



February 6, 2023

Senator Kelly Morrison
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3205
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Expansion of Family Planning Funding Bill SF668

Senator Morrison,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed increase in funding to support the Family Planning Grant SF668. myHealth for Teens & Young Adults (formerly West Suburban Teen Clinic) has been providing reproductive health care, general medical care, and mental health counseling for young people ages 12-26 for more than 50 years. In addition to these clinic services, we also provide educational outreach to more than 15,000 youth, adults working with youth, parents, and community partners each year and provide nurse home visiting through our Becoming Program for pregnant and parenting clients. myHealth has long been a recipient of the FPSP funding and without it, we would not be able to provide services for free to those at greatest risk for unplanned pregnancies. In fact, without this funding, we would shut our doors.

myHealth is the only reproductive health clinic serving nearly 1,200 miles in southwest Hennepin, Scott, and Carver counties. The funding myHealth receives from the FPSP grant has not kept pace with the current costs of providing care to young people. What was once nearly 35% of the myHealth's annual operating revenue, is now down to 26%. This combined with the reduction in eligibility for Minnesota Family Planning Insurance (MFPP) has dramatically impacted our ability to provide care to a vulnerable population. In fact, myHealth had to close its Chaska satellite clinic location due to the increase in costs. To best serve the individuals who cannot get to our Hopkins clinic, we have a mostly unfunded traveling nurse program in place to see clients in the community, at their homes, or in their places of work.

With access to additional Family Planning grant dollars, myHealth would seek operating funds to re-open the Chaska satellite clinic and offset the costs of our traveling nurse program. In addition, we would seek funding to support our Becoming home visiting program for pregnant and parenting teens. Both programs aim to address the health disparities specific to teen and young mothers. myHealth has seen a steady decline in unplanned positive pregnancies. We attribute this to the fact that young people know myHealth is a safe place to access honest information, provided in a judgement-free environment, where they can have their needs met for low or no-cost.

myHealth feels strongly that state funding should match the current cost of providing care and supports the proposed increase to Family Planning under Bill SF668.

Sincerely,

Gerilyn W. Hausback

Gerilyn Hausback

Executive Director, myHealth for Teens & Young Adults

Treasurer, RHA