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Testimony: SF 1 PRO ACT

Chair Murphy and Members of the Senate State and Local Gov Cmte,

My name is Munira Mohamed and I'm on the policy team for the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU of MN is a long standing organization devoted to preserving the individual rights and liberties enshrined in our constitution and laws.

We are here to speak in support of the Pro ACT, regarding reproductive health rights. This is an urgent civil liberties issue dealing with bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

SF1 preempts local governments from interfering with an individual's fundamental right to reproductive health care choices. This is allowed because local governments derive all their powers from state law. Even home rule charters have to be in accordance with state law.

The overturn of Roe v Wade has caused a unique fracturing in policy where an individual's rights now depend on the state you live in. Having 50 states set different policies around fundamental rights is not an ideal situation but it's the one we find ourselves in now.

Subd 5 of the Pro Act will ensure uniformity and equal access across the state to reproductive healthcare. It should be noted that other states like Delaware and Colorado have also recently pushed back against local governments restricting abortion rights due to state law taking precedence.

Seeing as local governments are subject to state law and we are in a situation where Federal protections have been removed—uniformity and consistency should be the goals.

The ACLU of MN supports SF 1 so that every Minnesotan, regardless of zip code, can meaningfully access reproductive healthcare and exercise their fundamental rights.

Thank you the the Chair and Members of the Committee