

My name is Sherry Kempf.

Thank you, Madame Chair and committee members. I urge you to support HF 91, which will increase equity for all Minnesota women.

According to research done by the Guttmacher Institute, low-income women and women of color are more likely to experience unintended pregnancy and abortion, and women of color are more likely to be low income. Amending statutes governing Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare coverage of abortion services will remove barriers that disproportionately affect low-income women and women of color.

Another step toward achieving equity is repealing the requirement for parental notification or judicial approval for minors. Again, research shows that the overwhelming majority of pregnant teenage women confide in at least one parent. However, those that do not have very real reasons for not doing so. They may be kicked out of their homes, physically abused, or even disowned by their families. Requiring parental notification or judicial approval can lead to additional threats to teenaged women's health such as late-term or illegal abortions, or continuing a pregnancy in secret, without receiving adequate prenatal care for mother or baby.

I believe that Minnesota values equity for all women, regardless of race, income or age. Passing HF 91 is one step toward achieving this equity.

Thank you.