



February 21, 2023

Dear Sen. Mayde Quade and Rep. Finke,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I am writing in support of SF 63/HF 146, a bill to protect families who seek, and healthcare professionals who provide, gender-affirming healthcare for minors from out-of-state criminal and civil law interference.

As noted by the American Medical Association, empirical evidence has demonstrated that trans and non-binary gender identities are normal variations of human identity and expression. For gender diverse individuals, standards of care and accepted medically necessary services that affirm gender or treat gender dysphoria may include mental health counseling, non-medical social transition, gender-affirming hormone therapy, and/or gender-affirming surgeries. Clinical guidelines established by professional medical organizations for the care of minors promote these supportive interventions based on the current evidence and that enable young people to explore and live the gender that they choose. Every major medical association in the U.S. recognizes the medical necessity of transition-related care for improving the physical and mental health of transgender people.

It is the position of the American Academy of Pediatrics that various forms of gender-affirming healthcare can be appropriate for, and gravely crucial for the mental health of, minors with gender dysphoria. Gender-affirming healthcare has been associated with reduced rates of depression and anxiety in youth, according to studies conducted by the National Institutes of Health, leading to a lowered risk of suicide among a group that experiences higher rates of death by suicide, compared to the general population.

Minnesota clinicians providing medically necessary care, and patients receiving such care, must be protected from out-of-state legal repercussions associated with such services. The need for the protections offered in SF 63/HF 146 are particularly important as more states, including border states, seek to restrict access to medically necessary care.

If families make the difficult decision to leave their home state to get the healthcare their children need, physicians and other practitioners in Minnesota must not face the possibility of legal action from another state.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association