



Advocates for Reproductive Education

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

Co-Chair Bierman and Co-Chair Backer,

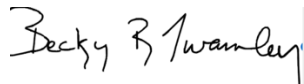
I am writing to express my great opposition to the \$1 million cut to the Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRHS) grant in HF2435, the Health budget bill. WeARE (Advocates for Reproductive Education) has been a recipient of this grant since 2018, and the funding is critical to ensure our patients 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 STIs, HIV, and cervical cancer. **This is equivalent to an estimated taxpayer savings of \$7 for every public dollar spent.**

At WeARE–The Clinic in Brainerd, MN, the impact of this funding is both tangible and transformative. The expanded SRHS funding supports a large portion of our clinical staff time, allowing us to meet growing community needs while providing uncompensated care to patients who require confidentiality or face financial and insurance-related barriers. This support has enabled us to serve more individuals, reduce administrative burdens related to reimbursement, and streamline operations. It has also allowed us to strengthen our organizational capacity, enhancing workflow efficiency, developing staff training models, and expanding community outreach and education. With this funding, we are better equipped to promote health and well-being for all in our community, at a pivotal moment for both our organization and the nation.

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 that reads "Becky Twamley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Twamley RPh, MPS

Executive Director

WeARE-The Clinic