

January 18, 2022

Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents tens of thousands of families across the state, and on their behalf, we **urge you to oppose SF 1**. The extremity of this bill warrants a much longer review than outlined in this testimony, but three points will be addressed: 1) SF 1 codifies the right to abortion throughout an entire pregnancy, with no respect to the development of unborn children or the health and safety of pregnant women undergoing surgical procedures and taking chemical drugs; 2) this bill codifies the right of access to abortion for all “individuals” in Minnesota, with no delineation between minor girls and adult women; 3) SF 1 will legalize the autonomous right of all boys and girls to be sterilized without parental or guardian input.

In July 2022, a Ramsey County District Court Judge held that the legal health and safety protections for women seeking abortions in Minnesota were unconstitutional. As this bill codifies abortion at any time during pregnancy as a fundamental right, without any regulation or oversight of the medical professional performing the abortion or on the pharmaceutical company selling abortifacients, what kind of regulation and oversight will be present for the abortion industry? What other medical procedures in Minnesota are essentially unregulated? SF 1 disregards the development of unborn children in the womb, asserting unborn persons have no human rights based on development and location.

The bill grants the fundamental right of abortion to young girls. Minors will have access to abortion without any parental or guardian consent. The Supreme Court stated in *Pierce v. Society of Sisters* (1925), “The State commonly protects its youth from adverse governmental action and from their own immaturity by requiring parental consent to or involvement in important decisions by minors.”<sup>1</sup> Local attorneys Renee Carlson of True North Legal and Professor Teresa Collett provide further explanation of this in their briefing of amicus curiae to the Supreme Court submitted in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, explaining, “[Young girls] are more vulnerable to manipulation by those having an interest in making the abortion decision for them... Ironically, the Court’s abortion exception to the general rule that parental consent is required for major life decisions by children has made such manipulation far easier, while sometimes depriving the girls and the courts of crucial information.”<sup>2</sup> By granting abortion access as a right to minors while depriving the right of informed consent, the Minnesota legislature exposes children to manipulation by sex traffickers and the abortion industry.

Finally, this bill grants all boys and girls in Minnesota the right to be sterilized without input from their parents or a guardian. Children do not have the capacity to consent to sterilization without input from the adults charged with their care. This bill exposes children to potential predatory practices from medical industries, sex predators, and sex trafficking.

In codifying abortion and sterilization access to all Minnesotans, this bill simultaneously disregards common sense health and safety standards for pregnant women seeking an abortion while eliminating the rights of unborn children based on their location. The bill also makes children vulnerable to life-changing reproductive decisions without informed consent.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Delahunt, Acting Director of Public Policy

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<sup>1</sup>*Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925).

<sup>2</sup>*Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. Brief amicus curiae of Advancing American Freedom, Inc. et al. 4 Jan 2022. *SCOTUSblog*, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/185369/20210729175008920\\_Br.Carlson.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/185369/20210729175008920_Br.Carlson.pdf). PDF download.