



January 10, 2022

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: OPPOSE SF1

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council submitted the below testimony for the 1/5/2023 PRO Act hearing in the House of Representatives' Health Finance and Policy Committee.

Based on the continued discussion of the PRO Act in the Minnesota legislature, Minnesota Family Council reaffirms its opposition of the bill.

The PRO Act would codify the right to abortion up until the moment of birth, with no respect to the development of the child or the health and safety of the pregnant mother. In addition, the bill's language grants this right to minors. With the passage of this bill, minors will not be required to have any consent from their parents or guardian, allowing sex predators and traffickers to cover up crimes more easily. The PRO Act goes beyond abortion in multiple ways, not the least of which is by legalizing the rights of children to be sterilized without parental or guardian input.

Again, we ask you to vote against this bill.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Delahunt
Acting Director of Public Policy



MINNESOTA
FAMILY COUNCIL

January 5, 2023

Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee
House of Representatives
State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: OPPOSE HF 1

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents tens of thousands of families across the state, and on their behalf, we **urge you to oppose HF 1.**

HF 1 codifies access to abortion and sterilization as a right for all individuals in Minnesota. The extremity of this bill warrants a much longer review than outlined in this testimony, but three points will be addressed: 1) HF 1 codifies the right to abortion throughout an entire pregnancy, with no respect to the development of unborn children or the health and safety of pregnant women undergoing surgical procedures and taking chemical drugs; 2) this bill codifies the right of access to abortion for all “individuals” in Minnesota, with no delineation between minor girls and adult women; 3) HF 1 will legalize the autonomous right of all boys and girls to be sterilized without parental or guardian input.

In July 2022, a Ramsey County District Court Judge held that the legal health and safety protections for women seeking abortions in Minnesota were unconstitutional. As this bill codifies abortion at any time during pregnancy as a fundamental right, without any regulation or oversight of the medical professional performing the abortion or on the pharmaceutical company selling abortifacients, what kind of regulation and oversight will be present for the abortion industry? What other medical procedures in Minnesota are essentially unregulated? HF 1 disregards the development of unborn children in the womb, asserting unborn persons have no human rights based on development and location.

In addition, the bill grants the fundamental right of abortion to young girls, stating, “Every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual’s own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care.”¹ Minors will have access to abortion without any parental or guardian consent. The Supreme Court stated in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), “The State commonly protects its youth from adverse governmental action and from their own immaturity by requiring parental consent to or involvement in important decisions by minors.”² Local attorneys, Renee Carlson of True North Legal and Professor Teresa Collett of the University of St. Thomas, provide further explanation of this in their briefing of amicus curiae to the Supreme Court submitted in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, explaining, “[Young girls] are more vulnerable to manipulation by those having an

¹HF 1 (2023).

²*Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925).

³*Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. Brief amicus curiae of Advancing American Freedom, Inc. et al. 4 Jan 2022. *SCOTUSblog*, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/185369/20210729175008920_Br.Carlson.pdf. PDF download.

interest in making the abortion decision for them...Ironically, the Court's abortion exception to the general rule that parental consent is required for major life decisions by children has made such manipulation far easier, while sometimes depriving the girls and the courts of crucial information."³ By granting abortion access as a right to minors while depriving the right of informed consent, the Minnesota legislature exposes children to manipulation by sex traffickers and the abortion industry.

Finally, this bill grants all boys and girls in Minnesota the right to be sterilized without input from their parents or a guardian. Children do not have the capacity to consent to sterilization without input from the adults charged with their care. This bill exposes children to potential predatory practices from medical industries, sex predators, and sex trafficking.

In codifying abortion and sterilization access to all Minnesotans, this bill simultaneously disregards common sense health and safety standards for pregnant women seeking an abortion while eliminating the rights of unborn children based on their location. The bill also makes children vulnerable to life-changing reproductive decisions without informed consent.

This bill clearly benefits the abortion and other medical industries at the expense of Minnesotans' healthcare.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Delahunt
Acting Director of Public Policy