

March 5, 2025

Chair Jeff Backer
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Backer and Members of the House Health & Finance Policy Committee:

OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization. And we write today to oppose HF 22 (Gillman) as currently introduced.

OutFront Minnesota seeks to advocate for, and ally itself with those seeking to push for, the inclusion and protection of underrepresented communities in every space. Minnesota's educational facilities should be places for cooperative learning and collaboration. And, in keeping with that, schools should be a place where the rights of *all* students are protected and ensured. Understandably, parents have a say in the needs for their children, but not to the detriment of their identity, dignity, and wellbeing.

HF 22 seeks to target and discriminate against transgender students by enabling more restrictive educational policies that seek to exclude them or remove their identity altogether under the guise of parental rights. In doing so, this puts transgender students in unsafe and potentially violent environments as well as in a position of experiencing harassment and abuse from fellow students, staff, and administrators.

We recognize the need to continuously improve Minnesota's educational policies for *all* students; and we support good work to dig into these big problems. We encourage you to pursue approaches that seek those solutions while upholding the value and dignity of transgender students and their rights and protection in these environments.

OutFront Minnesota respectfully urges a NO vote on HF 22 as introduced, and urges further discussion around our state's approach to the educational system that seeks to support and include *all* of Minnesota's students.

Sincerely,

Kat Rohn
Executive Director