

Opposition to H.F. 1
Fundamental Right to Reproductive Health

MN House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

January 10, 2023

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

I want to thank you for taking the time to partake in my testimony.

My name is Anne Taylor. I am a wife, mother, educator, and firm believer in the protection of all children. Some of you may remember me from prior testimony on many education bills that usurped parental rights, and continue to do so.

My advocacy led me to run for office twice in my home district, and boldly took a firm stance on the right to life. I am twice post-abortion in the first trimester. And while I have since found healing and reconciliation, it still haunts me to this day.

My experience with abortion is two-fold: One at Planned Parenthood and one at a hospital here in Minneapolis. At many stand-alone abortion clinics and based on my own experience, they throw you on the table for the abortion, it happens quick, and from there begins the disassociation (not wanting to talk about the abortion).

Conversely, in the hospital my abortion experience was vastly different. While the second abortion still left me emotionally numb years later, it was provided by a licensed OBGYN who also happened to deliver my first child and I was able remain under hospital care.

In both abortion instances I was denied an ultrasound image. Planned Parenthood will show you your ultrasound (for a fee) and often can only see it just moments before your abortion takes place.

In my case, I was flat out denied from viewing my ultrasound, even when I asked and just moments before the abortion quickly took place. As for the hospital, my ultrasound was never made part of my medical record – a record that every woman deserves, and, should be mandated as part of her medical file with time allotted for her to view her image and review her pregnancy options.

Whether first, second, or third trimester, you don't just "process" thought an abortion in a few months' time and "get over it." It is a lifetime. Many women I have talked to both recently and over the years, share the exact same sentiments.

According to "Support After Abortion," a nonprofit dedicated to helping women and men suffering from post-abortion syndrome, 82% impacted by abortion don't know where to go for healing.

Additionally, "A meta-study in the British Journal of Psychology analyzed 22 studies involving 877,181 women, 163,831 of whom had experienced an abortion, and found that women who had undergone abortion were 81% more likely to suffer from mental health problems, including alcohol and drug abuse, anxiety, depression, and suicide (17)."

How do we deal with the rise in mental health when it is already an issue in our state for many children and families following the Covid-19 pandemic school closures? Say nothing about the abused and trafficked child, as well as chemical abortions that are said to be on the rise.

According to Guttmacher Institute, medication abortion accounted for 53% of all facility-based abortions in the United States in 2020. Preliminary data, originally published on February 24, 2022, indicated that medication abortion accounted for 54% of all abortions.

That's a lot of women left "at-home" inducing their own labor (their own child) and left to brush their teeth in their bathroom the very next day.

Many women who have had abortions (both pill and surgical) may be in need of medical care, leaving ER professionals unaware. Often their abortion experience is deemed a "miscarriage" by the time they get to the ER where the entire conversation of abortion gets missed. Can Minnesota truly afford such a calamity?

This bill disturbs me greatly in that it is being thwarted not only on our state constitution, but is in-fact outrageously out of touch with the vast majority of Minnesotan's. We are talking full-term, up to birth, zero parental oversight, and withdraws exactly who or what will be performing the abortion itself.

When I ran for office, many in-fact preferred elective abortion limits, and for late, often in medical situations only that would affect the life of the mother. Never once did I hear that that a surgical abortion should be performed by a nurse or a midwife or non-licensed physician. This reveal truly surprised me being my district happens to be one of the most liberal.

While door knocking, there were handfuls of women I met who were post-abort themselves. Many too ashamed to open the scar of their past, including nurses who worked with women in the ER upon their botched abortion(s).

For men, they often fumbled over their words not knowing what to say. And speaking of men, abortion has been the easy way out of avoiding any responsibility whatsoever. All you have to do is look at our culture. How many single mothers are out there? I know because I was one of them too.

It was surprising to learn a majority of people felt roughly 10-15 weeks was sufficient for an abortion cut-off date (or up to the first trimester). While I do not personally agree with this, it is astounding our state currently aborts a baby (or babies) in the mother's womb up to 24 weeks – say nothing about the heinous act of tearing apart a baby's limbs, in pain, and up to the moment of birth!

The title of this bill alone is deceptive. The bill's name "fundamental right to reproductive health" sounds like something of a disposal in of itself - not at all compatible with anything life giving.

I will close my testimony paraphrasing Elizabeth Melendez Fisher Good, a leader in the anti-trafficking movement since 2011. According to Good, the often-hidden root of childhood sexual abuse and/or exploitation is under every abortion. Trafficking is about covering shame. Shame leads to more cover-up.

Our children today don't have a lens to even know what intimacy is whether it be referencing abortion, religion, or the political realm. We are causing the polarization with trafficking and this shouldn't be the case. You cannot separate abortion and trafficking because it is a systemic issue.

"How broken are our leaders who advocate for abortion?"

I would strongly urge you to reconsider supporting HF1 in its proposed form, and thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Anne Taylor 43B