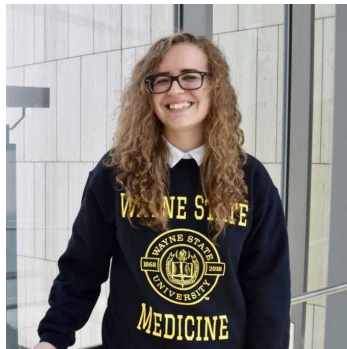


PFLAG Detroit
Support □ Education □ Advocacy

February
2020



Sunday, February 9th
Brianna Sohl



Brianna Sohl is a third year medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. Since beginning medical school in 2017, she has been involved in her local and national American Medical Association-Medical Student Section. Brianna has been an author on 10+ policy resolutions, including the primary author on a resolution aimed to ban the practice of so-called "conversion therapy" based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity which was adopted into national AMA policy in November 2019. Her policy work includes topics such as LGBTQ+ rights, women's health, and advocacy regarding persons with substance use disorder(s).

PFLAG is the extended family of the LGBTQ community. We're made up of LGBTQ individuals, family members and allies. Because together, we're stronger.

Where We Meet ...

Lutheran Church of the Master
3333 Coolidge Hwy,
Troy, MI 48084

(Behind Somerset Mall)

Second Sunday of each month
(excluding Mother's Day, Easter and Christmas)

Mailing Address:

PFLAG Detroit
PO Box 1169
Royal Oak MI
48068-1169

Helpline:
(248) 656-2875

pflagdetroit@outlook.com

OUR MEETINGS...

As always, we welcome everyone, whether member or non-member and all GLBTQ folks, family and friends.

Our meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. with Support Groups meeting after the introductions.

(Support Groups: New Parents, Parents of Transgender, Transgender, Young Adults 15 to 25 years old and General Support)

Due to the importance of the stories being told by persons in the group discussion, interruptions can be very distracting. We ask that you arrive on time to be able to enter into these groups. Any persons arriving late, after 2:15 p.m., may be asked to form their own group with a PFLAG greeter or Board Member. We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

Social half hour with refreshments will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Our speaker will present at 4:00 p.m. after brief announcements.



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION BACKS NATIONWIDE

CONVERSION THERAPY BAN

THE LEADING MEDICAL GROUP THROWS ITS WEIGHT BEHIND ENDING THE DISCREDITED PRACTICE OF TRYING TO CHANGE ONE'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.

Nov. 21, 2019, 2:04 PM EST

By Tim Fitzsimons

The American Medical Association on Tuesday voted to support state and federal efforts to ban gay conversion therapy, throwing the weight of America's medical establishment behind ending the scientifically discredited practice of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

"It is clear to the AMA that the conversion therapy needs to end in the United States given the risk of deliberate harm to LGBTQ people," AMA board member Dr. William E. Kobler said in a statement shared with NBC News. "Conversion therapy has no foundation as scientifically valid medical care and lacks credible evidence to support its efficacy or safety."

Speaking on background, an AMA official said Tuesday's directive means that AMA will produce model legislation banning conversion therapy that can be distributed to state-level organizations, since medical licensing happens at the state level, while simultaneously working on a federal effort.

In August, a study found that 200,000 transgender people in the United States have been exposed to conversion therapy at some point in their lives. A September study of 27,000 transgender people found that those who were exposed to these efforts before the age of 10 were four times more likely to report a suicide attempt in their lifetime versus trans people who were never subjected to efforts to change their gender identity.

Currently, 18 states and the District of Columbia ban conversion therapy for minors, according to the Movement Advancement Project, a think tank focused on LGBTQ issues. And recently, New York City hurried to repeal its conversion therapy ban because it prohibited the practice for minors and adults — who, as discredited as the practice is, may be entitled under free speech protections to pursue the therapy for themselves.

"Historically, medical professionals have contributed to the stigmatization of LGBTQ individuals, so the AMA's active involvement in LGBTQ health advocacy is incredibly important," Dr. Alexis Chavez, medical director for the nonprofit Trevor Project, said in a statement. "The AMA's support for ending conversion therapy furthers the work that The Trevor Project is doing across the country with our 50 Bills 50 States campaign to protect LGBTQ youth from this dangerous and discredited practice."

The AMA also endorsed the creation of electronic health records that are inclusive of LGBTQ people. "The newly amended policy now supports the voluntary inclusion of a transgender patient's preferred name and clinically relevant sex specific anatomy in medical documentation," the AMA said in Tuesday's statement.

"Without this information, transgender patients and their specific health care needs cannot be identified or documented, the health disparities they experience cannot be addressed, and the provision of important health care services may not be delivered," Kobler stated. Chavez said the electronic health record change "can help reduce the 50 percent of transgender individuals who delay seeking necessary health care because of legitimate fears of discrimination."

The AMA also endorsed a policy that encourages medical accreditation bodies "to both continue to encourage and periodically reassess education on health issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity in the basic science, clinical care and cultural competency curricula in medical school and residency programs."

Tim Fitzsimons

Tim Fitzsimons reports on LGBTQ news for NBC Out.