



January 10, 2023

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

Dear Chair Wicklund:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa represents almost 50,000 healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and self-directed home care. Our members are now facing extreme limitations to their bodily autonomy and the elimination of the right to choose if, when and how they become pregnant. To protect that right, our members strongly support the Protect Reproductive Options Act (PRO Act).

Jamie Gulley
President

Jigme Ugen
Executive Vice President

Phillip Cryan
Executive Vice President

Brenda Hilbrich
Executive Vice President

Rasha Ahmad Sharif
Executive Vice President

Since July of last year, our union now represents over 400 healthcare workers at Planned Parenthood North Central States. Like all other healthcare workers, they are caregivers committed to supporting the physical health and emotional well-being of their patients. They provide many of the services protected by this bill, including contraception and abortion. Abortion and contraception are important forms of health care. They are essential to the exercise of bodily autonomy. They allow people to determine the conditions under which they give birth.

Because they are essential, for more than fifty years, a long line of Supreme Court decisions, including *Roe* and *Griswold*, have protected the right to these critical forms of healthcare. Public opinion has strongly and consistently supported the general principle that abortion and contraception should be available within the framework established by these cases. Yet, in *Dobbs*, the current Supreme Court majority overturned decades of precedent, “for one reason and one reason only: because the composition of this Court has changed” (*Dobbs* Dissent p. 6).

This fall, at our Annual Convention, our members responded to this radical attack by passing a resolution in support of reproductive freedom. Our union was proud to co-author a similar resolution that passed this fall at the MN AFL-CIO State Convention.

When the Supreme Court tries to strip so many of our members of their fundamental rights, we expect our legislators to do everything in their power to secure those rights. The PRO Act provides another safeguard to protect all Minnesotans from a radical and unaccountable Supreme Court.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Varco
Political Director

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