

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit public testimony on Representative Liebling's bill HF 91 to repeal several abortion restrictions. I would like my testimony to be entered into the public record.

Like many Minnesotans, I celebrated the state district court ruling this summer in *Doe v. Minnesota*, which held that many of our laws governing abortion – a 24-hour waiting period, an informed consent script requiring specific information be given to patients, a requirement that minors notify both parents or get a court waiver before getting an abortion, a rule that allows only physicians and not other medical professionals to perform abortions, and a rule that abortions after the first trimester be carried out in a hospital – are unconstitutional. I would like to point out that several of these laws were also patronizing, medically unnecessary, and intentionally designed to prevent people from having reproductive autonomy. Despite this encouraging progress, however, I think the United States Supreme Court's recent overruling of nearly 50 years of judicial precedent established by *Roe v. Wade* has made it clear to all of us that we need strong laws to protect our rights. Many states, including our neighbor Wisconsin, are operating under draconian abortion restrictions that date back to 1849 because they never repealed those laws in the state legislature. We need to ensure that reproductive autonomy is the law of the land in Minnesota. Passing HF 91 is an absolutely essential step towards that goal.

For me, the issue of abortion and reproductive autonomy is personal. I am a twenty six year old graduate student at the University of Minnesota, working on earning a PhD in neuroscience. As a woman in science, the decision to have children or not have children is closely tied to my ability to finish this degree and become financially secure. I have a close friend in college who became unexpectedly pregnant despite having an IUD, and having a safe abortion allowed her to finish her degree and live the life she wanted. I have multiple family members who have had miscarriages and needed reproductive care, which would be threatened under the laws that currently exist in several other states. There are millions of stories and many situations in which pregnancy is not a joy but a hardship or a medical emergency, and women deserve to be able to make their own medical decisions in all cases without government imposing undue restrictions. Please pass HF 91 without amendment.

Thank you very much for your time and service.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Dick  
Minneapolis, MN