



January 18, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St Paul MN 55155

RE: Support for Positive Pregnancies Bill HF289

Chair Liebling,

Please accept this letter of support for the proposed changes to the above referenced bill. myHealth for Teens & Young Adults (formerly West Suburban Teen Clinic) has been providing reproductive health care and mental health counseling for young people ages 12-26 for more than 50 years. In addition to these clinic services, we also provide educational outreach to more than 15,000 youth, adults working with youth, parents, and community partners each year and provide nurse home visiting through our Becoming Program for pregnant and parenting clients. All our staff members are licensed professionals, and we work under the direction of a licensed medical doctor.

The Becoming Program aims to address the health disparities specific to teen and young mothers. This includes but is not limited to increased risk for pregnancy complications, premature birth, low birth weight, infant mortality, hospitalization during first year of life, and substance use. Our one-on-one home visiting services with a registered public health nurse helps to reduce these disparities by providing prenatal, postpartum, and parenting education. Nurses collaborate with clients to work on person centered short and longer-term goals such as applying for assistance, finishing high school, obtaining higher education, and securing employment. These wraparound services and support are provided using evidence based best practices and myHealth makes direct referrals for clients' needs outside of our scope of care.

As a past recipient of the formerly named Positive Alternatives funding, myHealth strongly believes that this work should be done by licensed professionals and organizations with the full breadth of health care resources our clients may need. Access to honest information, provided in a judgement-free environment, with unrestricted access to the Becoming Program has been incredibly fruitful for our pregnant clients and those caring for their children. Further, accurate and legitimate information is provided to every client to ensure access to reproductive services, which has resulted in a significant reduction in unplanned subsequent pregnancies for our clients.

myHealth feels strongly that state funding should not be provided to organizations, under the guise of health care, who are not actually providing accurate and honest services by licensed professionals. myHealth strongly supports the proposed Positive Pregnancies Bill HF289.

Sincerely,

Gerilyn W. Hausback

Gerilyn Hausback
Executive Director, myHealth for Teens & Young Adults
Treasurer, RHA