Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To amend the Mental Health Service Delivery Reform Act of 2001 to prohibit the use of practices designed to change the sexual orientation of a minor by a licensed mental health provider.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Conversion Therapy for Minors Prohibition Amendment Act of 2013".

Sec. 2. The Mental Health Service Delivery Reform Act of 2001, effective December 18, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-56; D.C. Official Code § 7-1231.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 202 (D.C. Official Code § 7-1231.02) is amended by adding a new paragraph 25A to read as follows:

"(25A) "Sexual orientation change efforts" means a practice by a provider that seeks to change a person's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors, gender identity or expression, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same sex or gender; provided, that sexual orientation change efforts shall not include counseling for a person seeking to transition from one gender to another, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping,

social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices in a manner that does not seek to change a person's sexual orientation.".

(b) A new section 214a (D.C. Official Code 7-1231.14a) is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 214a. Prohibition on sexual orientation change efforts for minors.

"(a) A provider shall not engage in sexual orientation change efforts with an individual who is under the age of 18 years.

"(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered unacceptable conduct within the mental health profession and shall subject a provider to discipline and penalties set forth in section 514(c) of the District of Columbia Health Occupation Revision Act of 1985, effective March 26, 1986 (D.C. Law 6-99; D.C. Official Code § 3-1205.14).".

Sec. 3. The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-106.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.