



New York State Society for Clinical Social Work, Inc.

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Memorandum in Support

A.3977 (Glick) / S.263 (Hoylman)

An ACT to amend the education law, in relation to prohibiting mental health professionals from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts with a patient under the age of eighteen years and expanding the definition of professional misconduct with respect to mental health professionals.

The New York State Society for Clinical Social Workers (NYSSCSW), strongly supports A.3977 / S.263 This bill would protect minors under the age of eighteen from mental health practitioners seeking to change their sexual orientation.

The New York State Society for Clinical Social Work, founded in 1968, represents the views of clinical social workers in the public and private sector throughout New York State. We provide the majority of mental health services (about 60 percent) in the United States and practice in virtually every setting in the health care delivery system, including: medical and psychiatric hospitals, mental health clinics, AIDs treatment facilities, managed care organizations, trauma centers, research settings, schools and the criminal justice system.

We support the idea that the exploration and discovery of one's sexual orientation is a natural process; that being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is not an illness, disease or shortcoming.

We fully support the protection of all LGBT minors.

For additional information: Marsha Wineburgh, DSW, Legislative chair, NYSSCSW

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