



March 19, 2023

Senator Kelly Morrison, MD
Assistant Majority Leader
Minnesota Senate
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Support of HF 366 / SF 165 *Reproductive Freedom Defense Act*

Dear Senator Morrison:

The Minnesota Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives (MN ACNM) is the local branch of our national professional association, the American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM). We have represented midwifery in Minnesota since 1971, and we currently represent over 400 Certified Nurse Midwives in Minnesota. Nurse Midwives are licensed as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses by the Minnesota Board of Nursing, with a population focus in women's and gender-related health.

MN ACNM is writing in support of HF 366 / SF 165 *Reproductive Freedom Defense Act*, which introduces statutory protection for both healthcare providers and healthcare recipients. ACNM affirms that everyone has the right to make autonomous choices for their own reproductive health in a setting that demonstrates dignity and informed decision-making.¹ Ultimately, the protections proposed in HF 366/ SF 165 have great potential to protect patients and providers, and their ability to collaborate for reproductive healthcare in a dignified and safe setting.

This bill aligns well with ACNM's [*Code of Ethics*](#), which recognizes privacy as one of the most basic of human rights². The relationship between a midwife and a patient is built upon the foundation of privacy and respect. HF 366 / SF 165 promotes patient privacy by proposing limitations on a health record releases to other states if court ordered or subpoenaed.

Nurse Midwives, as well other healthcare providers, will benefit from the provider protections proposed by HF 366/ SF 165, including protection from potential penalties from licensing boards and from other states, as a result of performing evidenced based reproductive healthcare which falls in their scope of practice. The American College of Obstetrician-Gynecologists' (ACOG) [*Collaboration in Practice*](#) recommends that health care providers (including the Midwives of ACNM) "function to the full extent of their education, certification, and experience" and recommends that states "rely on the clinical guidance set by *professional associations* when licensing and regulating health care providers"³. Reproductive healthcare, including abortion, is essential healthcare and falls within the scope of practice for ACNM Midwives^{1,4} with demonstrated safe outcomes^{5,6,7}. Midwives are in a great position to expand reproductive healthcare access of all kinds for pregnant people in both rural and urban regions, particularly given their long history of serving historically underserved peoples.

MN ACNM enthusiastically supports HF 366 / SF 165 *Reproductive Freedom Defense Act*. This bill proposes to protect patient's privacy, and proposes to elevate healthcare practice by removing barriers to providing evidence-based healthcare, by enabling healthcare providers to practice to the full extent of their certified scope of practice, and by protecting healthcare providers from potential penalties for performing evidenced based reproductive healthcare.

Thank you for authoring this bill. Please call upon ACNM for further support when needed.

In partnership,



Amanda Huber, APRN, CNM
Legislative Chair
MN Affiliate of American College of Nurse-Midwives

References

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5. APHA, Provision of Abortion Care by Advanced Practice Nurses and Physician Assistants
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