



Resolution No. 207 (New York State G) - Use of “Reparative” or “Conversion” Therapy

ACTION TAKEN BY THE 2017 CONGRESS OF DELEGATES: SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED



RESOLUTION NO. 207 (New York State G)

Use of “Reparative” or “Conversion” Therapy

Introduced by the New York State Chapter

Referred to the Reference Committee on Organization and Finance

WHEREAS, Sexual orientation has been shown to be an innate characteristic of individuals that is not changeable with psychotherapy or other psychologic or medical methods, and

WHEREAS, reparative therapy has been shown to cause significant psychologic and medical harm to its recipients, especially adolescents of sexual and gender minority and gender-nonconforming orientations and identities, and

WHEREAS, failure by an adolescent’s family and community to accept her/his/their sexual orientation and gender identity puts the adolescent at significant risk for experiencing trauma and violence, and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Family Physicians’ (AAFP) policy “opposes the use of “reparative” or “conversion” therapy of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual individuals” and “recommends that parents, guardians, young people, and their families seek support and services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority persons of all ages,” and

WHEREAS, reparative therapy has been deemed unscientific, medically unsafe and deleterious to the physical and mental health of children, adolescents and adults by the AAFP, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Psychological Association, and

WHEREAS, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recommends that member states ban conversion therapy when forced, or otherwise involuntary, due to breach of the prohibition on torture and ill-treatment, and

WHEREAS, six states including California, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon and Vermont as well as Washington, D.C., have passed laws to prevent licensed mental-health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy for minors, and

WHEREAS, New York governor Andrew Cuomo introduced an executive order in February 2016 that banned insurance coverage of conversion therapy as well as prohibiting the practice in all facilities falling under the jurisdiction of the New York State Office of Mental Health, now, therefore, be it

Substitute:

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians advocate for legislation banning the use of reparative therapy aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or identification.

(Received 7/17/17)

Fiscal Impact: None

Original resolved clauses submitted to the Congress of Delegates deleted (please see substitute adopted above):

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians reaffirm its policy opposing the use of 'reparative' or 'conversion' therapy of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individuals, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians recommend that parents, guardians, young people, and their families seek support and services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority persons of all ages" and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support lobbying efforts to encourage passage of legislation banning the use of reparative therapy aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or identification.

Background

Conversion therapy is the practice of providing psychological or spiritual treatment designed to change a person's sexual orientation. In 2001, U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher indicated that there is no scientific evidence that sexual orientation can be changed. The American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, and American Medical Association support this view. The practice is also banned in six states and in the District of Columbia (<http://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lies-and-dangers-of-reparative-therapy>).

In 2017, Representative Ted Lei (D-CA) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the *Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act* (HR 2119/S. 928). The legislation would ban sexual orientation or gender identity conversion therapy from being provided in exchange for monetary compensation.

The AAFP's current policy *Reparative Therapy* was revised and approved in 2016 as part of the AAFP's five-year policy review process. The second sentence of the policy statement is the same as the second resolved clause of this resolution. This policy states, "The American Academy of Family Physicians opposes the use of "reparative" or "conversion" therapy of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual individuals. The AAFP recommends that parents, guardians, young people, and their families seek support and services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increase family and school support, and reduce rejection of sexual minority persons of all ages."

The AAFP has a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) member constituency that provides resources and information for sexual orientation, gender identity, and sexuality. Educational sessions on care for LGBT patients are offered at AAFP national meetings, such as FMX, and through AAFP journals, as listed below:

- 2016 FP Essentials, *Gender and Sexual Health*
- FMX On Demand, *Adolescent LGBTQ issues*
- 2016 FMX, *Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues: best practices in care for your GLBT patients*
- 2017 FMX, *Adolescent LGBTQ issues, the wondering years*
- 2017 FMX, *Providing appropriate and compassionate care to transgender adults*
- March 1, 2017 *American Family Physician* editorial, [Addressing the needs of LGBT patients](http://www.aafp.org/afp/2017/0301/p286.html)
(<http://www.aafp.org/afp/2017/0301/p286.html>)

Current Policy

Reparative Therapy (<http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/reparative-therapy.html>)

Prior Congress Action

None

Prior Board Action

None



ADD TO FAVORITES

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<http://www.aafp.org/about/governance/congress-delegates/2017/resolutions2/newyork-g.mem.html>



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11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway • Leawood, KS 66211-2680

800.274.2237 • 913.906.6000 • Fax: 913.906.6075 • aafp@aafp.org
