

April 17, 2024

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

Re: Letter in Support of Inclusion of Coverage for Abortion and Gender Affirming Care

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, 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 to thank you for including Senate File 3967 and Senate File 2209 – insurance coverage for both abortion and gender affirming care – in the health omnibus bill.

Minnesota has already led the way to protect the right to abortion and gender affirming care, and we can play a critical leading role in further safeguarding people's health by covering this essential health care 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.

Minnesotans need to be able to make decisions knowing that they are not going to be stuck with out-of-pocket payments they cannot afford. Insurance coverage is essential for real access and health equity.

Health care is a human right. Now is the time to expand access and reduce barriers to health care. Thank you again for including Senate File 3967 and Senate File 2209 in the health omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

Tim Stanley
Executive Director