For An Act To Be Entitled
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR MINORS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR
MINORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 27, is amended to add an
additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 28 — Prohibition on Conversion Therapy for Minors

As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) "Conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment
administered to a person that seeks to change the person's sexual orientation
or gender identity, including without limitation any efforts to change
behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic
attractions or feelings toward persons of the same gender.

(B) "Conversion therapy" does not include counseling that
does not seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and:

(i) Assists a person undergoing a gender transition;

(ii) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding
to a person; or

(iii) Facilitates a person's coping, social support,
or identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral
intervention to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual
practices;

(2) "Healthcare professional" means a person who is licensed,
certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer
health care in the ordinary course of the practice of his or her profession;
and

(3) "Minor" means a person under eighteen (18) years of age.


(a) A healthcare professional shall not engage in conversion therapy
with a minor.

(b) If a healthcare professional engages in conversion therapy with a
minor, the healthcare professional is subject to disciplinary action by the
licensing, certifying, or authorizing state entity, including without
limitation suspension or revocation of his or her license, certificate, or
authorization.


Public funds shall not be used for the purposes of:

(1) Practicing conversion therapy;

(2) Referring a person to a healthcare professional for
conversion therapy;

(3) Covering conversion therapy as a part of a health benefit;

or

(4) Granting or contracting with an entity that:

(A) Conducts conversion therapy; or

(B) Refers any person to conversion therapy.