

To Committee Chair Representative Becker-Finn, Vice Chair Representative Frazier, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HF 366, the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act.

I conduct medical research. I have worked with a great many clinicians, in Minnesota and across the country. Physicians, nurses, physician assistants and other health care providers are guided by best practices, codes of conduct, and personal ethics as they provide health care to their patients, whoever they are and wherever they come from. Health care needs are defined by individual circumstances, but state of residence is not, and must not be, one of them. Abortion is healthcare and Minnesota clinicians must not be restricted or limited in their provision of medical care to those in need by threat of civil action by forces outside our state.

Minnesota takes care of its own and its neighbors. Our hospitals accepted many out-of-state COVID patients during the height of the pandemic. Our Level I Trauma Centers and state of the art medical facilities accept patients who are unable to receive care in their home states, for a variety of reasons.

It is tragic and deeply wrong that political agendas now provide yet another reason for out-of-state residents to seek medical care in Minnesota. Our neighbors in Wisconsin are subject to restrictions imposed by a 174-year old law banning abortion, which was passed when African Americans were enslaved in this nation and women could neither vote nor own property in many states. If they, or residents of other states, cannot get the care they need at home, they must be free to come to Minnesota and clinicians here must be free to provide the full spectrum of reproductive care, including but not limited to abortion, without fear of civil actions or liability.

Please support HF 366.

Thank you for your time and service. Sincerely,  
Deborah L. Zvosec, Ph.D.