

Testimony of Maria K. Poirier M.D on S.F. 1, The PRO Act

January 10, 2023

Sen. Melissa H. Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to The PRO Act.

My name is Maria Poirier, and I am a practicing internal medicine physician from Rochester with 30 years of clinical experience. During the course of my career, I have never met a woman who didn't regret her abortion or the situation that led her to obtain an abortion. Why is that? It's because all pregnant women know, and every physician understands that a positive pregnancy test means that a living human being is inside the mother's body. Terminating a pregnancy by abortion is a violent medical or surgical procedure that directly and intentionally kills an innocent prenatal boy or girl. While supporters of S.F. 1 may deny the humanity and dignity of our prenatal brothers and sisters, I must speak out in defense of the roughly 10,000 innocent human beings who are aborted every year in Minnesota.

Article 1 of the Minnesota Constitution states that *government is instituted for the security, benefit, and protection of the people*. Our prenatal brothers and sisters are members of the human race and are alive. They have an equal right to be protected from violence under the law. Respect for bodily autonomy and responsible parenthood are important values that must be upheld in law and in ethical medical practice. However, reproductive autonomy and privacy does not give one the right to kill an innocent human being.

I urge you to choose equality and justice for all by rejecting S.F. 1

Maria K. Poirier, M.D., F.A.C.P.

Rochester, MN