March 6, 2024

Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of Senate File 2209

Chair Klein and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee:

Planned Parenthood North Central States (PPNCS) provides a full range of sexual and reproductive health care to Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota at 25 health centers, serving nearly 100,000 patients in the fiscal year 2023. They are proud to provide gender affirming care – including hormone therapy – at all of their health centers.

Founded in 1992, the Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for the policy and support needed to make PPNCS's care possible. We work with supporters of all parties to defend and increase access to family planning services, fact based, medically accurate sexuality education, and healthcare abortion access. To that end, we're writing today in support of Senate File 2209 and insurance coverage for gender-affirming care.

Gender affirming care is just that – affirming and supportive of each patient's goals. It is also lifesaving. Comprehensive, gender-affirming care, and supportive social and family environments lead to health outcomes for gender diverse teens that are similar to their cisgender peers. With proven critical health outcomes, its crucial insurance providers cover gender affirming care.

We know transgender and gender expansive people share the same fundamental need for quality health care as all Minnesotans, and the promise of access cannot be fulfilled unless all people can afford care. Minnesotans need to be able to make decisions knowing that they are not going to be stuck with out-of-pocket payments they cannot afford. Insurance coverage is essential for real access and health equity.

Now is the time to expand access and reduce barriers to health care. Please support Senate File 2209.

Sincerely,

Tim Stanley
Executive Director