

To Committee Chair Senator Latz, Vice Chair Senator Oumou Verbeten, and members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Dick and I am a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. I am writing in support of SF 63. The Trans Refuge Bill is exactly the type of bold and compassionate legislature that our state needs to be a leader in providing access to gender-affirming care. Around the country, Republican-led legislatures are advancing extreme bills that prevent trans minors from accessing care and threaten their families with loss of custody and criminal charges. As Utah's Republican governor Spencer Cox observed while vetoing an anti-trans sports participation bill, "Rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few. I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live." These legislative attacks are cruel and serve no purpose other than to further malign one of the most marginalized social groups in the United States. Minnesota needs to act affirmatively to protect our citizens, and the people who travel here seeking care, from the punitive whims of lawmakers in other states.

In Minnesota, we are good neighbors, and part of being a good neighbor includes keeping the people around us safe. Today, that means passing SF 63 to protect trans folks in need of gender-affirming health care – Minnesotan or non-Minnesotan – from being targeted by subpoenas and extraditions from other states. It means protecting their families from the threat of losing custody of their child as a result of providing them with gender-affirming care, which is essential for ensuring that trans kids have the support networks that they need to grow and thrive. No one should have to fear legal punishment for seeking necessary medical assistance. California and Illinois have recently passed similar trans refuge laws. Let's join them on the right side of history and advance SF 63.

Thank you,

Rachel Dick  
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