



IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 1, 2020

Mr. Lester (for himself, Mr. Carton, Mr. Aaron, Mr. Justice, Mr. Tankie, Mr. Hersey, Mr. Graves and Mr. Pluribus) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To classify the provision and classify the provision and advertising of conversion therapy in exchange for monetary compensation as fraudulent practices. .

Be it enacted by the Senate of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pence Act”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

- A. Being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or any other sexual or gender identity is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming. The major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact.
- B. The national community of professionals in education, social work, health, mental health, and counseling has determined that there is no scientifically valid evidence that supports the practice of attempting to prevent a person from being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming. Such professionals have also determined that the potential risks of conversion therapy are not only that it is ineffective, but also that it is substantially dangerous to an individual’s mental and physical health, and has been shown to contribute to depression, self-harm, low self-esteem, family rejection, and suicide.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TITLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.— the “Conversion Therapy Prevention Act” is amended -

- (1) In Article I, by striking “under 18 years of age”
 - (2) In Article II, by striking “under 18 years of age”
 - (3) Inserting the following after Article II
 - (a) Article III. The Federal Trade Commission shall be directed to classify the provision and advertising of conversion therapy in exchange for monetary compensation as fraudulent practices.
- (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.— The Amendments made under this section shall come into effect immediately upon passage.