



**TO: John Lesch, Chair
Kelly Moller, Vice-Chair
MN House Judiciary, Finance and Civil Law Division Committee**

FROM: OutFront Minnesota, 310 E. 38 St. #209 Minneapolis, MN 55409

Monday, May 4, 2020

In Support of H.F. 3837, Relating to Public Safety and Crimes Motivated by Bias

OutFront Minnesota is Minnesota's largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization. We have existed for more than 32 years advocating for the equal protection and fair treatment of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) people of Minnesota. In this capacity, we have operated an anti-violence program that worked with 959 survivors of violence last year alone. 266 were specifically survivors of hate crime incidents.

LGBTQ+ people have historically faced violence, discrimination, and hate/bias incidents due to our minority identities. Yet, our communities are not alone in facing such violence. Jewish, Muslim, Black, and Brown communities have been historically targeted for violence as well. Additionally, we are seeing a rise in harassment and violence against Asian American and Pacific Islander communities due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and misinformation perpetuated by the President of the United States.

Within the LGBTQ+ community, transgender people — and particularly, trans women of color — are targeted for violence and murder. In 2019, it was reported that



26 transgender or gender non-binary people were murdered in the United States. We know that many of these violent crimes go unreported.

Strong nondiscrimination and hate crimes protections are vitally necessary to ensure minority and marginalized communities are safe. Thankfully, Minnesota has led the way on many of these protections. Nevertheless, Minnesota must continue to lead in these areas while also ensuring that law enforcement are properly trained to respond and report these crimes. Minnesota must also ensure that our communities have the resources and abilities to respond and report these incidents of bias.

We know that there is a disconnect between the hate and bias incidents we are seeing happen within our communities and the official numbers being reported by agencies like the Department of Justice. Legislation like H.F. 3837 is crucial to addressing these incongruencies by providing adequate training for law enforcement as well as providing for a clear channel of community reporting to the Minnesota Human Rights Department. That is why OutFront Minnesota fully supports this legislation.