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[www.zvms.org](http://www.zvms.org)

March 1, 2022

Chair Mike Freiberg  
381 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support of HF2156 Conversion Therapy Ban

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members:

On behalf of the Zumbro Valley Medical Society (ZVMS), representing 3,000 physicians and physicians in training in Southeast Minnesota, I write to ask you to support the Conversion Therapy Ban (HF2156), a bill to ban conversion therapy from public programs for minors and vulnerable adults.

Conversion “therapy” (CT) is a practice that claims to change a person’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Although CT is widely discredited in the medical community, it is still practiced in Minnesota, harming vulnerable children, adolescents, and young adults. CT often leads to depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Access to adequate, appropriate, and scientifically backed treatment – and avoiding harmful practices – are an essential role of our state government to keep its citizens healthy and safe. Therefore, ZVMS supports HF2156 and the banning of conversion therapy. The LGBTQ+ community, their families, and allies deserve your attention to and support of HF2156.

Thank you very much for your commitment to protecting the lives and health of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Kingsley, MD, MPH, MS  
President

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<sup>1</sup> Green, A. E., Price-Feeney, M., Dorison, S. H., & Pick, C. J. (2020). Self-reported conversion efforts and suicidality among US LG TQ Youths and Young Adults, 2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, 110(8):1221-1227.

<sup>2</sup> Turban, J. L., Beckwith, N., & Reisner, S. L., et al. (2020). Association between recalled exposure to gender identity conversion efforts and psychological distress and suicide attempts among transgender adults. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 77(1): 68-76.

<sup>3</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Ending conversion therapy: Supporting and affirming LGBTQ youth. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 15-4928. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2015.