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Honorable legislators,

Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is David Pickup and I am a licensed psychotherapist in Texas and California. I am also a member of the American Psychological Association (APA). I urge you to vote NO on S201. With all due respect, this bill stands or falls on the "harm" argument. There has not been one ethical complaint in Nevada for this therapy, and there hasn't been any in any state for the past 35-40 years. I know most authentic Reparative Therapists in this country, and they simply never do the things that S201 advocates are saying such as electroshock or shaming. So why are the S201 sponsors up in arms about LGBT kids being harmed? The latest extensive report on these therapies from the American Psychological Association states on pg. 82-83 that there is no proof of harm of these therapies, and they have also said that evidently some people benefit by these therapies.

The APA states on their website that there is no gay gene. Also, other epigenetic and hormonal studies are inconclusive at best. So why doesn't this bill consider professional, safe, ethical, and compassionate therapy for children with unwanted same-sex attraction?

More importantly, how does S201 help the many children in Nevada who experience unwanted same-sex feelings because of being sexually abused by older same-sex teens or pedophiles? I assure you, children with these issues are in therapy every week. How can this committee consider such a bill without considering the grieving heterosexual children who are in therapy for these issues, without which they would suffer depression or worse by not being allowed therapy for unwanted sexual feelings? The proponents of S201 have expressed no care at all about the children who suffer like this.

The proponents have gone to great length to only present some kind of shame-based horror stories that they say are therapies. However, the testimonials we hear are coming from some kind of unlicensed quackery or shame-based "spiritual" boot camps. I can tell you that authentic Reparative Therapy really works and I can give you strong evidence at any time. Just take a look at the many stories of change and self esteem from [www.voices-of-change.org](http://www.voices-of-change.org). Additionally, did you know that authentic Reparative Therapy gets rid of any and all shame for having homosexual feelings? Why are the proponents not telling you this? In my opinion, it is because they simply haven't done real research in these matters. Why then is this committee being asked to interfere with the sacrosanct confidentiality between a client and his therapist in his private office? Why would Nevada ban therapy that would force children with these issues to go to unlicensed quacks or spiritual shaming programs?

Also, the proponents of S201 are not telling you that in the last few years the 3<sup>rd</sup> Federal Circuit Court stated that these kinds of bills are a violation of free speech. They are also not telling you that 20 out of 26 state therapy ban attempts have been defeated within the last 4 years. So why is Nevada invested in S201? There must be another agenda in place, which is not addressing the real problem since the proponents claim harm, then ban therapy from which harm is not coming.

When you consider the real evidence, this bill doesn't make sense. So why is it being shoved through the legislature? The real evidence points to a philosophical political agenda being forced

onto Nevada by people who will stop at nothing to get this through instead of honestly considering the needs of *all* Nevada's children. If they truly cared about children and harm, they would at the very least amend this bill to take care of those I've been speaking for. And by the way, one of those sexually abused little boys was me. As an adult, authentic Reparative Therapy helped save my life. This bill is naïve at best and abusive at worst for whom this therapy is unquestionably sound and professional.

Thank you for listening to my testimony. Please don't hesitate to call upon me to answer any questions you might have.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Pickup".

David Pickup, MA, LMFT