



*An Initiative of Minnesota Alliance With Youth*

Dear Representative Cantrell,

Thank you for attending the Minnesota Youth Council Committee hearing on February 25, 2020 and presenting HF 12, regarding the prohibition of conversion therapy with children and vulnerable adults. We appreciate your time put toward listening to youth voices and the feedback we have for this legislation. The MYC passed this bill with 27 votes in the affirmative. The council hopes to continue advocating for HF 12 in the House and Senate.

The MYC appreciated many aspects of the bill and we feel that it would benefit youth and vulnerable adults across the state. Youth representatives appreciated Subdivision 7 of HF 12 as it addresses conversion therapy not only advertised by health professionals but by all entities. It is because of the serious dangers attached to conversion therapy that we support HF 12. We are grateful that through HF 12, Minnesota will no longer be allowed to turn a blind eye to the mental health abuse that walks side-by-side with conversion therapy. Licensed healthcare professionals will, from now on, be held accountable for their unethical actions and treatment plans.

Your bill was well composed, comprehensive and we can truly see how it would positively impact people of all age groups in Minnesota. We do wish that the bill could cover religious and cultural practices to reverse one's sexual orientation and gender identity; however, we understand that it may not be an option at this time, if we expect the bill to cross the finish line and pass. If the opportunity arises in the future for an additional segment on a way to regulate cultural and religious conversion therapy practices, we strongly encourage adding it and would give you our full support on the matter.

Thank you again for taking time to present this bill to the Minnesota Youth Council Committee. We appreciate your work in advocating for and protecting LGBTQ youth. We look forward to continued collaboration, and continuing to support HF 12.

Sincerely,

The Minnesota Youth Council