

Date: January 4, 2023

To: Anna Burke, Committee Administrator
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From: Michael Valley, MD
Minneapolis, MN

Subject: Written testimony for Senate Health and Human Services, scheduled for January 10 at 8:30am.

I am an Obstetrician Gynecologist who cares for women and their preborn children.

I am writing in opposition to House Bill HF 1 Reproductive Health Rights.

Subd. 3. Reproductive freedom. (a) Every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual's own reproductive health...

(b) Every individual who becomes pregnant has a fundamental right to continue the 1.18 pregnancy and give birth, or obtain an abortion, and to make autonomous decisions about 1.19 how to exercise this fundamental right.

Every individual includes all potentially reproductive females. Girls may begin menstruation as early as 8 years of age, typically by age 12. This bill would allow a pregnant minor to make her own decisions without any input.

Decision making processes for minors are immature, and may benefit from parental involvement. Parents can provide valuable assistance for decision-making, especially in the case of abortion where the high-stakes decision involves another life and long-term risks for the woman who has an abortion. The American College of Pediatricians describes the extensive structural changes that occur in the brain starting at age 12 and continuing through young adulthood. (The Teenage Brain: Under Construction). The adolescent amygdala (emotional center) is poorly connected to the frontal lobe, causing them to put greater emphasis on the reaction of friends. A minor woman can benefit from parental involvement, for example, by helping the adolescent to consider more than her emotions and peer reaction or pressure, when discussing abortion.

Just because a minor in Minnesota is allowed to consent for other pregnancy related procedures such as a D&C for an incomplete miscarriage, does not mean she has the capacity to have complete informed consent for an abortion. Abortion should not be treated differently than any other medical procedure. Such as getting parental consent to undergo an immunization or other medical procedure. The capacity for a minor to become pregnant is unassociated with having the wisdom to make a mature judgement vis a vis abortion. Parents may be required to provide relevant family history that may impact the risks of an abortion - such as a hereditary bleeding disorder. Parental guidance assures a more complete understanding of the procedure and risks, short and long term. And assures that authorities and parents have the opportunity to be aware of any illegal or threatening, coercive relationships.

HF 1 would allow a 10-year-old to walk into an abortionist's office and have a late term abortion of a viable preborn human, making this decision autonomously. This should alarm anyone who cares about children.

HF 1 should be amended so that it only pertains to adults, 18 years of age or older. "Individual" should be defined as a person 18 years of age or older.

There are two human lives with every pregnancy, the preborn human and the women. This bill would allow for killing of the preborn human anytime during pregnancy. The bill does not provide protection for any preborn human regardless of age of the preborn human. The bill does not provide any protection to the preborn human anytime during her or his life. HF 1 allows for the killing of viable pre born humans – a human that could live outside of the uterus.

HF 1 allows for the inhumane procedure of second trimester dismemberment abortion. In dismemberment abortion a second trimester preborn human is extracted from the uterus, dismembering the preborn human limb by limb killing the preborn humane barbarically.

In late term abortion the preborn humane is extracted alive manually from the uterus, feet first and head last. The abortionist then perforates the back of the head at the base of the skull to kill the preborn human, suctioning the contents of the skull out of the head.

HF 1 should be amended to exclude second trimester dismemberment abortions and late term abortions.