



# **THERAPEUTIC FRAUD PREVENTION ACT**

*The First Federal Ban on Conversion Therapy*

**Congressman Ted W. Lieu – 33<sup>rd</sup> District of California**

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## **WHAT IS CONVERSION THERAPY?**

- So-called “conversion therapy” seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Practitioners of conversion therapy charge large sums of money for services that are completely ineffective and have caused serious side effects, such as depression, self-harm, and family rejection.
- Conversion therapy is most often practiced on minors, who may not be able to make their own medical decisions.
- The national community of professionals in education, social work, health, mental health, and counseling has recognized that conversion therapy is useless and risky pseudoscience.
- California banned conversion therapy in 2012; New Jersey banned the practice in 2013; Washington DC followed suit in 2014. The Oregon Governor is expected to sign a recently passed ban.

## **WHAT DOES THE THERAPEUTIC FRAUD PREVENTION ACT (TFPA) DO?**

- Provides Congressional recognition that being LGBT cannot be and does not need to be “cured.”
- Establishes that it is in the best interest of our nation to protect LGBT Americans and their families from being defrauded by conversion therapists.
- Classifies for-profit conversion therapy as fraud under the Federal Trade Commission Act.
- Prohibits advertising that claims conversion therapy can successfully change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **WHY IS THIS BILL DIFFERENT?**

- Unlike some earlier efforts to combat conversion therapy, the TFPA includes gender identity as well as sexual orientation.
- The bill does not infringe upon First Amendment liberties or religious freedom, because it only applies to conversion therapists who charge for their services. At the same time, it’s an incredibly effective way to combat this harmful practice, because the vast majority of these peddlers are for-profit.
- It offers multiple avenues for enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission can enforce the bill at their discretion and private citizens can also bring civil lawsuits against these individuals.

## **HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE BILL?**

- Help raise awareness by participating in the social media campaign at **#LoveDoesntNeedACure**, issuing a statement of support, and letting your representatives know that you support the bill.
- Call your member of Congress and urge him/her to support the TFPA.
- Members of Congress interested in cosponsoring the TFPA can contact Congressman Lieu’s office at (202) 225-3976 or [caroline.paris-behr@mail.house.gov](mailto:caroline.paris-behr@mail.house.gov).