

American Academy of Pediatrics

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Ellen Brilliant
AAP - Colorado Chapter
4981 S. Emporia
Greenwood Village, CO
80111
303.601.8308
www.aapcolorado.org

March 20, 2018

Honorable Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet
Honorable Representative Paul Rosenthal
Colorado House of Representatives
200 East Colfax
Denver, CO 80213

Dear Representatives Michaelson Jenet and Rosenthal,

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter (AAP-CO), please accept the following letter clarifying the AAP-CO's positions on policy issues involving LGBTQ youth.

Recently, it has come to our attention that the American College of Pediatricians has engaged in several legislative hearings, claiming to represent pediatricians across the state. The AAP-CO represents over 800 pediatricians and pediatric sub-specialists in Colorado and is the recognized voice of pediatricians.

The American College of Pediatricians (ACPed) promotes an entirely different position that is not supported by evidence-based, peer-reviewed science, nor does it represent prevailing medical knowledge or practice. This is not isolated to this issue—most of their positions run contrary to AAP recommendations. They were formed about 15 years ago and have counted on confusion with the AAP as a way to advance their agenda.

Other groups and media outlets have taken on the effort of drawing the distinction between the ACPeds and the AAP, including the [Southern Poverty Law Center \(SPLC\)](#), [Additional SPLC Statement](#), [Human Rights Campaign](#), [ThinkProgress](#), [The Daily Beast](#), [Debi Jackson](#) (nationally-known advocate and mom of a transgender girl), [Rachel Maddow](#), and even the popular "myth-busting" website [Snopes](#).

Regarding your bill, **HB 18-1245: Prohibit Conversion Therapy**, the national AAP has a strong [policy statement](#) in support of banning such practices.

Referral for "conversion" or "reparative therapy" is never indicated; therapy is not effective and may be harmful to LGBTQ individuals by increasing internalized stigma, distress, and depression.

(Pediatrics, July 2013, Volume 132 / Issue 1; From the American Academy of Pediatrics)

As such, please accept this letter as the AAP-CO's support for HB 18-1245 and a mean to clarify our Chapter's positions on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Steve Perry, MD, FAAP
President
American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter