



**Testimony of Tammi Kromenaker
Director of Red River Women's Clinic
In Support of the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act
March 14th, 2023**

My name is Tammi Kromenaker, I use she/her pronouns, and I am the Clinic Director of Red River Women's Clinic in Moorhead, MN. I regret I cannot be present in person to deliver this testimony. I was born, raised, attended high school and college in Minnesota. Chair Wiklund, members of the Health and Human Services Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today.

I strongly urge you to support the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act.

Red River Women's Clinic was the only abortion provider in the state of North Dakota for over 20 years. After the fall of Roe v Wade in June of 2022, we worked diligently to identify, locate, and purchase property just across the Red River in Moorhead, Minnesota due to the looming trigger ban in North Dakota. Since, August of 2022, we have been providing abortion care in our new Moorhead location.

We provide safe, high-quality reproductive health care, including abortion services, to patients from North Dakota, South Dakota, and northwestern Minnesota. We are members in good standing of the National Abortion Federation and maintain the highest quality standards for our practice.

We undertook the difficult and arduous step of relocating to Minnesota in order to preserve abortion access to pregnant people in our region. We know firsthand the barriers and obstacles that many pregnant people face when they make the decision to terminate a pregnancy.

Since the fall of Roe v Wade, we routinely hear from patients from banned states that they fear facing criminal prosecution if they leave their banned state to come to Minnesota for abortion care. These are heartbreaking statements to hear. Abortion is healthcare and a patient should not be faced with the fear of being a criminal to access this very necessary human right.

Abortion is already banned in South Dakota, and it is only a matter of time before the North Dakota trigger ban goes into effect or the Legislature finalizes their endgame of making it impossible to provide abortion care in that state.

I urge you to support this bill. Minnesota has been a leader and can cement their commitment to individuals' fundamental rights and reduce the fear of patients facing criminal prosecution by passing the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide this testimony.