

We the undersigned University of Minnesota Medical student organizations representing affiliated future physicians submit the following for your consideration in support of Reproductive Freedom Defense Act HF 366/SF 165:

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

We, medical students at the University of Minnesota, are writing in support of the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act HF 366/SF 165. This bill is vital to our future practices, and its importance cannot be understated. The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act will allow us to protect the health and rights of Minnesotans and all individuals who come to our hospitals and clinics. It will allow us to give the strongest evidence-based care to patients, ensuring better health outcomes for everyone we care for. It will guarantee patient privacy, thus keeping our patients safe from discrimination and unjust persecution, especially from dangerous policies in other states. And finally, it will save lives; the lives of individuals with complicated pregnancies, ectopic pregnancies, and unwanted pregnancies who now find themselves in a country that no longer supports their safety and wellbeing.

As medical students, we receive rigorous education on reproductive health; we work under esteemed physicians who have dedicated their lives to the care of patients. We follow heavily researched protocols and procedures that have long been shown to have the best patient outcomes. The overturning of Roe v. Wade and the establishing of dangerous, unscientific abortion bans in nearly every state bordering Minnesota has been a tremendous threat to our ability to use our education and resources to care for patients. Many physicians in states with abortion bans now have to focus on avoiding disciplinary action towards them or their patients, rather than focusing on actual care. They are losing access to important medications and procedures that have been used for decades for both abortion and other healthcare. They are losing patients as well, who can no longer trust them or who die from preventable conditions. We must not let similar bans exist in Minnesota, or allow such harmful policies to follow patients who come from these states seeking refuge.

Minnesota has been a leader in the effort to reduce disparities in healthcare and to ensure that everyone has access to essential healthcare, and in fact was ranked the best state to practice as a physician in 2021. We are also ranked third in the nation overall in health system performance. We ask you the members of the Minnesota Legislature to maintain this reputation and work to make it stronger. There are many improvements that still need to be made, and a long way to go to make our healthcare the most equitable and effective it can be. The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act will be a monumental step in the right direction.

Signed,

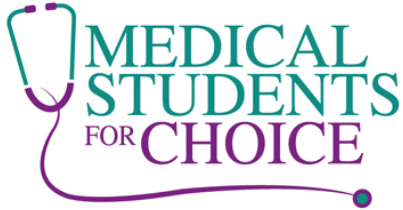
Asian Pacific Medical School Association (APAMSA)



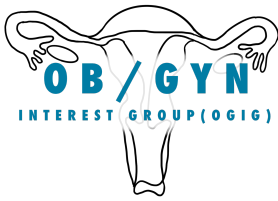
White Coats for Black Lives (WC4BL)



Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) - University of Minnesota Twin Cities Chapter



Obstetrics and Gynecology Interest Group (OGIG)



Addiction Medicine Interest Group (AddMIG)



Neurodiversity in Medicine



PRIDE in Healthcare



Medicine & Machine Learning



Black Doctors Association



Students for Weight Inclusive Healthcare

