



**All* Above All and National Institute for Reproductive Health
Testimony regarding Senate Health and Human Services Committee Budget
March 31, 2023**

As organizations working to ensure abortion is affordable, available, and supported for everyone who needs it, we respectfully submit this testimony to urge you to allocate funding to abortion care and infrastructure in your Health and Human Services budget and ensure that Minnesota is able to remain an oasis of abortion access in your region.

All* Above All is a campaign of more than 150 organizations working towards abortion justice. We were founded in 2013 to restore and sustain public insurance coverage of abortion for people of color working to make ends meet. The National Institute for Reproductive Health is an advocacy organization that fights for just and equitable access to reproductive health care in states and cities nationwide.

Together we have worked with advocates, health care providers, state agencies, and elected officials across the country to ensure no one is denied care just because they are struggling to get by. Since the Supreme Court's devastating decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that struck down decades of precedent establishing abortion as a constitutional right, state leaders in California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Oregon have all used their budgetary powers to protect and strengthen the abortion care infrastructure in their state. Municipal leaders in at least 16 localities, in states that have both restricted and protected access to abortion, have done the same — including Hennepin County and Minneapolis, MN. They acted because they know that as anti-abortion extremists continue to push care further out of reach, state and local leaders can strengthen abortion access by providing funding for abortion care.



Minnesota's long unchanged Medical Assistance reimbursement rates are widely out of step with the rates in other states. For example, the reimbursement rates that Minnesota Medical Assistance offers are 114 percent lower than the rates offered in Illinois and are insufficient to address the full spectrum of abortion care. Minnesota abortion providers report that the current reimbursement rates put them at a near 50 percent deficit, inhibit their ability to offer care to people who are most marginalized, and put them at risk of closing. Any abortion clinic closures in Minnesota would be a disaster for access in the state and the wider region, since data shows that, as of 2017, 97% of Minnesota counties had no clinics that provide abortions, and 61% of Minnesota women lived in those counties.¹ Further, since 2012, the overall number of brick and mortar independent clinics like Whole Woman's Health has decreased by 35% nationally.²

As other states have taken bold action for abortion justice in recent months, **we respectfully urge you to join them by allocating funding to abortion care and infrastructure in the Health and Human Services budget** to ensure no one is denied care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Winnie Ye
Director of State Strategies
All* Above All
winnie@allaboveall.org

Jenny Dodson Mistry
Vice President of Programs and Partnerships
National Institute for Reproductive Health
jmistry@nirhealth.org

¹ Guttmacher Institute, State Facts About Abortion: Minnesota, June 2022. Available at <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-minnesota>.

² Abortion Care Network, Communities Need Clinics: The New Landscape of Independent Abortion Clinics in the United States, 2022. Available at <https://abortioncarenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/communities-need-clinics-2022.pdf>.