



March 22, 2018

Assembly Member Ed Chau,
Chair of the Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee
Room 156A, Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to AB 2943

Dear Assembly Member Chau:

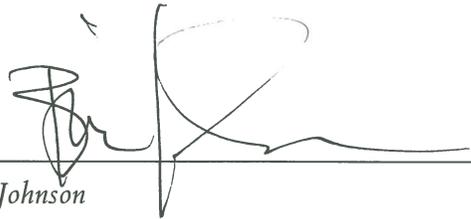
On behalf of Bethel Church, we are writing to you to lodge opposition to AB 2943. We are a church with a congregation of just under 10,000 regular church attendees and over 650 church staff located in Redding, California. Additionally, we have an online streaming congregation of over 25,000.

As a faith-based organization, we have significant concerns about the spiritual, ethical, and moral ideology that forms the basis of this bill. Fundamentally, AB 2943 prohibits access to communication, counseling, and materials for those who are asking for help with unwanted sexual attraction or gender dysphoria *even if they themselves desire such resources*. We see AB 2943 as discriminatory to those with certain ideological viewpoints or religious beliefs. In addition, this bill undermines the constitutional rights of Freedom of Speech and the Freedom of Religion. We believe that, if an adult or child wants to pursue resources and counseling to assist with their personal plan of therapy for unwanted sexual desires or gender dysphoria, that should be their personal choice.

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 counseling options 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 AB 2943. Thank you for your consideration.

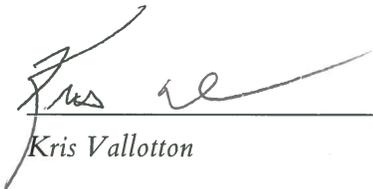
Sincerely,



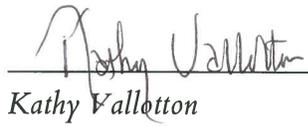
Bill Johnson



Beni Johnson



Kris Vallotton



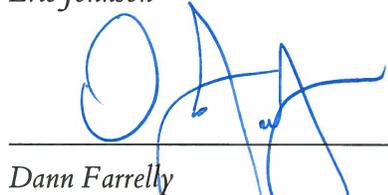
Kathy Vallotton



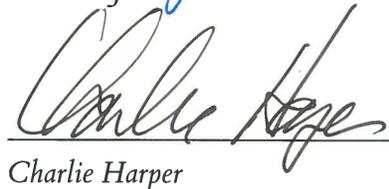
Eric Johnson



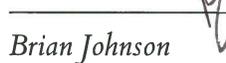
Candace Johnson



Dann Farrelly



Charlie Harper



Brian Johnson

Senior Leadership Team
Bethel Church
Redding, California
www.bethel.com