

February 22, 2023

Chair Becker-Finn  
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
St. Paul, MN

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Committee Members,

As Executive Director of the National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota (NCJW), I write to express our support for HF1655, The Take Pride Act. It is long overdue that the Minnesota Human Rights Act be updated to remove sections that allow for discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

NCJW's mission to improve the quality of life for women (including transwomen and gender non-conforming people), children, and families and to safeguard individual rights and freedoms is guided by Jewish values. Our tradition teaches that each person is created in the image of the Sacred, endowed with the inherent right to autonomy and respect. From this core teaching flow many others, including the importance of human dignity (*kavod habriot*) and the understanding that each human being deserves equal treatment, access, and rights. Our beliefs teach us that no matter who we are, where we come from, who we love, or how we show up as our truest selves, we all deserve to live fulfilling lives free from discrimination and stigma.

While others may use their religious beliefs to justify judgment or outright hate, ours guide us to advocate for just, inclusive communities in which the people most impacted by an issue are looked to as leaders. We are proud that our state has, time and again, chosen love and inclusion to build a thriving and discrimination-free Minnesota, and urge you to support eliminating language and exemptions that harm our LGBTQIA+ neighbors.

Thank you for your service on this committee and for your attention to bills such as this one that build upon the rights and dignity of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,



Erica Solomon  
Executive Director  
National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota