



#BORNPERFECT: THE CAMPAIGN TO END CONVERSION THERAPY

Few practices hurt LGBT youth more than attempts to change their sexual orientation or gender identity—which can cause depression, substance abuse, and even suicide. In 2014, we launched the #BornPerfect campaign, which seeks to end conversion therapy in five years throughout the U.S. through public education, developing and sustaining a network of survivors, ongoing litigation, and legislation. We are leading a national coalition that includes survivors, national LGBT organizations, mental health experts, faith leaders, and youth advocacy groups.

We've had tremendous success. We drafted and helped pass the nation's first laws—in California, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, and Oregon—barring licensed mental health professionals from practicing conversion therapy. We have worked closely with legislators in eighteen additional states, and NCLR has successfully defended legal challenges to both the California and New Jersey laws, and are also representing survivors and youth facing conversion therapy.

In November 2014, NCLR testified at the United Nations Committee Against Torture meeting in Geneva, Switzerland about the harms caused by the practice of conversion therapy. In April 2015, we hit a new high-water mark when the White House and the U.S. Surgeon General came out opposing conversion therapy.

The lies and misinformation that sustain conversion therapy are at the very root of homophobia and transphobia. The impact of this work goes far beyond bringing a stop to conversion therapy. We are creating a world in which every LGBT person is embraced, accepted, and celebrated for who they are at every stage of life. ■



NCLR Staff Attorney & #BornPerfect Campaign Coordinator Sam Ames (far left) with Congressman Ted Lieu at the introduction of the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act.