



Chair Youakim and members of the Education Finance Committee,

OutFront Minnesota is our state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization, advancing equity in Minnesota for more than 35 years. On behalf of our organization and community we offer our support for HF 2925.

Students in Minnesota should have access to appropriate bathroom and locker room facilities in every school in this state.

We are proud that Minnesota's students are guaranteed access to the facilities that align with their gender identity, but we know that shared single-gendered facilities are not fully meeting the needs of our state's diverse populations. Access to private, gender neutral facilities can be important for a wide range of student populations and will give students the opportunity to self-select the facilities that are most appropriate for their needs. That can include LGBTQ+ students who may feel more comfortable in single-stall facilities, students who may have accessibility needs that are better met by these facilities, and those who may have cultural or religious privacy considerations.

More than half of trans and gender expansive youth have reported feeling unsafe accessing public bathroom facilities¹ and these concerns can lead individuals to avoiding facility use which can impact participation in athletics² and other school activities, and lead to negative physical and mental health impacts³

Every student in Minnesota has the right to use the gendered bathroom or locker-room facility that aligns with their identity, but having non-gendered facilities designed for greater privacy can have a significant impact on student experiences in schools. Simply having the option to access gender neutral facilities⁴ along with policies and staff who create supportive school environments⁵ are demonstrated to have positive impacts on LGBTQ+ youth.

As school districts make decisions about facilities, it is critical that they are able to design for the needs of all students - and that the state helps to provide resources that will ensure those plans can be realized.

The investments made through this bill will help make for schools that are more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive for all students.

¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5685206/>

²<https://www.americanprogress.org/article/fair-play/>

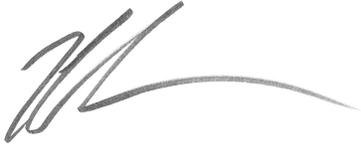
³<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/exclusionary-bathroom-policies-harm-transgender-students>

⁴<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28212504/>

⁵<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/>

I ask that you support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to be 'KR', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kat Rohn
Executive Director
OutFront Minnesota