

May 1, 2018

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2187  
Sacramento, CA 95814



**Re: AB 2943 Oppose**

Dear Chairman Jackson:

Concerned Women for America of California (CWA) is opposed to AB 2943 (Evan Low). The Senate Judiciary Committee will soon be asked to vote on this bill, and we ask for your “NO” vote. This bill prohibits speech, a serious First Amendment infringement, between counselors and their clients seeking help with *unwanted* sexual orientation and gender identity issues. Further, it, at the least, puts in question the sale of books, participation in events, and related activities.

AB 2943 will prohibit individuals from seeking the help they desire for *unwanted* attractions, known as sexual orientation change efforts, and punish the professionals who could assist them. The state would be inappropriately intruding in private counseling situations – counseling that has helped thousands achieve the goals *the patient is seeking*. Denying this therapy, which has had well-documented success, is not the role of government.

The cornerstone of a patient/therapist relationship has always been that the patient sets the goals of the therapy. The patient approaches the relationship with a desire to change something *they* have selected. If AB 2943 passes, the patient will no longer be able to go to a therapist and work through reaching a goal of being heterosexual. The state government is on shaky ground when they tell individuals that they cannot accomplish what *they* want to do.

The bill’s vague language makes one wonder how broadly this will violate religious freedom. How will it affect pastors and churches, church bookstores, Christian authors and speakers? Might they be the target of lawsuits simply for preaching, teaching, writing and speaking Biblical truths? Again, this is far beyond the government’s role and completely outside the guarantee afforded our citizens by our Constitution.

**For these reasons, Concerned Women for America of California respectfully opposes AB 2943 and requests your NO vote.**

*Concerned Women for America is the nation’s largest public policy women’s organization with hundreds of thousands of participants across the nation and 20,000 participants in California. If you have any questions regarding CWA or our concerns in this matter, please contact me at the number below.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marlo Tucker'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marlo Tucker  
California State Director  
(760) 207-8518

cc: Committee members

**Concerned Women for America for California**

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