

Testimony – SF 1/HF1

Thurs. 1-12-2023

1. Thank you. I'm Rebecca Messall, speaking only for myself as a voter in Maple Grove and as a civil rights attorney. I ask the committee to reject this bill.
2. This bill's proponent, unwittingly, acknowledged that this bill is designed to **add** to the state constitution's rights of religion and conscience. She said, quote: "We're just adding to those," close quote. In fact, these new rights extend to all **children** as well as **men**, because the bill uses the non-specific word, "individual," not women. A bill to amend the state Constitution requires that voters ratify it at a general election. Art. IX, Sec. 1-3.
3. This bill is extreme. It conflicts with a federal law against partial birth abortion. It prohibits schools from protecting students from access by aggressive groups seeking to market something as undefined such as "pre-conception care," and things that can cause irreparable physical injury through late-term abortion, abortifacients and the sterilization that goes along with strong drugs for transgendering.
4. I am concerned that a forced urgency to hear this bill has prevented voters from considering the scope of power that this bill is about to strip from them at the school district, city and county levels. They have the right to consider the ramifications. School **officials** might have missed the section restricting local lawmaking because that section was printed by itself on the second page and because news coverage focused on abortion.
5. HF 1 also appears to violate the state constitution by the way it adds to the decision of *Doe v. Gomez* in which the state supreme court interpreted the state constitution. Only the **judicial** branch, not the legislature, can **interpret** the constitution and pronounce certain rights as **fundamental** rights. Therefore, the bill violates the state constitution, Art. III, Sec. 1, which separates the power between the judicial and legislative branches. Please reject this bill. Thank you.