



Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Health and Human Services
April 8, 2026

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN) and the MN Society for Clinical Social Work (Clinical Society), we are writing in support of SF4706 and SF4707. These critical pieces of legislation ensure accountability for practitioners of "conversion therapy" by establishing a private cause of action for individuals harmed as minors and prohibiting insurance coverage for these discredited practices.

Clinical social workers (LICSWs) make up the largest group of mental health providers in Minnesota. NASW-MN represents nearly 2,000 professional social workers, and the Clinical Society is dedicated to advancing the practice of clinical social work across our state. Collectively, our organizations offer deep expertise in mental health. As a community of mental health professionals, we state definitively that attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity are not only ineffective—they are dangerous. Such practices have no place in ethical mental health care.

At its core, social work is rooted in the dignity and worth of every individual. Conversion therapy sends the damaging message that LGBTQ+ individuals are flawed and must alter their true selves to be accepted. Furthermore, it inaccurately suggests that sexual orientation or gender identity is a mental illness. While recent judicial rulings have complicated direct regulatory bans, they do not absolve practitioners of the harm these methods cause. It is irresponsible and unethical to impose these practices upon developing adolescents or other vulnerable people.

By allowing for civil liability and removing insurance reimbursement, Minnesota can ensure that those who inflict this harm are held financially and legally accountable. It is time to provide survivors with a path toward justice and ensure that no insurance dollars fund these unethical practices.

We urge you to support SF4706 and SF4707. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen E. Goodenough".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Stoltz, LICSW, LADC".

James Stoltz, LICSW, LADC
Legislative Committee
Clinical Society

Cc: Senator Scott Dibble