



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

Dear Co-Chair Bierman and Co-Chair Backer,

I am writing to express my great opposition to the \$1 million cut to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS) grant in HF2435, the Health budget bill. Face to Face Health & Counseling has been a recipient of this grant since 1979— 45 years of partnership with the state on youth health— and the funding is critical to ensure our patients have access to family planning services like contraceptives counseling, screening and testing for sexually transmitted infections, and referrals for other medical or mental health care regardless of their insurance status.

Funding for family planning, through the SRHS grant, saves taxpayer money by decreasing teen and unwanted pregnancy rates and reducing the rates of STI, HIV, and cervical cancer. This is equivalent to an estimated taxpayer savings of \$7 for every public dollar spent.

SRHS allows Face to Face to support young people's sexual and reproductive health at our medical clinic, at SafeZone—our youth drop-in day shelter, and now also at partner shelter sites. Sexual and reproductive health can be difficult to address when in survival mode, so it is important for us to be able to provide confidential, safe care for young people in the community around STIs, birth control, and healthy sexuality education. Our most recent report year (2024):

- 841 youth counseled on family planning options
- 314 youth provided with birth control
- 774 youth tested for chlamydia (174 tested positive)

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. Please do not support cutting this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hanna", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Executive Director
Face to Face Health & Counseling, Inc.