



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 30, 2012

The Honorable Kurt Zellers
Speaker of the House
State Office Building, Room 463
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 252, House File 2341, a bill that would require physicians to be physically present when abortion-inducing drugs are administered.

This bill continues the Legislature's attempt to place new regulatory burdens only on certain health procedures. Telemedicine has been a commonly used form of health care service delivery for nearly two decades. It is now widely accepted as safe, accessible, and cost-effective for patients. This bill's unique, new regulatory burden for a single procedure would increase the cost of health care and add unnecessary new barriers to a Constitutionally protected health care service for women. Minnesota's laws should not target or restrict the Constitutional rights of women.

Reproductive choice utilizing medication and related procedures are commonly used and medically safe. Physicians administering this medication via telemedicine are required to evaluate the appropriateness of the procedure for each patient. At the time of the procedure, patients are located in a clinic or medical setting with a nurse physically present, and are able to communicate interactively directly with the physician via a secure computer system. The patient typically receives blood tests, a medical history, an exam, an ultrasound and counseling on what to expect from the procedure. Notably, telemedicine for reproductive choice is provided to fewer than 50 women in Minnesota per year.

Lastly, this bill intrudes on the practice of medicine and medical safety, a role primarily reserved for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While patient safety should always be our top priority and can be addressed through state level policy making, a veto is warranted on legislation driven by a specific political ideology rather than a broad-based concern for protecting all patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate
Senator David H. Senjem, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Paul Gazelka
Representative Kurt Zellers, Speaker of the House
Representative Paul Thissen, House Minority Leader
Representative Joyce Peppin
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives