

To Committee Chair Senator Erin Murphy, Vice Chair Senator Nicole Mitchell, and members of the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit public testimony in support of the Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act. I would like my testimony to be entered into the public record.

Like many Minnesotans, I have been heartened to see that the DFL is taking their campaign promise to protect reproductive rights and access seriously and has made the PRO Act a top priority for the legislative session. Subdivision 5 of the PRO Act is an essential piece of this legislation and will ensure that Minnesotans' rights are protected across our state. The need for this subdivision has already been made clear; the town of Prinsburg, Minn. proposed an initiative this past November that would have allowed residents to sue medical providers that assist in abortions. Although the Attorney General's office was able to block this proposal by warning the Prinsburg City Council that it was clearly unconstitutional, MPR News reported that the Republican lawmaker Tim Miller who wrote the initiative said that "We are definitely moving forward" with trying to enact it in other rural communities. The danger has not stopped, and it will not stop unless our laws make it explicitly clear that restrictions on reproductive freedom will not be allowed in any part of our state.

Thank you for your time. Please support and advance the PRO Act.

Sincerely,
Rachel Dick