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RE: Support for HF4373

March 13, 2024

To Chair Laurie Pryor and Members of the Education Policy Committee:

Gender Justice is a legal and policy advocacy organization dedicated to advancing gender equity through the law. We work to dismantle the legal, structural, and cultural barriers contributing to gender inequity in the Upper Midwest and to ensure that people of all genders have the right to bodily autonomy, safety, health, and opportunity. We believe that efforts to censor books in our schools and libraries undermine Minnesota values that everyone has a right to live safely, with dignity and respect.

We are writing to support HF4373 (Rep. Frazier), Prohibiting Book Banning in Public and School Libraries. Across the country and in Minnesota, there are efforts to ban books that provide accurate lessons about the role of race, gender and civil rights in America. Most of us believe students should have the freedom to read books that explain our world and help them become the best versions of their authentic selves. Books are tools for understanding complex issues. Limiting young people's access to books does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues. Targeting books with LGBTQ inclusion for censorship is an attempt to erase trans and LGBQ people from public life. These efforts promote discrimination and send the harmful message to youth that being LGBTQ is wrong.

Reading is a foundational skill, critical to future learning and to exercising our democratic freedoms. HF4373 ensures that libraries are places for people to explore and for young people to become lifelong readers.

Please support HF4373.

Thank you for your support,
Megan Peterson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director, Gender Justice



March 11, 2024

Chair Laurie Pryor
571 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pryor and Members of the House Education Policy Committee:

OutFront Minnesota writes in support of HF 4373 (Frazier) the Book bans prohibition. OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state’s largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that has sought to build power within Minnesota’s LGBTQ+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services. We believe that this legislation is important to inclusivity and recognition for the diversity of Minnesota and *all* of its residents.

Today, we offer our support for HF 4373 which would prohibit,

“A public library or a library or media center controlled in whole or in part by a school district, charter school, or public postsecondary institution must not ban, remove, or otherwise restrict access to a book or other material based on its viewpoint or the messages, ideas, or opinions the book or material conveys.”

