



Minors need protection from 'reparative therapy'

The White House condemned it and called for its end. The United Nations Committee Against Torture raised it as a potential human-rights violation.

Two states and D.C. banned it, 18 more states have introduced bills to ban it. Delaware has yet to address "reparative therapy."

Also called "ex-gay therapy" or "conversion therapy," this practice seeks to change one's sexual orientation or gender identity by counseling and sometimes bizarre activities. All reputable medical and mental-health organizations — the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association and the World Health Organization, to name a few — say the practice is not only ineffective, but potentially very harmful. They warn of anxiety, depression, substance abuse and suicide resulting from trying to fix what does not need fixing and, in any case, cannot be changed.

Whatever junk-science practices

adults try for themselves, there at least can be no allowance for state-licensed therapists to practice "reparative therapy" on minors. I hope Delaware legislators move soon to protect vulnerable minors from this deeply discredited practice. Because of who is at risk — Delaware children and teens — it is the worst kind of consumer fraud.

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