



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR MINNESOTA

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January 17, 2023

Dear House Human Services Policy Committee,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges your support of HF 16, an act prohibiting conversion therapy with children or vulnerable adults, as well as prohibiting medical assistance coverage for conversion therapy and the misrepresentation of conversion therapy services or products. This important language ensures that young and vulnerable Minnesotans are not subjected to a practice that has been discredited by the medical community and has substantial evidence of significant harm to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) patients.

Prohibiting conversion therapy sends an important message that LGBTQ Minnesotans deserve compassionate and respectful care. They do not need to be cured of their identities. The MAFP supports our patients' rights to express their sexual orientation and gender identity without fear of being manipulated by a healthcare professional. Our members and patients represent the rich diversity of human experience, which should be celebrated.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues and are appreciative of our shared commitment to the health of Minnesotans. We ask that you please support HF 16 to ensure that LGBTQ youth and vulnerable adults are protected from this harmful practice.

Sincerely,

Alex Vosooney, MD
President, MAFP