

California Same-Sex Change Therapy Ban Flawed

There are flaws California's new law that bans any counseling to diminish or eliminate **same-sex sexual attractions**. That's the latest revelation in Liberty Counsel's reply to legal arguments and rebuttal declarations in federal court challenge to SB 1172.

"This law places the state between the client and the counselor," says Mat Staver, founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "This law intrudes on the fundamental right of self-determination to seek counseling that aligns with the client's religious and **moral values**. This law forces counselors to overrule their clients who choose to prioritize their religious or moral values above unwanted same-sex sexual attractions."

Liberty Counsel filed a federal lawsuit against SB 1172 on Oct. 4, 2012. Representing the state defendants, the California Attorney General filed its opposition to the suit and added declarations from two purported experts seeking to justify the law. Liberty Counsel filed its reply legal arguments and thoroughly rebutted the two declarations filed by the defendants.

The issue is not a battle of experts, and, if it was, California's experts woefully fail to justify such an intrusive law. This issue is the state injecting itself between the counselor and the client and forcing the client to receive only one viewpoint on **same-sex attractions**. California has no compelling or empirical reason to justify SB 1172. This law is politically, not scientifically, motivated. The state has no right to force counselors to provide and clients to receive only one viewpoint on same-sex attractions.

“This law is an astounding violation of the right to **free speech** and **religious liberty**. Clients have the right to receive information that aligns with their values, and counselors have the right and the duty to provide information to help the clients in pursuit of their right to self-determination,” Staver says.

“Under SB 1172, a young boy sexually molested by the likes of a Jerry Sandusky who develops an identity crisis, emotional stress, and who begins to experience unwanted **same-sex attractions**, will be further hurt by a law that deprives him and his family the option of receiving counsel that aligns with his religious and moral beliefs.”

A hearing on the preliminary injunction is scheduled in Sacramento federal court on Nov. 30, 2012. SB 1172 becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2013.