



March 18, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
2107 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Support SF 1704, SF 3511, and SF 3967

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

On behalf of National Council of Jewish Women Minnesota (NCJW), I am writing to express our strong support for three bills that the Health and Human Services Committee will be hearing this Wednesday, March 20: SF 1704 (Maye-Quade), SF 3511 (Mann), and SF 3967 (Mann). NCJW urges you to advance these bills, all of which work toward fulfilling the vision of last year's PRO Act by ensuring access to essential reproductive healthcare.

Inspired by our Jewish values, NCJW advocates for several issues that improve the quality of life for women, children, and families. Essential to this mission is the promotion of reproductive justice, a movement fighting for the rights of all individuals to choose the course of their own reproductive lives. Much attention has (rightfully) been paid in recent years to protecting a person's right to choose not to have children—through the protection and expansion of abortion access, which is supported by the majority of Minnesotans. An equally important component of reproductive justice is to be able to have children, and birth and raise them safely. Unfortunately, many face medical and/or biological roadblocks a healthy pregnancy and need special care to build their families. Both paths—to have or not have children at any time an individual may choose-- are equally important and deserve to be as accessible as possible for all.

While the work of this Legislature and several advocacy groups have succeeded in naming Minnesotans' *right* to reproductive freedom, there is more to be done in ensuring that this critical healthcare is accessible—especially for communities of color, Minnesotans receiving public assistance, and LGTBQ+ folks. These three bills seek to expand insurance coverage of the essential care that families and individuals need to have full autonomy over their bodies and reproductive futures. This step of relieving enormous and often prohibitive financial burden from patients is necessary to making the vision of reproductive justice a reality for all—regardless of background, income, health status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

We appreciate your work building a safer, stronger, more equitable Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Erica Solomon Collins  
Executive Director  
NCJW Minnesota