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Senator Melissa Wiklund
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 31st, 2023

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Committee:

Gender Justice is the organizational home of UnRestrict Minnesota, an expansive, diverse, and inclusive coalition for reproductive rights, health, and justice. UnRestrict Minnesota is a multi-racial coalition of more than 30 health care clinics, abortion funds, practical support groups, LGBTQ advocacy groups, faith communities, organizers, lawyers, doulas, and many more.

Our coalition represents the majority of Minnesotans. Across the state, Minnesotans have made their support for abortion rights abundantly clear — including by sending to the legislature our state's first pro-reproductive-freedom majority ever.

We are writing in support of the Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill (SF 2995). Reproductive rights are meaningless without access. Abortion services are reimbursed at extremely low rates. Thus, we are grateful for including an increase to reimbursement rates for abortion and family planning services. However, we urge you to consider a 50%, rather than 10% increase. Many independent clinics see a disproportionate share of Medicaid patients and are only able to make ends meet through grants and fundraising. This is all the more unsustainable and urgent due to the 40% increase in second trimester abortions due to restrictive laws that are increasing patient load overall in Minnesota, and the threat of nationwide changes to medication abortion due to a pending Texas court case.

We thank you for including these items, along with the myriad investments this bill makes in health, well-being, and equity for all Minnesotans. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Peterson
Executive Director, Gender Justice