



March 18, 2024

Chair Champion and members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee,

OutFront Minnesota writes in support of SF 3502 (Maye Quade) Nonprofit grant funding provided to support LGBTQ people relocating, and money appropriated. OutFront Minnesota, founded in 1987, is the state's largest LGBTQ+ advocacy organization that has sought to build power within Minnesota's LGBTQ+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services.

In 2023 as states around the country, including our neighbors, advanced bills that sought to limit the rights of LGBTQ+ people and curtail access to critical health care, Minnesota made it clear that we were a place of refuge. Since the passage of Minnesota's trans refuge bill, organizations like ours have received an influx of individuals seeking to relocate to the state of Minnesota. We connect with new arrivals at every event we hold, and anticipate that as anti-LGBTQ+ legislation continues to advance across the country these numbers will continue to grow.

SF 3502 is an opportunity to put investment behind that promise of refuge, and to start making targeted investments that will benefit all Minnesotans regardless of whether they are newly arrived to this state or have lived here for many years. In conversations with community and partner organizations we have identified three primary areas of greatest need amongst LGBTQ+ individuals, both here in the state and those newly arriving, namely - housing, healthcare, and employment. This bill is a step forward in making greatly needed investments across our state's infrastructure.

LGBTQ+ individuals are a part of every community in this state; and this investment will positively impact *all* of our communities - by enhancing opportunities for our state's workforce development, expanding our networks of health care providers, and investing in the work that will help Minnesotans both here and newly arrived gain the tools and connections to make our state home.

Sincerely,
Kat Rohn
Executive Director
OutFront Minnesota