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March 22nd, 2023

Chair Liebling and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

Gender Justice is the organizational home of UnRestrict Minnesota, an expansive, diverse, and inclusive coalition for reproductive rights, health, and justice. UnRestrict Minnesota is a multi-racial coalition of health care clinics, abortion funds, practical support groups, LGBTQ advocacy groups, faith communities, organizers, lawyers, doulas, and many more.

Our coalition represents the majority of Minnesotans. Across the state, Minnesotans have made their support for abortion rights abundantly clear — including by sending to the legislature our state's first pro-reproductive-freedom majority ever.

We are writing today in support of HF2900 that would increase funding for vital programs.

We strongly support a rate increase for family planning and abortion services in Article 8, Section 18. Independent abortion clinics estimate that current Medicaid reimbursements cover less than half of the cost of providing care. Many clinics see an unsustainable share of Medicaid patients. Rather than turn them away, they subsidize coverage with private fundraising. We ask the rate increase for abortion and family planning be 50%, and that grant funding for clinics to offset their extraordinary expenses for security, administrative and operational needs and uncompensated care to meet the growing demand from out of state care and ensure their stability to continue to provide adequate access for Minnesotans.

The passage of HF2900 would give providers the necessary resources to continue the important work of providing abortion care and family planning services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Peterson
Executive Director, Gender Justice