

July 19, 2021

The Honourable Mobina S.B. Jaffer, Q.C.
Senator for British Columbia
140 Wellington Street, Suite 900
Ottawa ON K1A 0A4



Sent via email

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 390,000 members represented by the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE), I am writing to urge you to direct the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee to meet and study Bill C-6 over the summer.

It should come as no surprise that a speculated late summer or early fall election is on the horizon. If that comes to pass, Bill C-6 will die in the senate and LGBTQI2S+ Canadians will be left vulnerable to conversion therapy.

The effects of conversion therapy are devastating on survivors. Víctor Madrigal-Borloz, the UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, stated that conversion therapy practices, “constitute an egregious violation of rights to bodily autonomy, health, and free expression of one’s sexual orientation and gender identity. Ultimately, when conducted forcibly, they also represent a breach to the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.”

Critics of the bill argue that it threatens voluntary conversations between individuals. This argument is a red herring. Bill C-6 defines conversion therapy as, “practices, treatment or services designed to change an individual’s sexual orientation to heterosexual or gender identity to cisgender or to reduce non-heterosexual sexual attraction or sexual behaviour.”

Letting Bill C-6 die sends a clear message to LGBTQI2S+ youth: that they don’t matter. It’s very likely that an election will be called before the senate reconvenes. I urge you to assemble the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committee and complete the required reviews as quickly as possible. I will also be sending a letter to the Speaker of the Senate asking him to recall the senate to vote on Bill C-6. Bill C-6 is of dire importance to the public interest, as its fate will have a direct impact on generations of LGBTQI2S+ Canadian youth.

We cannot go back in time and prevent the traumas that occurred to conversion therapy survivors, but we can ensure that no child in Canada is subjected to conversion therapy ever again.

Sincerely,

Larry Brown
President

cc: Bert Blundon, Secretary-Treasurer
National Executive Board