



9 January 2023

Re: Opposition to SF1, Protect Reproductive Options Act

Dear Members of the MN Senate Health Policy Committee,

We vehemently oppose this bill for several reasons:

1. In SF1, Subd. 3.a, and b, “Every individual” terminology makes no distinction between adults and minors. It is well accepted that minors have immature judgement, and legal precedence abounds for the need of parental/guardian consent to complete informed consent for minors undergoing medical procedures, particularly one carrying the gravity of intentionally killing an innocent human being (abortion).
2. Subd. 3.a, and b cites fundamental rights for “autonomous decisions” to obtain an abortion, or to use or refuse reproductive health care.
No human being has the right to exercise their autonomous decision to use health care, if in doing so it is at the expense of another human being’s death.
If a woman’s physical/emotional/financial/psychological health is burdened/compromised/harmed by an abusive spouse, can she make an “autonomous decision” of killing her spouse to improve her physical/emotional/financial/psychological health?
Of course not. Her health care rights do not outweigh her abusive spouse’s right to life.
Similarly, a mother’s reproductive health care rights do not supersede the right to life of the separate human being living in her womb.
An embryo or fetus or preborn baby—all terms used to describe a genetically distinct, separate human being from the mother human being-- is not a “lower life form”.
Its size (smaller), development (younger), dependence (greater), mobility (limited) are all morally irrelevant in deciding whether the mother can terminate its life. The same parameters apply to a 10-minute-old infant.
Don’t claim you cannot legislate morality. Laws prohibiting infanticide (killing the 10-minute or 10-month-old baby) exist because our society recognizes the immorality of killing a baby. Abortion effects the same ending of the baby’s life. This proposed legislation fails to recognize the right to life of the separate human being living in a womb.
3. Not that we agree with our Minnesota State Constitution’s allowing a woman’s right to abortion, up to the date of the baby’s viability outside the womb (week 20), but it is our reality.

SF1 however goes to the extreme, by leaving out any reference to the timing of abortion and the weeks of gestation of the unborn baby, thereby allowing abortion up to full term. This bill basically allows the mother legal cover to kill the baby as long as it is in the womb. Yet once it's out of the womb, it's right to life is protected by our laws, whether that is 21 weeks, 33 weeks, or 40 weeks (full term). But regardless of time (# of weeks) or place (in or out of the womb), the baby is still a human being, and has a right to life. Our laws allow the mother to abort her 22-week-old in-womb baby. However, our laws charge her with murder if she smothered her 22-week-old baby's airway with a pillow in its neonatal ICU crib. Can't you see the ethical consequences of your embrace of abortion? Is there any "best practice" or "evidence based" medicine that abortion provides for the baby? The most dangerous place for a baby, with this proposed legislation, is in its mother's womb.

4. The "individual" making "autonomous decisions" cited in Subd. 3., could reasonably assume their autonomy supersedes the conscience rights of healthcare providers who oppose abortion and other fertility-related procedures as morally unacceptable. Therefore, SF1 threatens conscience protection rights of healthcare providers.

It should be noted that none of the above points make references to belief in God or religion. It doesn't need to.

Our intense opposition to this SF1 proposed legislation relies on the same logic on which our whole legal system rests.

We represent all of the Catholic Medical Association Members in the State of Minnesota.



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