

## Conversion Therapy: Will the Law Pass?

In 2018, some of the main focuses for equality are to pass laws to protect the LGBT people. Many have been grouping together and speaking their opinions on the subject.

One of the more known laws being passed is a law that bans conversion therapy, a practice performed by therapists usually forced upon children by their parents so parents can 'change' their LGBT youth to be straight. They are placed in camps where they are mentally betrayed. It is mentally, physically, and emotionally exasperating. So far only 9 states out of the 50 ban the practice of conversion therapy. "I think that parents should not be able to send their kids to therapy and camps that go against what they want to do with their life." Brianna Mellor '21 said. Conversion therapy subjects youth to a higher risk to suicide, mental illness, shame, helplessness, etc. while it also makes students feel unsafe and unheard in schools. "Parents shouldn't be allowed to send their children to conversion therapy. In the end of everything it doesn't change them and it only puts them more at risk."

LGBT kids with non-supportive families are subject to 8.4 times more likely to attempt suicide. "Students should be allowed to be themselves, not be forced into a box of others morals."

Trinity Mason '20 said. The topic of conversion therapy is just now being talked about, and many hope that the laws will be passed.

"Conversion therapy is horrible. It should be outlawed. I've had a few students who have made their children go through conversion therapy; it's bad." Margaret Motz said.

## Non-Binary Option: Will Colorado Catch On?

Along with Conversion Therapy, a law allowing a third gender option on birth certificates. In 2018 California is in the process of passing a law protecting non-binary persons called the 'Gender Recognition Act.' In many schools across America transgender or non binary students still struggle when it comes to changing their gender on a school website or even using the restroom during the day. This act recognizes the people who don't identify for either gender and want the choice to put it on their birth certificate. Majority of states in the U.S allow for gender change of male to female (vise versa) on your birth certificate but do not allow a third option. "I think you should be able to change the gender on your birth certificate. I think for transgender students who want to have their gender changed in infinite campus, that way it will make it a lot easier for them." Margaret Motz said.

The law will be passed to further the rights of the LGBTQ community and provide a middle zone for the

the people who don't feel like they recognize with either gender.

Even though the step is far away, many hope that this law will better the lives of non-binary persons.



## How Can You Support LGBTQ Community?

GSA stands for Gay Straight Alliance, and it could be found around many schools in the United States. GSA allows LGBTQ+ students a safe space throughout the day. It provides high schoolers with a source they can talk to about their trouble with sexuality or gender. Statistics have shown that if LGBTQ+ kids know as little as 6 teachers in the building that support them than they are 2x less likely to commit suicide. Even having a few students to rely on helps these students feel welcome.

The club is filled with kind students who are willing to help others who may be struggling with the same controversial topics. "GSA is a club where everyone is welcome. Even showing the smallest bit of support can go a long way." Margaret Motz said. The club participates in activities in and outside of school, allowing for the participants to get to know each other better. It is a strictly anonymous club so all people feel safe. The meetings are every other Monday from 3pm - 4:30pm.