



January 27, 2023

Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3105
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Senator Latz,

On behalf of the more than 300,000 working Minnesotans belonging to Minnesota AFL-CIO affiliated unions, we're writing to share our support for SF 70. All Minnesotans deserve access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare. 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.

Even before the US Supreme Court reversed more than 50 years of legal precedent protecting reproductive freedom, working Minnesotans still faced significant limitations to their bodily autonomy and the elimination of the right to choose if, when and how they become pregnant.

While state courts have recently overturned many of the state laws restricting reproductive freedom, and long ago affirmed a state constitutional right to abortion, our state's laws do not reflect these changes. Without explicit state legal protections, reproductive freedom in Minnesota is still at risk. SF 70, along with several other measures under consideration will finally secure bodily autonomy in state law.

For far too many years, the Minnesota AFL-CIO refrained from taking a position on the issue of abortion access. That stance changed in September when our state convention, with delegates representing more than 1,000 local unions, voted unanimously to adopt a resolution in support of reproductive freedom because we believe reproductive rights are workers' rights.

When the US Supreme Court strips Minnesotans of their rights and Congress is either unable or unwilling to step in, we expect our legislators to do everything in their power to secure these rights. SF 70 will help do just that.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Brad Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer