



Board of Directors  
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley  
1070 Stewart Drive, Suite 1  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

June 15, 2019

The Honorable Mark Stone, Chair  
Assembly Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3146  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: ACR 99 (Low) – Relative to civil rights: gay, bisexual, or transgender people - SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblymember Stone,

The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley is pleased to support ACR 99, which calls upon all Californians to treat one another fairly, and upon religious leaders to counsel on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) issues with compassion and knowledge of the harms of conversion therapy.

For far too long, LGBTQ people have suffered psychological abuse by those who are entrusted to care for their emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being. The dangerous practices of sexual orientation change efforts, frequently called “conversion therapy” or “reparative therapy,” have no sound scientific basis and can cause lifelong damage. In fact, all of the nation’s leading professional medical and mental health associations have rejected conversion therapy as unnecessary, ineffective, and dangerous. To date, eighteen other states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have laws in place preventing and punishing these abusive practices, demonstrating a growing national consensus that these practices are dangerous and damaging.

LGBTQ identity cannot and does not need to be changed. For these reasons, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley urges you to support ACR 99.

Sincerely,  
**Ron Gardner**, President  
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley

*Established in 1999, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley represents over 100 LGBT and ally owned businesses, business owners, and professionals in the great San Jose-Silicon Valley area. Our mission is to create a vibrant LGBT supportive business community through development, education, and advocacy.*