



March 22, 2018

Assembly Member Evan Low  
Chair of the Committee on Business and Professions  
Assembly Business and Professions Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 383  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to AB1779

Dear Assembly Member Low:

On behalf of Bethel Church, we are writing to you to lodge opposition to BPC Article 15 [865 - 865.2] and AB1779. We are a church with a congregation of just under 10,000 regular church attenders and over 650 church staff located in Redding, California. Additionally, we have an online streaming congregation of over 25,000.

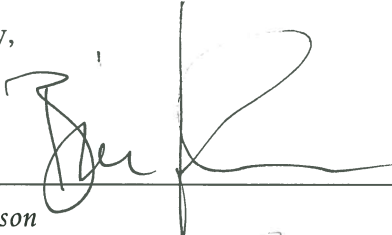
As a faith-based organization, we have significant concerns about the spiritual, ethical, and moral ideology that forms the basis of the legislation that this proposed bill addresses. We believe this law and the proposed changes to be dangerous, unnecessary, and poorly communicated to the California constituency. Our objections to BPC Article 15 [865 - 865.2] and AB1779 are threefold:


First, BPC Article 15 [865 - 865.2] prohibits access to mental health providers for those who are asking for resources to assist with addressing unwanted sexual attractions or gender identities *even if they themselves desire such resources*. Second, prohibiting sexual orientation change therapies, while endorsing sexual orientation “affirming” therapies, gives those under 18 years of age only one legal option for addressing this issue. Patients should have a choice as to the kind of treatment they receive and the desired outcome that they hope to achieve. Third, the procedures involved in gender identity “affirming” treatments (encouraged by this legislation) carry far more catastrophic physical, emotional, and mental health risks for those under the age of 18 and nonminor dependents than any kind of treatment to align their gender identity with their birth sex. Prohibiting, restricting, and penalizing therapies that allow children to think through these issues from different angles, while encouraging therapies such as puberty blocking, cross-sex hormones, surgery, and resultant sterilization is highly dangerous and restrictive legislation.

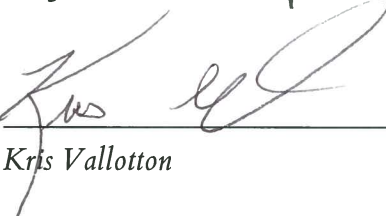
We understand that this legislation addresses an area with many voices and opinions, and you have many competing ideologies to consider. Our desire is not to force our ideology upon individuals, but to give individuals the right to choose the type of support that they receive. This bill fundamentally restricts the options and basic freedoms available to individuals.

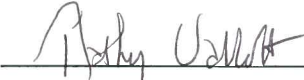
We bless you and pray for wisdom as you consider this bill, and thank you for all that you are doing as a leader in California. We plan to inform our community of this important upcoming vote. We encourage you to vote against AB1779. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Johnson

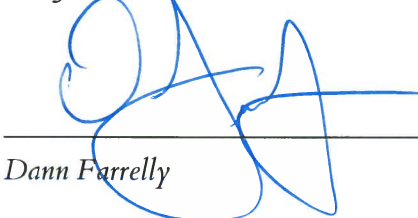
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Beni Johnson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Vallotton


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Vallotton

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric Johnson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Candace Johnson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dann Farrelly

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Harper

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Johnson

Senior Leadership Team  
Bethel Church  
Redding, California  
[www.bethel.com](http://www.bethel.com)