KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION **KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY** **Commonwealth Bill**	**Red | CW 15** **Referred to Committee: House 5**
Authors: Alyssa Greer, Sara Geyer, Katie Cartwright, Lauren Thomas	**Action on the Bill**
School: East Carter HS	**House** ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated **Senate** ____ ☐ Passed ____ ☐ Defeated
City: Grayson	

An act to ban practicing conversion therapy on minors.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: Conversion therapy is based upon the premise that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is a disease or disorder. It has been recognized since 1987, by major mental health associations and researchers in the United States, that being lesbian, gay or bisexual in fact is not a disease or defect. Conversion therapy is a psychological or spiritual counseling that aims to change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. However, conversion therapy is not approved by any mental health organization. Therefore, there are no guidelines on how it should be conducted and no standard of success.

Section 2: The techniques that are most commonly practiced with this therapy are: nausea, vomiting, or paralysis while showing the patient homoerotic images; providing electric shocks; having the individual snap an elastic band around the wrist whenever aroused by the same-sex erotic images or thoughts; using shame to create aversion to same-sex attractions, making patients behavior more stereotypically feminine or masculine, teaching heterosexual dating skills, and using hypnosis to try to redirect desires and arousals. The practices associated with this therapy have been widely discredited among mental health professionals for having no scientific proof of working but instead overwhelming evidence of the harm it causes to patients. Some health risks include but are not limited to depression, substance abuse, social withdrawal, anxiety, decreased self-esteem, and suicidal thoughts.

Section 3: This bill would ban any mental health provider from conducting conversion therapy or sexual change efforts with a patient under the age of 18. Any attempt to conduct conversion therapy on a minor would result in an immediate revokement of that individual's mental health license.

Section 4: Mental health provider would include a physician and surgeon specializing in the practice of psychiatry, a psychologist, a psychologist assistant, intern, or trainee, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a registered psychologist, a licensed clinical social worker, an associate clinical social worker, a licensed professional clinical counselor, a registered clinical counselor, intern, or trainee, or any other person designated as a mental health professional under Kentucky law or regulation.

Section 5: This bill will be enforced by the Division of Health Care in Kentucky who are currently responsible inspecting, investigating and certifying all health care facilities as well as mental health facilities. This bill will go into effect January 1, 2017.