request the City Council to support AB 2943 (Low), which would declare conversion therapy a fraudulent and unlawful business practice in California, and request the City Manager to communicate the City's support to the bill's author and our state legislative delegation.

BACKGROUND:

Assembly Bill 2943 by Assemblymember Evan Low would make sexual orientation change efforts, also known as conversion therapy, an unlawful business practice under the state's Consumer Legal Remedies Act.

Sexual orientation change efforts are defined in state law as practices by mental health providers that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

The American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, and American Medical Association, among other professional medical and mental health organizations and professional associations, oppose the practice of conversion therapy on the basis that it is not evidence-based and is potentially harmful to a patient's mental health.

In 2012, California became the first state in the nation to prohibit conversion therapy for any patients under 18 years of age. That law has since been upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

AB 2943 would extend the prohibition on sexual orientation change efforts to all persons, regardless of age. It would extend certain consumer protections to individuals harmed by such efforts, and restrict advertising and offering of conversion therapy.

Supporting this legislation is consistent with Long Beach's values and priority to protect the dignity and rights of all of our residents.

As Rick Zbur, the Executive Director of Equality California said, "So-called conversion therapy is a dangerous, ineffective solution in search of a nonexistent problem, and there's no place for it in the State of California."

The State Assembly approved AB 2943 in April on a bipartisan vote of 50-18. The bill is now awaiting a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact with this recommendation.



City of Long Beach Memorandum
Working Together to Serve

REQUEST TO ADD AGENDA ITEM

Date: May 11, 2018

To: Monique De La Garza, City Clerk

From: Councilmember Al Austin, Eighth District
Councilmember Lena Gonzalez, First District
Councilmember Suzie Price, Third District

Subject: Request to Add Agenda Item to Council Agenda of May 15, 2018

Pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.03.070 [B], the City Councilmembers signing below request that the attached agenda item (due in the City Clerk Department by Friday, 12:00 Noon) be placed on the City Council agenda under New Business via the supplemental agenda.

The agenda title/recommendation for this item reads as follows:

Request the City Council to support AB 2943 (Low), which would declare conversion therapy a fraudulent and unlawful business practice in California, and request the City Manager to communicate the City's support to the bill's author and our state legislative delegation.

Council District	Authorizing Councilmember	Signed by
1	Lena Gonzalez	Lena Gonzalez
8	Al Austin	Al Austin
3	SUZIE PRICE	Suzie Price

Attachment: Staff Report dated May 15, 2018