



January 18th, 2023

Dear Committee Members;

The Autism Society of Minnesota is writing today to enthusiastically endorse the passage of HF16. It has been suggested in testimony opposing the passage that this ban would harm vulnerable populations such as people with disabilities. The Autism community is joyfully diverse and includes many members of the LGBTQ Community and we celebrate and support their journeys to live their lives in their truest lights, we also tirelessly advocate to protect this community from any and all harm. Including conversion therapy.

In a 2020 survey The Human Rights Campaign found that 36% of the LGBTQ community and 52% of transgender adults reported having a disability. The disability community is at greater risk of being victims of maltreatment and rights restriction under systems such as institutionalized care and guardianship. Minnesota stands proudly as a state committed to person centered planning for all individuals living with a disability, the right to choose who you love and how you live is a choice that should never be threatened by the option to force children and vulnerable adults into harmful therapy to change that choice because of beliefs held by a guardian.

In MN Statute: [524.5-119](#), the Bill of Rights for persons subject to guardianship. Vulnerable adults are granted the right to treatment with dignity and respect, as well as due consideration of current and previously stated personal desires and preferences, including but not limited to medical treatment preferences, cultural practices, religious beliefs, and other preferences and opinions in decisions made by the guardian or conservator; and exercise control of all aspects of life unless delegated specifically to the guardian or conservator by court order.

Continuing to allow guardians to choose conversion therapy against the will of these individuals is a basic violation of their rights.

We urge you to support HF16 and ban conversion therapy for children and vulnerable adults.

Jillian Nelson, Community Resource and Policy Advocate
Jean Bender, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair

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