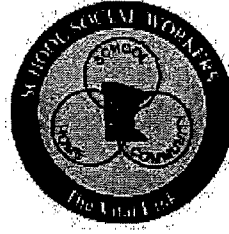




## MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Chair Peggy Bennett  
Education Policy  
February 19, 2025



Chair Bennett and Education Finance Committee Members,

On behalf of the MN School Social Workers Association (MSSWA) and the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN), we are writing about concerns regarding HF12.

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state, representing 2000 social workers, and MSSWA is a professional group serving over 700 members to advance the practice of school social work in MN. Collectively, our organizations offer experience and expertise in children's mental health and wellness in schools.

Social workers value the dignity and worth of each person. Our ethics guide us to treat each client in a compassionate and respectful way that is mindful of individual differences, cultural norms and ethnic diversity. We promote clients' socially responsible self-determination based on their individual values.

Trans kids are playing and participating in sports across our state today. Social workers believe that should continue. Athletics has demonstrated positive impacts on physical and mental health, on educational attainment, and on self-confidence and teamwork skills. Trans girls and women deserve to have the same access to these benefits.

This bill will discourage participation and increase scrutiny of not just trans, but all girls' bodies which we know to be harmful for mental health. Athletic participation should foster tenacity and grit, not undermine confidence. The Minnesota State High School League has permitted trans athletes to participate and compete consistent with their gender identity since 2014. This current policy is consistent with social work values and creates a more inclusive Minnesota.

NASW-MN and the Minnesota School Social Workers Association (MSSWA) oppose HF12.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen E. Goodenough, LGSW  
Executive Director  
NASW-MN

Julie Campanelli, LICSW  
President  
MSSWA

Christy McCoy, LICSW  
Legislative Chair  
MSSWA