

January 18, 2023

Representative Peter Fischer
551 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF16 (Hollins) – Children or vulnerable adult conversion therapy prohibited

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express our support for HF16, which would prohibit any mental health practitioner or mental health professional from engaging in conversion therapy with minors or vulnerable adults and specify that conversion therapy is not covered by medical assistance.

Allina Health is an integrated health system that provides services for approximately one-third of Minnesotans across the care continuum. We provide mental health and addiction care for more than 100,000 patients through inpatient services in geriatric, adult and adolescent programs, outpatient services in ambulatory care, adult day treatment, and adolescent partial-hospital treatment.

Prohibiting conversion therapy is supported by medical and mental health research as well as professional best practices. The premise of conversion therapy is based on assumptions that not being heterosexual or cisgender is inherently flawed, and therapy is needed to fix this. All the major mental healthcare organizations in the United States thoroughly oppose these two assumptions and instead support valuing and affirming one's authentic gender identity and sexual orientation. Furthermore, there is no credible research supporting conversion therapy's efficacy.

The prohibitions included in HF16, including restrictions on the ability of conversion therapy providers to deceptively market to and use conversion therapy on our most vulnerable patients, are necessary steps in reducing the negative outcomes that come when a patient is forced to endure conversion therapy. Thank you for your support of these important protections.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Clubb, MSW, LICSW
Vice President Operations
Mental Health and Addiction Service



Mary Beth Lardizabal, DO
Vice President
Mental Health and Addiction Services