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Best for Children™

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Testimony in Opposition to MN Senate File 1

January 9, 2023

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The American College of Pediatricians (ACPed) is a national organization of pediatricians and other health care professionals dedicated to the health and well-being of children. In addition to our commitment as health care professionals to “first, do no harm,” the American College of Pediatricians has also committed ourselves specifically to “what’s best for children.” The proposed legislation would threaten both of these deeply held commitments. For these reasons, the American College of Pediatricians strongly opposes MN S.F.1.

The ACPed’s commitment to “what’s best for children,” extends to the earliest time of the child’s development, which biologically means at fertilization, specifically at sperm-egg fusion. It is a medical fact—not an opinion—that a unique human being is formed at this moment as explained in the included ACPeds position paper on “When Human Life Begins.”¹ We are all on a developmental journey from conception to death and are deserving of human dignity and human rights at each stage in this journey.

This bill also threatens Physicians rights of Healthcare Conscience. Compelling Minnesota health professionals to subordinate their moral or religious objections to the dictates of any authority such that they comply with fluctuating social norms and patient demands threatens the integrity of medical professionals and also endangers the lives of patients.²

The American College of Pediatricians strongly urges you to oppose SF1.

Sincerely,

Jill M. Simons, MD, FCP
Executive Director, American College of Pediatricians.

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¹ <https://acpeds.org/position-statements/when-human-life-begins>

² [https://acpeds.org/position-statements/freedom-of-conscience-in-health care](https://acpeds.org/position-statements/freedom-of-conscience-in-health-care)