



Re: Testimony in support of House 1190/Senate 62, *An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors*
June 6, 2017

The Massachusetts Psychiatric (MPS) Society strongly supports the immediate passage of Senate 62 and House 1190, *An Act relative to abusive practices to change sexual orientation and gender identity in minors*

Representing over 1700 member psychiatrists in Massachusetts, we are physicians who are committed to providing outstanding medical/psychiatric care through accurate diagnosis and comprehensive treatment of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

The American Psychiatry Association 2013 Position Statement states..." The American Psychiatric Association does not believe that same-sex orientation should or needs to be changed, and efforts to do so represent a significant risk of harm by subjecting individuals to forms of treatment which have not been scientifically validated and by undermining self-esteem when sexual orientation fails to change. No credible evidence exists that any mental health intervention can reliably and safely change sexual orientation; not, from a mental health prospective does sexual orientation need to be changed." The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society concurs with this statement and are strong opponents against the use of conversion or reparative therapy whose primary purpose is to change an individual's sexual orientation from bisexual and/or homosexual orientation to heterosexual orientation.

While there is no evidence that sexual orientation can be changed in therapy; nor is there is a single confirmed, peer-reviewed study that demonstrates change in orientation; there is evidence that coercing sexual change therapy can be traumatic, lead to sexual dysfunction, anxiety, depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The Massachusetts Psychiatric Society respectfully urges favorable consideration of S. 62 /House 1190. These bills should be passed as soon as possible and signed into law.