



WHOLE WOMAN'S HEALTH OF MINNESOTA

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund:

On behalf of [Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota](https://www.wholewomanshealth.com), we urge you to support a 50% increase in the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate for abortion services in your Health budget.

Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota (WWH of MN) is a non-profit organization committed to providing holistic reproductive care for our patients, including abortion care, and to eradicate abortion stigma. We believe every person deserves the compassion, respect, and dignity of being able to safely and legally end a pregnancy.

As independent abortion providers and advocates, we were thrilled to support the passage of the Pro Act in January and we continue to work towards enacting the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act and the Reproductive Freedom Codification Act. However, the most important way the legislature can make an impact on abortion care access is by raising the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate for abortion to ensure abortion providers can sustainably offer quality and affordable care to Minnesotans.

Medical Assistance is a critical program that ensures Minnesotans working to make ends meet have insurance coverage to lead healthy and productive lives and that no one is denied abortion coverage because of how much they earn. However, for the twelve years that Whole Woman's Health (WWH) has provided high quality, stigma-free abortion care at our clinic and via telemedicine, the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate has never increased and is nowhere near what it costs to provide the care. While a core part of our mission at WWH is to see any patient who needs our help, regardless of their ability to pay, the low and unchanged Medical Assistance rate means that we operate at a near 50% loss when serving our patients. Raising the reimbursement rate by 50% would help to close that gap and meaningfully contribute to financial stability for the small number of abortion clinics in Minnesota who are now serving an even larger population of people from across the region. Without fair reimbursement rates, trusted abortion providers in Minnesota are unable to sustainably operate and may be forced to close their doors. When we have fewer providers in our state, Minnesotans seeking abortion care will face longer wait times, have to drive longer distances, and see providers who are not in their community, creating insurmountable financial and logistical barriers.

Fair reimbursement rates are an important part of ensuring abortion is affordable, available, and supported for every Minnesotan.

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To ensure Minnesota is a beacon of reproductive freedom for Minnesotans and our friends from surrounding states, we respectfully urge you to increase the Medical Assistance rate for abortion care by 50% in your forthcoming budgets. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Karmann Peters, Minnesota Manager of Community Partnerships, at Karmann@shiftstigma.org.

Sincerely,

Whole Woman's Health of Minnesota

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