



Representative Tara Mack
545 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55515

Dear Representative Mack:

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I am writing to share our concerns with a bill before your committee, HF 606 (Rep. Kiel). This legislation inserts the Legislature into the practice of medicine on a procedure-specific basis, a dangerous overreach into the patient-physician relationship.

HF 606 imposes additional regulations on clinics and facilities based solely upon the type of procedure performed. Minnesota has historically adopted new licensing standards in order to protect the health and safety of the public. There is no specific patient safety measure that is addressed by extending Minnesota's outpatient surgical center regulations to outpatient clinics that perform pregnancy terminations. Currently, any procedure that can safely be performed in an outpatient clinic is subject to oversight and regulation through the professional licensing of the physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals delivering that care. There is no evidence that outpatient pregnancy terminations cannot be safely performed in these settings or that current professional licensing standards are insufficient.

The MMA is unaware of any specific evidence in Minnesota of substandard care in clinics that provide pregnancy termination services. Likewise, the MMA is not convinced that patient safety is advanced in any meaningful way as a result of the licensing requirements established in this legislation. Finally, the MMA is concerned that the adoption of this legislation could interfere with the provision of care for pregnant women.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Donald Jacobs, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association

CC: Rep. Debra Kiel