



## The Kid Experts™

February 10, 2023  
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Dear Chair Latz and Committee Members:

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, the state's largest pediatric healthcare system, we are writing to express our support for SF63, which protects access to gender affirming health care.

At Children's Minnesota, our vision is to be **every** family's essential partner in raising healthier kids. We see children and teens from all 87 counties and 60 percent of the counties in our surrounding states. We also serve a diverse patient population and 46% of our patients are enrolled in Medicaid. It's because of these patients and families that we opened our Gender Health program four years ago. We understand that transgender and gender-diverse kids and their families needed a medical partner, resource and ally along their journey.

We know that the medical and mental health care we provide to transgender and gender diverse kids is well-supported by scientific research<sup>1</sup> conducted across the globe. Every major medical society in this country – including the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [American Psychological Association](#), [CDC](#) and [Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine](#) – support gender affirming care. Studies show that for young people who identify as transgender, gender-affirming care can decrease emotional distress, and has positive effects on overall well-being while reducing thoughts of suicide.

When transgender and gender diverse kids are seen, heard and believed, they do better. When we support kids to be who they are, we know they can grow up to be happy, healthy, safe and strong. However, too often in our Gender Health clinic, we hear from our patients, the kids and young adults of our community, who experience harassment and discrimination based on their gender identities and expressions. In other states across the country pediatricians and other clinicians are being criminalized for the care they provide while also facing threats and harassment.

This bill is an opportunity to send a message to LGBTQ kids and their families – letting them know that the state of Minnesota is standing up for them by ensuring they will continue to have access to the health care they need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr. Marc Gorelick  
President, Chief Executive Officer  
Children's Minnesota

Dr. Angela Kade Goepferd  
Medical Director, Gender Health Program  
Chief Education Officer  
Children's Minnesota

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<sup>1</sup> The Trevor Project. (2020, January). The Trevor Project Research Brief: Gender Affirming Care for Youth. Retrieved from The Trevor Project: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Gender-Affirming-Care-January-2020.pdf>