

Dear Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee,

3/30/23

My name is Karin Miller. I write to you as a concerned parent from Dakota County. I passionately care not only about my own children, but also about the future generations of Minnesotan children who could be hurt by the School Based Health Centers and the Family Planning Grants that SF 2995 supports.

I assure you that I am not alone in expressing these concerns. If time allowed for more parents across Minnesota to be aware of the changes this bill creates regarding the sexual health care available to minors and the challenges it presents to parents' awareness and consent in their medical care, this hearing room would be overflowing.

The first reason I am writing in opposition to SF 2995 is because it seeks to establish **School Based Health Centers** in Lines 103.24—105.25. This will form an unholy alliance between the MDH and the MDE – conflagrating the education of children's minds with the medical treatment of their bodies – in a way that further drives a wedge of government bureaucracy between parents and children.

Schools are supposed to EDUCATE our children – PERIOD! Schools are supposed to educate our children's minds – not medically treat their bodies! Especially NOT without parental presence, awareness, consent, and support! Keep medical care OUT of public schools. It does not belong there. For the sake of our children who are falling behind, only ACADEMIC initiatives should be prioritized and funded in our schools.

Secondly, I strongly oppose the **Family Planning Grant** portion of SF 2995 on lines 105.26—109.26. I oppose it because it will include minors and all “persons of reproductive age.” I oppose it because it will include abortion, which is the antithesis of reproductive health, and is the intentionally killing of human offspring.

I also oppose it because this section will strike through, delete and eliminate:

1. Parental Notification -- if their child is advised on abortion or sterilization. -- lines 107.32-108.3.
2. Individual Employee Rights to refuse to perform family planning services that are contrary to their personal beliefs without fear of discrimination or dismissal – lines 108.17-108.22.
3. Informed Consent – Grant providers will not be required to provide information on health hazards, risks, discomforts, etc. which a procedure might involve – or to provide alternative methods. Lines 108.30 – 109.13.
4. Penalties for COERSION in the case of abortion or sterilization! Lines 109.9-109.13.

The changes this bill would make through the establishment of School Based Health Centers and these revised Family Planning Grants would only create a direct threat to the health and well-being of children, further sever the parent-child relationship, and divert the needed focus on academics in our schools.

Let's not play politics with the lives of the children in Minnesota and give families one more reason to leave our state. Please remove the School Based Health Care and Family Planning Grants from this Health Omnibus Bill before passing it onward.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Karin Miller