



March 19, 2024

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
2107 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports SF 2209, ensuring insurance coverage of gender-affirming care.

As practicing OB/GYNs, we are deeply committed to the health and well-being of our patients. We have the privilege of providing healthcare to individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those who identify as transgender or non-binary. It has become increasingly evident that access to gender affirming care is a critical component of comprehensive healthcare for this population. As we strive to uphold the principles of inclusivity and equity, it is imperative that our healthcare system evolves to meet the unique needs of every individual.

The provision of gender affirming care, which may include hormone therapy, gender confirmation surgeries, and related medical interventions, is not merely a matter of personal choice; it is a fundamental aspect of addressing the physical and mental health needs of transgender and non-binary individuals. Numerous medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, recognize the importance of affirming gender diverse identities through appropriate medical interventions.

Despite the medical consensus on the necessity of gender affirming care, many individuals face significant barriers in accessing these essential services due to the lack of insurance coverage. SF 2209 represents a crucial step towards rectifying this disparity and ensuring that transgender and non-binary individuals can access the care they need without facing financial obstacles.

Research consistently demonstrates that gender affirming care contributes to improved mental health outcomes, reduced rates of depression and anxiety, and enhanced overall well-being for transgender and non-binary individuals. By supporting this legislation, you are championing not



only the rights of these individuals but also promoting a healthcare system that aligns with the principles of dignity, respect, and equality.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Slagle, MD
MN ACOG Chair