



Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Written Testimony to the MN House Judiciary Committee, submitted March 2, 2022.

Members of the MN House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of HF 3270 and specifically the portion of the bill proposing to remove the exemption that currently exists for youth focused organizations related to not hiring a job applicant based on their sexual orientation. We thank this committee for the time and attention you are giving this bill.

Girl Scouts River Valleys is the local council of Girl Scouts of the USA, the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouts aims to offer every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Girl Scouts River Valleys serves 25,400 girls in southern Minnesota, western Wisconsin, and one county in Iowa. Our work is supported by more than 9,000 volunteers.

Girl Scouts River Valleys is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for every girl and her family. Girl Scouts River Valleys values diversity in all its forms and as such the current employment exemption that exists under current law for youth focused organizations is contrary to our values. Removing this current employment exemption that exists for youth focused organizations will not change how we operate given that our organization is already dedicated to hiring an inclusive and diverse workforce. Given these reasons, we support the provision in this bill removing this exemption from our state's civil rights laws. Words matter, and it is important that we take steps as a state to demonstrate our commitment to advancing equity and inclusion for all Minnesotans under the law.

We would be happy to further discuss with any of you the details of our support for this issue, please feel free to reach out at any time to Sara Gangelhoff, Advocacy and Community Relations Manager at Girl Scouts River Valleys, advocacy@girlscoutsrv.org.

Thank you again for your service on this committee and your attention to this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tisha Bolger".

Tisha Bolger
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts River Valleys