



Friday, March 24, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2107  
95 University Avenue West  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tina Liebling  
Chair, House Committee on Health Finance and Policy  
State Office Building, Room 447  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Chair Liebling,

As organizations working to ensure abortion is affordable, available, and supported for everyone who needs it, we write to respectfully urge you to add a 50 percent increase for the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate for abortion care in your Health Committee budget bills.

All\* Above All is a campaign of more than 150 organizations working towards abortion justice. We were founded in 2013 to restore and sustain public insurance coverage of abortion for people of color working to make ends meet. National Institute for Reproductive Health is an advocacy organization that fights for just and equitable access to reproductive health care in states and cities nationwide. Together we have worked with advocates, health care providers, and state agencies and elected officials across the country to ensure no one is denied care just because they are struggling to get by. The fact is, deciding to become a parent is one of the most important



decisions we make in life and it is vital that every Minnesotan has meaningful access to all options, including abortion care, without barriers. Unfortunately, that is not the reality for millions of people who are impacted by abortion bans. Today, abortion is severely restricted in at least twenty states after the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and take away our fundamental right to abortion. Anti-abortion extremists continue to try to push care out of reach, with their latest attack targeting access to medication abortion care.

Amidst this national abortion care crisis, we need state leaders to fight for our communities and take bold action that ensures abortion is available, affordable, and accessible for anyone who needs it. **As Chairs of the Minnesota Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and House Committee on Health Finance and Policy, respectively, one way you can make an impact is by increasing the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate for abortion care.**

Studies show that Medicaid coverage of abortion can mean the difference between getting care or being denied, and restrictions on insurance coverage force 1 in 4 women seeking abortion care to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term.<sup>1</sup> We applaud Minnesota for being a state that provides Medical Assistance coverage of abortion for people working to make ends meet and urge you to take steps to ensure the program works for both the patient and provider. In order for trusted abortion providers to offer quality and affordable care to people in their communities, they need fair reimbursement rates that address the realities of abortion care.

Since 2012, the overall number of brick-and-mortar independent clinics in the country has decreased by 35 percent<sup>2</sup> due to restrictions on abortion. Minnesota's long unchanged Medical Assistance rates for abortion inhibit providers' ability to offer care to people who are most

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<sup>1</sup> Henshaw SK et al., Restrictions on Medicaid Funding for Abortions: A Literature Review, Guttmacher Institute, 2009. Available at <http://bit.ly/1IK5XcF>.

<sup>2</sup> Abortion Care Network, Communities Need Clinics: The New Landscape of Independent Abortion Clinics in the United States, 2022. Available at <https://abortioncarenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/communities-need-clinics-2022.pdf>.



marginalized and put them at risk of closing. The current reimbursement rates are also widely out of step with the rates that many states offer. For example, the maximum amount that Minnesota Medical Assistance offers is approximately \$528.00; this is lower than the minimum rate offered in Illinois where the reimbursement rate ranges from \$558.00 to \$1,920.00 to address the full spectrum of abortion care. In recent months, states like Illinois, Oregon, and others have increased their reimbursement rates for abortion care to improve access to care for patients. It's time that Minnesota update these rates and ensure Medical Assistance works for both low-income individuals and the providers who serve them.

With more people forced to leave their communities to access essential care, Minnesota must invest in the abortion care infrastructure and delivery by increasing the Medical Assistance reimbursement rate by 50 percent to ensure no one is denied care. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Winnie Ye, Director of State Strategies, at [winnie@allaboveall.org](mailto:winnie@allaboveall.org).

Sincerely,

Morgan Hopkins  
President  
All\* Above All

Andrea Miller  
President  
National Institute for Reproductive Health