January 18, 2023

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 in strong support of SF70.

Abortion is an essential component of reproductive healthcare. It is a medical procedure that must be accessible to those who choose it. All healthcare decisions, including whether or not to have an abortion, are deeply personal and should be made between a patient and their healthcare professional. Access to safe healthcare options, such as abortion, should be not be obstructed.

The MMA specifically supports repealing policies designed to deny or restrict access to safe abortion listed in SF70, including:

1. Statutory definitions of informed consent that impose criminal penalties on physicians who perform induced abortions without first disclosing anesthetic or analgesic options to alleviate pain of the fetus, such as the definition currently imposed in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 145.4242;
2. Informed consent waiting periods for abortions, such as those currently imposed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 145.4242;
3. Data reporting requirements for abortions, such as those currently imposed by Minnesota Statutes Chapters 145.4131-145.4135;
4. Statutory definitions of "family planning" which preclude organizations that provide abortion counseling, referrals, and procedures from applying to family planning grants, such as the definition currently imposed in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 145.925;
5. State-based laws that restrict access to abortion by minors through mandatory parental notification such as those currently imposed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 144.343, Sub. 2.

The MMA appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue and urges members to support SF70.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association