



February 26, 2020

Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: OPPOSE HF3041/HF3749

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents tens of thousands of families across the state and we **urge you to oppose HF3041/HF3749**. While claiming to protect access to health facilities, the bill threatens the freedoms of speech and assembly that Minnesotans cherish.

On the issue of access, this language is duplicative. It is vital to recognize that health care facility access is already protected in statute. The State of Minnesota criminalizes actions that interfere with an individual's safe access to health care facilities in MN Stat. § 609.7495. Additionally, there are federal prohibitions on physical obstruction, intentional injury, intimidation, and interference with access to reproductive health services in Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act - 18 U.S.C. § 248.

This legislation clearly seeks to impose speech restrictions on individuals and organizations. Criminalizing individuals who pray outside of abortion clinics or offer on-site counseling harms women in crisis pregnancy situations. By limiting the information presented on reproductive health care, women are not given the tools to make their own educated decision. Women seeking abortion often are in difficult situations and limiting options for counseling and services is not in their best interest.

If the State of Minnesota were to pass this legislation, it would criminalize the speech and actions of well-meaning, law-abiding citizens who seek to provide women with counseling, prayer, services, and information about alternative options to abortion. This bill targets constitutionally protected speech and we urge your opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica Faye".

Veronica Faye
Acting Director of Public Policy