

Chair Latz, Vice Chair Oumou Verbeten, and committee members:

I am writing on behalf of TIGERRS, a non-profit that helps transgender, intersex, and gender-expansive people find community in Minnesota. We would like to express our full support for SF0063.

In our programs, TIGERRS creates space for trans, intersex, and gender-expansive kids and teenagers to meet each other, build friendships and gain access to resources for support. In our work, we represent the values of Minnesotan culture by providing our participants with a sense of safety, acceptance, and community.

Families with transgender children are under attack and have already moved to Minnesota from states like Texas and Florida to find safety for their families. We know these families personally, have heard their stories, and heard of the community they have found here in the Twin Cities. This bill would protect this family and others who follow against reprisal from the states they are fleeing. It will provide much-needed security for people who just want to see their children grow and flourish as they are. We see first-hand the harm done by anti-transgender laws in other states and the importance of bills like SF0063. If passed, SF0063 would provide much needed refuge for youth and families who have been ostracized and discriminated against in states like Texas and Florida. When other states reject transgender youth and their parents, Minnesota will welcome them as they are with open arms.

Minnesota is already a refuge for transgender people fleeing discrimination and a leader in the study and provision of transgender healthcare. Transgender people serve in distinguished governmental roles at the state and local levels. We already have several other state laws that protect transgender people. This bill takes those commitment one step further to formalize Minnesota's role as refuge and signal that our state is a safe place for all families to live and raise children.

Committee members, please vote to advance this important and necessary bill.

In community,
The TIGERRS Core Crew