


Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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7 A BILL
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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17 Councilmember Mary M. Cheh introduced the following bill, which was referred to the
18 Committee on _____.

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20 To amend the Mental Health Service Delivery Reform Act of 2001 to prohibit the use of
21 practices designed to change the sexual orientation of a minor by a licensed mental health
22 provider.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
25 act may be cited as the “Conversion Therapy for Minors Prohibition Amendment Act of 2013”.

26 Sec. 2. The Mental Health Service Delivery Reform Act of 2001, effective December 18,
27 2001 (D.C. Law 14-56; D.C. Official Code § 7-1231.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

28 (a) Section 202 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1231.02) is amended by adding a new paragraph
29 25A to read as follows:

30 “(25A) “Sexual orientation change efforts” means a practice by a provider that
31 seeks to change a person’s sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors, gender
32 identity or expression, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward
33 a person of the same sex or gender; provided, that sexual orientation change efforts shall not
34 include counseling for a person seeking to transition from one gender to another, or counseling
35 that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person’s coping,

1 social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral
2 interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices in a manner that
3 does not seek to change a person’s sexual orientation.”.

4 (b) A new section 214a (D.C. Official Code 7-1231.14a) is added to read as follows:

5 “Sec. 214a. Prohibition on sexual orientation change efforts for minors.

6 “(a) A provider shall not engage in sexual orientation change efforts with an
7 individual who is under the age of 18 years.

8 “(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered
9 unacceptable conduct within the mental health profession and shall subject a provider to
10 discipline and penalties set forth in section 514(c) of the District of Columbia Health Occupation
11 Revision Act of 1985, effective March 26, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-
12 1205.14).”.

13 Sec. 3. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the
14 fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule
15 Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-106.02(c)(3)).

16 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto
17 by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional
18 review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved
19 December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the
20 District of Columbia Register.