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### **PHOTO RELEASE**



Pictured: Dr. Margaret Charmoli testifying on behalf of the Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA)

*Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Psychological Association*

### **Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA) Testifies in Support of Bill, HF12, Restricting the use of Conversion Therapy**

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn- On February 13, 2019, Dr. Margaret Charmoli testified on behalf of the Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA), to the Minnesota House Health and Human Services Policy Committee in support of a bill, HF12, that would restrict the use of conversion therapy. Dr. Charmoli is a past President of MPA, is in the private practice of psychology and is an educator on treatment related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Dr. Charmoli testified that conversion

therapy has no scientific basis for its efficacy and cited studies that have shown that conversion therapy can be damaging, especially to minors and vulnerable adults. Conversion therapy has been linked to episodes of depression, anxiety, suicidal ideation, and completed suicide. Dr. Charmoli was a member of the American Psychological Association Council of Representatives which reviewed a task force report on the available scientific research on conversion therapy and developed policy statements against the use of sexual orientation change efforts. The group reviewed over 80 studies and found no evidence for conversion therapy and found that it often resulted in negative consequences. Dr. Charmoli and MPA do support affirmative therapies that assist individuals questioning their sexual orientation to freely explore their identity in a safe and supportive atmosphere. For more information about MPA's position on sexual orientation change efforts, please contact our office at 952-928-4657 or visit [www.mnpsych.org](http://www.mnpsych.org) to view our official stance on the subject.

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