



January 11, 2023

The Honorable Members of the House
Committee on Health Finance and Policy
State Office Building

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for frontline hospital nurses around the state who strongly support evidence-based health policy that enables patients to access healthcare, including reproductive health care. We urge you to support HF 91, the Repealing Reproductive Injustice Act, to remove barriers to healthcare access.

We know that most Minnesotans support access to full reproductive healthcare options and for individuals to have autonomy over medical decisions affecting them. MNA's own stance reflects support of this position as well. Unfortunately, there are many laws in place that prevent full access to healthcare.

Limiting the types of healthcare facilities that can offer abortion services and requiring additional hoops, such as the mandatory 24-hour waiting period before a patient is able to receive abortion care, are unnecessary barriers. These barriers can have lasting negative impacts on individuals' health and emotional wellbeing and increase the financial burden on patients, especially those who live in Greater Minnesota. This bill would remove those barriers and provide a more fair and equitable healthcare system that is reflective of accurate health research, educated providers, and relevant information.

Other parts of this bill, such as eliminating the existing requirement that clinic staff provide printed materials on information about "developmental characteristics of babies and unborn children" and removing statutory language that differentiates pregnancies caused by sexual misconduct vs. other pregnancies are also unnecessary barriers that can further traumatize patients who are making a difficult healthcare decision.

Nurses see the results of these policies regularly in their own profession. The barriers listed above often result in more serious healthcare issues which burden our already understaffed emergency departments and hospitals. As Minnesota begins to see an increase in patients coming from bordering states to receive reproductive care, it will even further exacerbate this issue.

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AFL-CIO

Now is the time for Minnesota to remove these harmful policies and ensure that we continue to be a leader in providing equitable healthcare, access and support for those in need. For the health, safety, and economic well-being of patients and nurses across the state, we urge you to support HF 91, the Repealing Reproductive Injustice Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Shannon M. Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association