



Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans, I write to express our support for Senate Files 4706 and 4707. The Council is a legislatively created state agency charged with advising state leaders on issues relating to LGBTQIA2S+ people across Minnesota. Through our work with community members, providers, advocates, and state partners, we continue to hear how important it is that Minnesota's laws clearly reflect established medical standards and protect young people and vulnerable adults from unethical, harmful practices like conversion "therapy."

Conversion "therapy" is a pseudoscience scam that has been discredited by every major medical and mental health association. It is widely known to increase risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidality, particularly among youth. SF4706 helps ensure that Minnesota law reflects these well-established professional standards by creating a pathway for accountability when licensed providers engage in practices that fall outside acceptable, appropriate care and result in harm. Establishing this cause of action reinforces expectations that licensed professionals carry out their duty of care and ensures LGBTQIA2S+ people have a path to accountability and remedy when harmed.

SF4707 addresses a related issue by ensuring that health insurance coverage reflects recognized standards of care and protects vulnerable Minnesotans from manipulation and possible [torture](#) by systems meant to support wellbeing. Conversion "therapy" is an ineffective, unethical practice that relies on the false notion that LGBTQIA2S+ identities are disorders or illnesses. The legislature has clear authority, and a responsibility, to set reasonable guardrails around what health plans may cover, particularly when a practice is both unsupported by evidence and associated with harm. Prohibiting coverage of conversion "therapy" for minors and vulnerable adults helps ensure that insurance systems support care that is safe, ethical, and consistent with professional standards.

Taken together, SF4706 and SF4707 use well-established legal and legislative tools to stop harm before it happens and create pathways for accountability when guardrails fail. We ask for your support. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emma Watts

Executive Director, Council on LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans