



March 18, 2024

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee

I am writing to you on behalf of Quorum, Minnesota's LGBTQ+ and Allied Chamber of Commerce, as the Executive Director, to express our resolute support for SF3502. We believe that this bill holds the key to advancing the economic opportunities and well-being of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals in our state. Quorum is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and vibrant business environment. We have a vital interest in the success of initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of LGBTQIA2S+ communities, which is why we wholeheartedly endorse SF3502.

Our organization's mission centers on promoting economic growth, diversity, and equal opportunities for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and their allies. We have witnessed firsthand the positive impact of legislative measures, such as the Trans Refuge law in 2023. While we are grateful for this milestone, the existing challenges in resource allocation and capacity to support everyone remain a concern. Since the enactment of the Trans Refuge law, many organizations have navigated these challenges, striving to provide essential services to LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. However, limited resources have hindered the ability to offer comprehensive support. This is why SF3502 is crucial – it presents an opportunity to address these resource gaps and enhance the economic opportunities of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals and communities.

The bill, with its focus on funding wraparound services, directly aligns with our objectives. Access to adequate resources for medical, mental health, and social services is fundamental to the workforce development of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. Moreover, allocating funds for wraparound services can significantly impact the economic well-being of our community, creating pathways to long-term self-sufficiency and reducing barriers to economic opportunity.

Considering the broader impact on workforce development, SF3502 not only addresses immediate needs but also contributes to the integration and economic opportunities for LGBTQIA2S+ individuals seeking refuge in Minnesota. By supporting this bill, the Committee has an opportunity to champion the cause of employment, economic self-sufficiency, and poverty reduction for the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

In conclusion, I urge you and the members of the House Workforce Development Committee to support SF3502. We believe this bill will not only enhance the economic prospects of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals but also reaffirm Minnesota's commitment to fostering an inclusive and thriving community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Waggoner Executive Director

Quorum

Minnesota's LGBTQ+ and Allied Chamber of Commerce