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Jan. 26, 2021

To: Rev. Dr. Kenji Marui  
Barb Baxter, Chair, Affirming Committee

Dear Friends at Grace United Church,

Thank you for your letter of Jan 25, 2021. Please allow me to make some clarifications with the hope that we can come to a better understanding of my stance on the issue and the reasons behind it.

First of all, let me be clear that *I do not support conversion therapy*. As you have indicated, it has been shown to be detrimental, and its use is opposed by the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

Secondly, I did confirm with my staff that Grace United was on the distribution list for the letter. It is my practice, when Bills are before the House, to notify organizations in the community that would be impacted. This is true for Bills impacting business, the environment, agriculture, and of course the freedom of religion and speech. I report what has been heard during the debate, and request input.

Of the letters sent, I received only responses urging me to ensure that freedom of religion and speech were protected. Numerous legal opinions have indicated that the overly broad definition of conversion therapy in the current form of the Bill may result in criminal offences being levied against people of faith engaged in counselling and preaching. I received hundreds of emails and letters from my constituents urging the same. I received a handful that supported Bill C-6. You are the second church that has written me in support of Bill C-6.

Regarding petitions, it is the right of anyone to bring a petition, and as the Member of Parliament, it is my role to table them in the House. I do this for all petitions submitted regardless of personal views on them.

The term 'sexual confusion' was used by me to describe individuals who are unsure of their sexual orientation, and are interested in discussing it with parents, pastors, teachers, and counsellors. This is in no way intended to hurt members of the LBGQT community.

You will be no doubt happy to hear that Bill C-6 was passed in the House of Commons without amendment, and is now in the Senate for debate. Thank you for sharing your views.

Best regards,



MP Marilyn Gladu  
Member of Parliament: Sarnia—Lambton

*Marilyn Gladu*

Member of Parliament / Députée  
Sarnia—Lambton