



March 18, 2024

Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of Senate File 3967

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

Planned Parenthood North Central States (PPNCS) provides a full range of sexual and reproductive health care to Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota at 25 health centers, serving nearly 100,000 patients in the fiscal year 2023. As experts in reproductive health care, and as the largest provider of abortions in Minnesota, Planned Parenthood's mission is to ensure that Minnesotans have access to the care and resources they need to control their bodies, their lives, and their futures.

Founded in 1992, the Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for the policy and support needed to make PPNCS's care possible. We work with supporters of all parties to defend and increase access to family planning services, fact based, medically accurate sexuality education, and healthcare abortion access. To that end, we're writing today in support of Senate File 3967 and insurance coverage for abortion.

Minnesota has already led the way to protect the right to abortion, and we can play a critical leading role in further safeguarding pregnant people's health by covering abortion in both public and private insurance plans. Expenses are a real barrier for patients accessing health care, and they disproportionately impact patients who already face increased barriers to care. New research analyzing nearly 4,000 abortion cases published by the Social Work in Health Care medical journal shows that the lack of coverage for abortion disproportionately impacts women of color. Although Black women make up only 36% of women obtaining abortion, they are half of all women seeking financial help to pay for abortion care.

Whether planned or unplanned, pregnancies can come with a lot of unexpected medical and health events. This is what insurance is for – to help Minnesotans manage the expenses associated with medical needs. Every pregnancy is different, and we need to set individuals up with the tools to manage the unexpected health needs that come with pregnancy, which includes abortion.

Abortion is health care, and health care is a human right. Now is the time to expand access and reduce barriers to health care. Please support Senate File 3967.

Sincerely,

Tim Stanley
Executive Director