



The Kid Experts™

March 2, 2022
House Preventive Health Policy Division

Dear Chair Freiberg and Committee Members:

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, we are writing to express our support for HF2156, prohibiting conversion therapy for children and vulnerable adults.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric provider of health care, seeing over 135,000 patients last year alone. We see children and teens from all 87 counties and 60 percent of the counties in our surrounding states. We serve a diverse patient population and 46% of our patients are enrolled in Medicaid.

We serve LGBTQ kids with diverse sexual and gender identities daily in our Gender Health program, our clinics and our emergency departments. These kids are at higher risk of low self-esteem, bullying, depression, social anxiety, substance abuse, and suicidality.

Based on 2019 Minnesota Student Survey data, reports of suicide ideation increased for all grade levels in the last six years. The numbers are even more concerning for lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer (LGBQ+) and transgender students. LGBQ+ students are about three times more likely as heterosexual students to report seriously considering suicide, and four times as likely to attempt suicide as heterosexual students. Transgender students in the 11th grade report the highest rates of suicide attempts; they are more than four times more likely to attempt suicide than their cisgender 11th-grade peers.

The practice of conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth is not effective, evidence-based, or even ethical according to both the American Psychiatric Association and The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In fact, research shows that these types of interventions result in poorer mental health outcomes and increases in suicide attempts. That is why twenty other states and more than 75 municipalities have banned the dangerous and harmful practice.

At Children's Minnesota, our vision is to be every family's essential partner in raising healthier children. As the kid experts in our community, it is our goal to ensure that every child and every teen we take care of is supported, affirmed and valued and respected for who they are. It is our goal to ensure that our kids, especially those who are struggling or vulnerable are provided effective, appropriate and non-judgmental care. We therefore strongly support the goals of HF2156.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Angela Kade Goepferd
Medical Director, Gender Health Program
Chief Education Officer, Chief of Staff
Children's Minnesota

James C. Burroughs II
Vice President, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer
Children's Minnesota