

March 6, 2023

Sen. Erin Murphy  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3211  
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Sen. Murphy,

As the leadership of the Minnesota Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), we strongly support the Protect Access to Contraception (PAC) Act, SF287. We are delighted to support this state-based affirmation of the rights of women to freely access contraception and thus choose if and when to get pregnant.

Nearly all U.S. women who have ever had sexual intercourse have used some form of contraception at some point during their reproductive lives. However, multiple barriers prevent women from obtaining contraceptives or using them effectively and consistently. All women should have unhindered and affordable access to all U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved contraceptives.

Access to contraception supports healthy women and healthy babies. Women who space pregnancies have improved health status, increased work force engagement, and economic self-sufficiency. Infants born as a result of unintended pregnancies are at greater risk of preterm birth, low birth weight, and poor mental and physical functioning in early childhood. There are other non-contraceptive benefits and uses of hormonal birth control include treatment for endometriosis, polycystic ovary syndrome decreased menstrual pain and bleeding and reduced gynecologic cancers.

The benefits of contraception, named as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, are widely recognized and include improved health and well-being, reduced global maternal mortality, health benefits of pregnancy spacing for maternal and child health, female engagement in the work force, and economic self-sufficiency for women

Thank you for authoring SF287. If you have questions for ACOG, please reach out to our consultant, Tara Erickson, at [Tara@TGEConsultingmn.com](mailto:Tara@TGEConsultingmn.com).

Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, MN ACOG