



January 4, 2023

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 physician and physician-in-training members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I am writing to strongly support SF 1, the “Protect Reproductive Options Act” (PRO Act).

Healthcare decisions are deeply personal and must be made by the patient, based on what is best for that patient, with the input and advice of their healthcare professional. This is especially true for reproductive health. The PRO Act respects patient autonomy and ensures that patients have access to all medically appropriate options.

The MMA appreciates that abortion is a sensitive topic. However, it is an essential component of reproductive healthcare. It is a medical procedure that must be available, if the patient chooses, and should be performed by a duly licensed healthcare professional in conformance with the standard of good medical practice.

While the PRO Act is focused on reproductive healthcare, the principles included in the bill apply to all healthcare services—every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about their own healthcare. This applies to whether to initiate a medication, what type of treatment to have to treat a complex condition, or whether to have a potentially challenging surgery. Those principles must also apply to decisions related to reproductive healthcare.

Thank you for recognizing the essential role of reproductive health services in overall health as reflected in the PRO Act. The MMA asks for your support of SF 1.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association