



MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc.

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Empowering People to Achieve Self Sufficiency



May 7, 2025

Representative Robert Bierman
Co-Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jeff Backer
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Bierman and Co-Chair Backer,

I am writing to ask you to reconsider the \$1 million cut to funding from the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS) grant in HF2435. The Family Health program at MAHUBE-OTWA CAP is a recipient of this grant and has provided preconception sexual and reproductive health services since 1965. The SRHS funding is critical to ensure our community has access to family planning services, such as contraceptive counseling, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, as well as medical referrals, including breast health and female reproductive organ cancer testing. We are proud to offer these healthcare services to our patients, regardless of their insurance status.

By offering family planning services through the SRHS grant, we are able to save taxpayer money by decreasing teen and unwanted pregnancy rates, provide treatment and reduce the transmission rates of sexually transmitted infections, screen for pre-cancerous cells that cause cervical cancer, and provide free, factual education to the public. The savings created is equivalent to an estimated taxpayer savings of \$7 for every public dollar spent.

Because of the funds we receive from the SRHS grant, our Family Health clinic is able to provide these important services, counseling, and education to anyone who faces difficulty accessing reproductive health services due to poverty, discrimination, age, disability status, lack of health insurance or transportation, or concerns about their confidentiality. Using SRHS grant funds, we can compensate the salaries of our clinics' staff, nurses, and medical providers; afford clinic spaces, utilities, and medical supplies; and purchase barrier and prescription contraception, STI testing kits, and infection prescription medications.

Minnesota is fortunate to have many high-quality community clinics that serve underserved populations because of the SRHS grant. Cutting the funding to this grant program does a disservice to Minnesotans who rely on our clinic and clinics like ours all across the state to receive care; it is imperative that we continue to support these programs and allow them to sustain into the future. Please, do not hesitate to contact us at MAHUBE-OTWA to learn more about this important program and how we serve our community.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Nemitz, Family Health Manager

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