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Testimony: SF 1 PRO ACT

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Cmte,

My name is Munira Mohamed and I'm on the policy team for the American Civil Liberties Union. The ACLU of MN is a long standing organization devoted to preserving the individual rights and liberties enshrined in our constitution and laws.

I'm here to speak in support of the Pro ACT, regarding reproductive health rights. This is a timely and urgent civil liberties issue dealing with bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

ACLU-MN believes in protecting the fundamental rights and dignity of individuals to make choices about their own bodies without interference from the government. Autonomy and privacy are at the core of this issue, people should have the right to make private healthcare choices unobstructed and unmediated by some outside source.

While the Pro Act is a good way to codify reproductive rights—ACLU of MN urges the legislature to not simply stop there. There is a long list of other legislation needed to repeal unfortunate and unnecessary restrictions currently in our state laws. It should be noted this is despite a district court judge striking these

restrictions down as unconstitutional—yet they still exist in our state laws. (Repealer bill SF 70)

Just passing the Pro Act and not going further could potentially risk a situation where reproductive rights are codified in state law but cannot be meaningfully accessed by those who need it most. (This is a conundrum the ACLU faces regularly—we always express—What good is a right if you can't exercise it?)

The ACLU of MN is supportive of the Pro Act and other proposals to protect and expand reproductive freedom.

Thank You to the Chair and Members