

PATRICK

HOPE 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2014

DELEGATE HOPE STATEMENT ON LEGISLATION PROHIBITING “CONVERSION THERAPY” IN VIRGINIA

Richmond –Today, Delegate Patrick A. Hope (D-Arlington) held a press conference in support of HB 1135. Delegate Hope introduced HB 1135, a bill that would prohibit performing conversion therapy (also call “reparation therapy”) on minors by a licensed health care professional. Joining Delegate Hope were advocates from Equality Virginia, Alliance for Progressive Values, People of Faith For Equality in Virginia as well as two victims who testified as to their personal experiences with conversion therapy.

At the press conference, Delegate Hope said, “Conversion therapy is based on the false assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder or a sin. Well, it is not. There is no on/off switch to sexual orientation.”

Delegate Hope continued, “It is very clear that organized psychiatry maintains that sexual orientation is not changeable, that conversion therapies do irreparable harm, and that conversion therapies should not be practiced in the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

Delegate Hope concluded, “I believe our government has the duty and an obligation to, at a minimum, protects our children from the dangers of conversion therapy. This bill seeks to do just that.”

Patrick A. Hope is a Member of the Virginia General Assembly as the Delegate from the 47th District representing part of Arlington County. He serves on the House Health, Welfare, and Institutions, Courts of Justice, and Militia, Police and Public Safety Committees.

###

Media Contact:

Mary P. Dooley, Legislative Assistant

Delegate Patrick Hope

delphope@house.virginia.gov

703-486-1010